

**THE CITY OF  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**

*invites your interest in the position of*

**POLICE CHIEF**

**THE COMMUNITY**

St. Petersburg is home to over 250,000 residents and a land mass of 61 square miles, making St. Petersburg the fourth most populous city in the state of Florida and the largest city in Florida that is not a county seat. St. Petersburg is the second largest city in the Tampa Bay Area which has nearly 3 million residents and is the second largest Metropolitan Statistical Area in the state.

In 1875, General John Williams came to the area from Detroit and bought 2,500 acres of land on Tampa Bay. He envisioned a grand city with graceful parks and broad streets, the trademark of today's St. Petersburg. The city's first hotel was named after his birthplace, Detroit.

Thirteen years later, Peter Demens, a noble Russian aristocrat, brought the Orange Belt Railway to St. Petersburg. On June 8, 1888, the first train arrived, carrying empty freight cars and one passenger, a shoe salesman from Savannah. Built one rail at a time, with unpaid laborers and creditors threatening to hang Demens all the way, the railroad finally chugged to St. Petersburg. Demens named the City after his birthplace, St. Petersburg, Russia.

The year 1914 brought two firsts to St. Petersburg. The rich history of spring training and Florida's love affair with baseball began that year when the City's former Mayor, Al Lang, convinced Branch Rickey to move his St. Louis Browns to the Sunshine City for spring training.

Also that year, Tony Jannus flew his Benoist airplane across Tampa Bay in 23 minutes and the event is commonly hailed as the birth of commercial aviation.

In the 1920s, the state's first big growth boom brought an invasion of tourists who arrived by auto, railroad, and yacht. In 1924, the Gandy Bridge opened -- cutting travel time to Tampa by more than half and positioning St. Petersburg to become Pinellas County's largest city.

The boom years in the 1920s brought notable architecture to St. Petersburg. The City's architecture reflected a Mediterranean Revival motif, fostered in large part by Perry Snell, who created a 275-acre subdivision, Snell Isle. St. Petersburg's Mediterranean Revival makeover is evident in several buildings including The Vinoy Hotel, the Jungle Country Club Hotel, the Princess Martha, and the Snell Arcade, and can be seen in the Spanish castles and homes along Coffee Pot Bayou and in the Jungle Prada neighborhood.

In the 1970s, St. Petersburg looked to the future by developing reclaimed water, recycled wastewater used for irrigation. It developed the largest reclaimed water system in the United States. Today, St. Petersburg continues to lead the region in conserving precious water resources. The '70s also saw the beginning of St. Petersburg's quest for a Major League Baseball franchise, realized 20 years later with the arrival of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays (now known as the Tampa Bay Rays) in 1998 to their permanent home at Tropicana Field. As St. Petersburg enters its second golden age, and steps boldly into the 21st century, the

downtown core continues its revitalization with projects that include retail shops, restaurants, and movie theaters. More than 900 events bring over 10 million people each year to the Sunshine City to experience yacht races, triathlons, baseball, basketball, cycling, cultural exhibits, and music. The City easily attracts tourists with its cultural district that includes seven museums in the downtown district. Two state universities, a community college, 10 marine institutes and more than two dozen galleries, and the All Children's/Johns Hopkins Research Center attest to the City's commitment to education and health care. Historic neighborhoods continue to be restored, as residents invest in their communities with a great source of pride.

St. Petersburg's commitment to education is further evidenced in the City's "St. Pete's Promise" program. St. Pete's Promise is a multi-faceted initiative aimed at turning students at-risk in St. Petersburg into students with promise, by providing the community with opportunities to invest in the City's schools, teachers, and children. Born from the groundbreaking Mayor's Mentors and More Program, through St. Pete's Promise the City of St. Petersburg has stepped outside the traditional role of city government to partner with the Pinellas Education Foundation and Pinellas County Schools to invest in improving the quality of education.

The City is located on Florida's west coast on a peninsula between Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It is connected to mainland Florida to the north; with the city of Tampa to the east by causeways and bridges across Tampa Bay; and to Bradenton and Sarasota in the south by the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (Interstate 275), which traverses the mouth of the bay. It is also served by Interstates 175 and 375, which branch off I-275 into the southern and northern areas of downtown respectively. The Gandy Bridge, conceived by George Gandy and opened in 1924, was the first causeway to be built across Tampa Bay, connecting St. Petersburg and Tampa cities without a circuitous 43-mile (69 km) trip around the bay through Oldsmar.

