



this issue:

Harold Hurtt, Director of the Office of State and Local Coordination, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Who is Harold Hurtt?

In June of 2010 Harold Hurtt was appointed Director for the Office of State and Local Coordination for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Hurt previously was Chief of Police for Phoenix, Arizona and Houston, Texas.

In October of 2003, Major City Chiefs Association, in part lead by Harold Hurtt, declared unwavering support for the renewal of the

doomed-assault weapons ban. At the press conference Hurtt said, "We want Congress to help us ... to protect those that protect America." Fn.1. After parsing this not-so-eloquent statement, Hurtt is suggesting that only police officers protect America, and seems to ignore the rights

No coordination...

enshrined in the Second Amendment.

In 2004, shortly after arriving on the scene

as Houston's Police Chief, Hurtt stirred up the ire of his subordinates. He did so by banning tattoos, and forcing existing ones to be covered. He also instituted a "no facial hair policy" (interestingly enough, he, himself sports a mustache). The latter policy prompted a law suit from black officers with Pseudofolliculitis Barbae, a skin

condition making it difficult to shave. While Hurtt ultimately won the suit, he spent 150,000 of Houston's taxpayer dollars defending his ban. Fn.2.

"Given Hurtt's past statements in opposition to coordination between local and national law enforcement on immigration matters he is obviously the wrong person to be tasked with handling that coordination."

-Bill Wilson, President, Americans for Limited Government

Continued next page...

Hurt's Background

Chief of Police, Houston, Texas

Chief of Police, Phoenix, Arizona

Chief of Police, Oxnard, California

Officer, Phoenix, Arizona Police Department

U.S. Air Force

EDUCATION

B.S. Arizona State University

M.A., University of Phoenix

Sources for further reading:

Fn.1. Thomas J. Gibbons, Jr., *Police chiefs: Retain assault-weapons ban; The NRA has urged Congress to let law expire. Lawmen had tales of grim toll*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, October 23, 2003, at B03.

Fn.2. Richard Connelly, *Hippie Cops and Loan Sharks*, HOUSTON PRESS, June 12, 2008. Available online at: <http://www.houstonpress.com/2008-06-12/news/hippie-cops-and-loan-sharks/>. (Accessed July 8, 2010.)

Fn.3. Wayne Dolcefino, *Mobility response team's fuzzy math*, ABC 13, March 3, 2009. Available online at: http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/13_undercover&id=6689513. (Accessed July 8, 2010.)

Fn.4. Plaintiff's Original Petition With Request for Disclosures at p.11. *Johnson v. Hurtt*, Civ. No. 2009-60471, District Court of Harris County, Texas (2009).

See also:

Pamela Constable, *Many Officials Reluctant to Help Arrest Immigrants*, THE WASHINGTON POST, August 23, 2008, at B01.

Widow of Houston Officer Killed by Illegal Immigrant "Shocked" at ICE Appointment, Fox News, June 25, 2010. Available online at: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/06/25/widow-houston-officer-killed-illegal-immigrant-shocked-ice-appointment/>. (Accessed July 8, 2010.)

Stephen Clark, *White House Picks Critic of Local Immigration Enforcement for Key Role at ICE*, Fox News, June 25, 2010. Available online at: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/06/24/obama-administration-picks-critic-immigration-enforcement-key-role-ice/>. (Accessed July 8, 2010.)

Fn.5. James Pinkerton, *Mayoral Race, Budget crimps goals for public safety*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, October 11, 2009 at A1. Available online at: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/metropolitan/6661979.html>. (Accessed July 8, 2010.)

What you really need to know about Harold Hurtt

Continued from first page...

In 2007, Hurtt and then-Mayor and now-Democrat Nominee for Governor, Bill White spent \$1.4 million implementing a 21-member Mobility Response Team (MRT). The MRT was (is) used to respond to traffic incidents and free police officers from potentially hours-long stays at accidents. However, the MRT was a sorry replacement for trained officers. The MRT has responded badly to several high profile incidents (e.g. they blocked off a street when a minor detour would have sufficed). They also padded their response numbers counting the same incident multiple times, and counting when people asked for directors. Because of these, and other problems, an internal affairs investigation occurred, and one supervisor was reassigned. Fn.3.

During his tenure as Houston's Chief of Police, Hurtt favored a sanctuary city policy and was an outspoken critic of immigration enforcement. As such it is ironic that he was picked to be the coordinator between local and national officials on immigration policy, as his policies as Chief directly resulted in the death of a Houston officer at the hands of an illegal. Officer Joslyn Johnson sued Hurtt for the death of her husband Rodney Johnson. From one of the pleadings in the case:

The Houston Police Department's policies, practices, and procedures restricting Plaintiff's ability to obtain or provide information to ICE about the immigration status of persons she lawfully encounters in carrying out her duties and responsibilities as a law enforcement officer have injured Plaintiff by harming her ability to fulfill her oath and otherwise carry out her duties and responsibilities as a law enforcement officer. They also restrict Plaintiff's freedom of expression. Fn.4.

In 2009, as the mayoral elections approached three of the major candidates expressed a "vote of no confidence" in Chief Hurtt. This was due to the low morale within the police department, his lack of leadership, and because he never made the effort to become part of the city. Fn.5.

NomineeAlert

THIS ALERT IS A SERVICE OF
AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT
9900 MAIN STREET
SUITE 303
FAIRFAX, VA 22031
703.383.0880
WWW.GETLIBERTY.ORG