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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 25, 2019**

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### **Williston Police Department's New Investigations Captain**

**Williston, ND** – The Williston Police Department introduced their new Investigations Captain this week, Captain Steve Gutknecht. Captain Gutknecht's position is one of many positions within the Williston Police Department, which has grown from 23 officers in 2009 to 74 officers in 2019 in order to keep up with Williston and Williams County's growing population.

Gutknecht stated that originally, he thought he wanted to be a game warden but was ultimately led to pursue a career as a peace officer. Service plays a large role in Gutknecht's life.

"My entire family works in a community service role; my wife is a teacher, my son is a fireman here, and my daughter is going to school to be a nurse," he said before adding, "The people in this community are our friends, family and neighbors, but they're also our students, patients, and the people we serve and protect." A fitting quote from a man whose last name – Gutknecht, of German origin – translates to mean, "good servant."

"Williston is our home. I've raised my family here."

Although Captain Gutknecht began his career as a peace officer on the eastern side of the state in 1993, he has been a member of the Williston community since 1996 when he moved here for a position with the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI).

At the beginning of his 20-year career with BCI, Gutknecht first served as a member of the narcotics taskforce, performing over three and a half years of deep-cover drug work. Gutknecht later worked in general crime with the BCI for several years before becoming a supervisory special agent – which at the time was a new position within the agency – supervising the western half of North Dakota before the oil boom prompted the BCI to hire additional agents. In addition to a career centered on criminal investigations, Gutknecht has years of experience supervising and working with other detectives in addition to his credentials and years of experience as a police trainer, teaching classes at the law enforcement academy in Bismarck.



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“The opportunity to teach has been one of the greatest privileges I have had in my career; I’ve literally taught and worked with hundreds of law enforcement officers across the state. Although my primary goal while teaching was to give young officers the tools they need to be successful peace officers, teaching has also given me a lot in my own career,” said Gutknecht, before clarifying how his experience in the classroom has helped him be a better liaison between agencies and departments in the field.

Although Captain Gutknecht never became Game Warden Gutknecht, he still enjoys, “anything outdoors,” he said, and especially likes to hunt, fish, and spend time with his family.