



Brett Lawson, a Jefferson Parish Council Chief of Staff and a 20-Year Veteran of the Gretna Police Department, to Run for Gretna Police Chief

GRETNA, LA. – Brett Lawson, Chief of Staff for Jefferson Parish Councilman Hans Liljeberg and a longtime member of the Gretna Police Department Reserve Division, where he rose to Lieutenant, announced today he will run for Chief of Police in his hometown of Gretna.

Lawson's decision to run came when his father, Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson, decided not to seek a sixth term. Brett Lawson is a graduate of Holy Cross School and Louisiana State University, where he earned his College of Arts and Sciences degree in Criminology with a minor in Political Science. He also completed extensive training in policing at the Gretna Police Department Training Academy and received certification from the State of Louisiana Peace Officer Standards & Training Council and the Executive Protection Institute.

Lawson has a distinguished history in Jefferson Parish government, serving since 2005. He became a Council Aide to then District 1 Councilman Chris Roberts, where he worked on projects and matters impacting Gretna. In 2012, when Roberts rose to Councilman-At-Large, Lawson worked as his Council Aide on parish-wide projects and initiatives. He then served as Chief of Staff for Councilman At-Large Ricky Templet from 2020 to 2023. In 2024, Lawson was recruited by newly elected Councilman Hans Liljeberg to serve as his Chief of Staff. In just one year, Lawson has played a pivotal role in managing a \$15 million budget, securing funding to safeguard the Major Crimes Task Force, drafting legislation to eliminate homeless encampments, and launching several initiatives aimed at improving the community's quality of life.

Lawson's service as a Reserve Lieutenant has allowed him to help expand the multi-jurisdictional Major Crimes Task Force administered by the Gretna Police Department to provide collaboration amongst local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for major crimes. He also helped secure funding for police equipment, training, and other essential department needs. Outside of his government and law enforcement work, Lawson has enjoyed success as a businessman who operates and owns successful Smoothie King franchises in several states.

Said Lawson, ***"It would be a tremendous honor to be elected and accept the torch of justice from my father. He is my mentor and personal hero, and the reason that I pursued criminology as a career path. I know this department through and through; I know the hard-working, brave personnel, and I love the City of Gretna. So, if the people of Gretna will grace me with their confidence, I will dedicate myself wholly to not only 'protect and serve' our residents, businesses, and guests but also to help Gretna continue to rise in every aspect. We will remain resilient in the face of challenges and continue working diligently to make Gretna the safest city in Louisiana."***

Lawson remains active in helping Jefferson Parish improve its quality of life as a member of the Jefferson Parish Homeland Security Committee, the Jefferson Parish Criminal Justice Committee, the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, the Gretna Economic Development Association, the Gretna Historical Society, and the Organizer of the highly popular Gretna Fest.

Over the years he has amassed many critical certifications including the State of Louisiana, Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services – First Responder Certification; the American Heart Association, Healthcare Provider; the City of Gretna Police Department, RADAR/LIDAR Certification; the PPCT Management Systems, Inc. – PPCT Defensive Tactics Basic Certification; the National Academy for Professional Driving – Tactical Police Driving Certification; the Monadnock Police Training Council – Monadnock Expandable Baton Basic Proficiency Certification; the Monadnock Police Training Council – Monadnock PR-24 Baton Basic Proficiency Certification; the Louisiana State Police Concealed Handgun Permit Section – Firearms Safety/The Use of Deadly Force and Civil Liability and Live Fire Certification.

Lawson, a 42-year-old Republican, is the son of Chief of Police Arthur Lawson. He is married to Ruth Lawson and is the proud father of two daughters, Rowan (10) and Virginia (1). Lawson is a third-generation law enforcement officer. His grandfather, Colonel Joseph Macera, was also a member of the Gretna Police Department.