

In the Spotlight

Highlighting Exceptional Employees

Brandon Perry

Police Officer

As Brandon Perry reflects on nearly 10 years of policing with the Town of Chapel Hill, he says the single most important part of his job is accountability.

"It's important for officers to be personally accountable," Perry said. "The administration and everybody in the town — employees and citizens — need to be accountable for their own actions. I carry this principle on the job, and also at home."

Brandon has served the community in a variety of policing roles — investigations, crisis intervention, gang unit, and hostage negotiator. He is currently working on patrol, but no matter the assignment, the principle of accountability carries throughout.

Police officers nationwide have received more attention since the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Eric Garner in New York. Locally, Brandon said it has opened an important dialogue.

"Unfortunately a lot of people don't understand what we do," Brandon said. "Until you do a job, you don't understand the complexities and the ins and outs of it."

Brandon graduated from Fayetteville State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He got his start as a patrol officer with the Duke University Police Department. A number of his family members were police officers. "Growing up with them, hearing their stories and watching them do the job always made me want to be a cop," he said.

Brandon and his wife, Kennetta, live in Durham and have a three-year-old daughter, Isabella, or "Bells." Kennetta is a history professor at East Carolina University.

In his spare time Brandon likes hanging out with his daughter — watching TV or going to the park or museums. "Being a parent is the best thing I've ever done in my life," he said.

Value in the Spotlight

Responsibility



Ran Northam photo

When Isabella is asleep, Brandon plays the Xbox and watches wrestling.

—Story by Ran Northam

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