With a purported average of some 361 days of sunshine each year, it is nicknamed "The Sunshine City." *American Style* magazine ranked St. Petersburg its top mid-size city in 2011, citing its "vibrant" arts scene, and St. Petersburg made the New York Times 2014 list of 52 places to visit around the world; it is one of only nine U. S. cities that made the list.

St. Petersburg operates under the Strong Mayor form of government. This system of government combines the strong political leadership of the Mayor with an elected City Council. The Mayor is responsible for running the daily affairs of the City. The City Council has a Chair and Vice Chair and must approve City policies, the City budget and the Mayor's choices for City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk.

**Learn more by visiting the official site of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida**

[www.stpete.org](http://www.stpete.org)

## **THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The city seeks a Police Chief to replace the former Chief, who recently retired after 31 years of service with the City (the present acting Chief is not seeking appointment); the last 12 of which he served as the Chief. The St. Petersburg Police Department, recognized for the excellence of its services and its commitment to innovative approaches to law enforcement, consists of 550 sworn and 200 civilian personnel with an annual operating budget of \$91.3 million. The Department is one of the few departments in the nation to receive from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) its "Flagship" designation and is also accredited by the Commission for Florida Accreditation (CFA). The Five Major Goals of the Department are: (1) service (2) employee enrichment and professionalism; (3) partnership; (4) provide and encourage a highly-trained work force; and (5) identify, provide, and refine modern technological application. The City's new Police Chief will be expected to be heavily involved in the design of a new Police Department Headquarters.

## **THE POSITION AND THE IDEAL CANDIDATE**

The Police Chief reports directly to the Mayor of St. Petersburg. In evaluating applicants for this position the Mayor will be looking for candidates who:

- Inspire confidence, respect, trust, and a sense of mission;
- Show a demonstrated commitment to diversity within the department, and to ensuring that services provided are perceived as fair and effective throughout the community;
- Are sound financial managers who can communicate the department's financial structure and position to internal and external stakeholders, including citizens and elected officials;
- Employ a participative and inclusive leadership style to work effectively with other City departments, the executive management team and affiliated labor organizations to build consensus toward organization and department goals;
- Have demonstrated ability to analyze and solve complex administrative, community and policing issues in an efficient, measured and calm manner;
- Research and implement innovative and leading-edge crime prevention and law enforcement strategies, including the use of technology where appropriate;
- Have demonstrated experience in the use of Intelligence Led Policing, Area Command, crime analysis, predictive Policing and embraces Community Policing models and philosophies.
- Have demonstrated experience in identifying root causes of crime and youth incarceration alternatives.

## **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

Candidates must have served in a senior command position within a medium to large law enforcement agency with demonstrated experience related to the above criteria and have graduated from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in criminal justice, political science, public administration or a related field, and be able to obtain certification as a Florida law enforcement officer within 6 months of employment. Once employed, the Chief must reside within the City limits.

## **COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

Depending on qualifications and experience, the salary is negotiable and **shall not exceed \$159,000.**

Employee benefits are generously competitive and include:

- Health and Life Insurance.
- Dental and vision plans.
- Supplemental Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance.
- Police Pension Fund or 401(a) Plan.
- 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.
- Generous Paid Time Off.
- And more.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

For additional information on this outstanding opportunity, please contact W. D. Higginbotham, Jr., Senior Vice President, The Mercer Group, Inc. at 727-214-8673, [WDHiggin@mercergroupinc.com](mailto:WDHiggin@mercergroupinc.com)

**A letter of interest and resume should be sent electronically by the close of business, April 11, 2014 to:**

**W. D. Higginbotham, Jr.  
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The Mercer Group, Inc.  
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Seminole, FL 33777  
Email - [WDHiggin@mercergroupinc.com](mailto:WDHiggin@mercergroupinc.com)**

Please direct your application questions to W. D. Higginbotham, Jr. at (727) 214-8673.

*Resumes are subject to the provisions of Florida Public Records Statutes*

*The City of St. Petersburg, Florida, is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City of St. Petersburg does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, political ideas, or disability in employment or in the provision of services.*

** The Mercer Group, Inc.**

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