



## OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

City of Hampton  
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### **To the Citizens of Hampton and the Virginia Peninsula:**

No words can adequately express our sadness over the passing of Sheriff B.J. Roberts. Our office has suffered a tremendous loss. Sheriff Roberts was a fearless leader and a trailblazer for the corrections profession. His efforts and determination prepared the Hampton Sheriff's Office to achieve national standards. That will always be remembered.

Sheriff Roberts was first elected in 1992 and he immediately addressed the staff regarding his vision on professionalism, training and technology. He knew there were no easy answers to a fading system. The jail was severely overcrowded, understaffed with insufficient policies and procedures. At that moment, Sheriff Roberts was fully committed to creating a system that the citizens, staff and the City of Hampton would be proud of. Today, the Hampton Sheriff's Office is nationally accredited and this is a tribute to his leadership and dedication.

Additionally, Sheriff Roberts was a passionate and inspiring mentor that I will truly miss. There is much more we can do to continue on with his legacy. He often spoke proudly of his family and how they were a priority in his life. I offer my sincere condolences to his family close and extended, near and far.

With deep sadness,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bowden".

Karen Bowden, Undersheriff

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National Commission on Correctional Health Care  
Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

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