



## **Chatham County Board of Commissioners**

**124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401**

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### ***NEWS RELEASE***

**For Immediate Release**

**May 29, 2020**

#### **Chatham – Savannah Counter Narcotics Team Director Retires**

**Chatham County, GA (May 29, 2020)** – Chatham County Manager Lee Smith announced to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners last week that CNT Director Dwane Ragan would be retiring at the end of the month. The Commission and staff thanked him for his hard work and dedication to our community during the meeting where he received a proclamation from the Commission.

Ragan began his law enforcement career with the City of Savannah in December 1973. He has served the Chatham County community as a law enforcement officer for a combined 46 years and 5 months.

Following the retirement of then Commander Roy Harris in December 2010, CNT Director Ragan was appointed as CNT's Interim Director. Ragan continued on to lead CNT after being named Director in March 2011.

"My time at CNT has been the highlight of my more than 46 years in law enforcement and I cannot express how grateful I am to have the opportunity to close out my law enforcement career with this agency," said Ragan.

Under Ragan's command, CNT has maintained its status as the only drug enforcement agency in the State of Georgia to achieve Certified Law Enforcement Agency status through the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

The success of CNT investigations under Ragan's leadership has also garnered recognition from various law enforcement associations across the state. Most notably, CNT was selected to receive the Joseph Whitehead Award at the 2018 Georgia Narcotics Officers' Association (GNOA) conference after a successful long term investigation led to CNT's largest single seizure of cocaine – 25 kilograms in March 2018. The agency was also presented with the 2015 President's Award from the Georgia Gang Investigators Association (GGIA) in recognition of

CNT's investigation into the Ghost Face Gangsters which resulted in CNT seizing methamphetamine and firearms.

County Manager Lee Smith has appointed CNT Deputy Director Mike Izzo as the interim Director while the County conducts a search for Director Ragan's replacement. Smith says, "Izzo's 32 years of law enforcement experience and extensive investigative and supervisory experience, primarily in the areas of narcotics and homicide investigation make him the logical choice for interim director."

Savannah Police Department Lieutenant Izzo was most recently assigned to the Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team in 2018. His 2018 return to CNT as Deputy Director marked his third tour with the agency. He was an original member of CNT in 1994 as a Narcotics Agent and later returned to serve for two years as CNT's Major Case Group Supervisor. Additionally, Izzo was previously twice assigned to the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration as a Task Force Officer (1990-1992 and 1996-2000).

Director Ragan concurred with the County Manager's decision. "I have been fortunate to have worked with many talented individuals, including Deputy Director Mike Izzo. I have known Mike for the entirety of his career in law enforcement and, when the opportunity arose in 2018, I personally requested the Savannah Police Department allow him to be assigned to CNT as Deputy Director. Deputy Director Izzo's background in law enforcement leadership positions has prepared him to become Interim Director of CNT as the hiring process for the next CNT Director takes place. I have confidence that upon my retirement Interim Director Izzo will successfully lead the professional men and women working at CNT in carrying out the mission of the agency. The citizens of Chatham County can rest assured these dedicated individuals give 100% effort to keep the community safe", said Ragan.

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