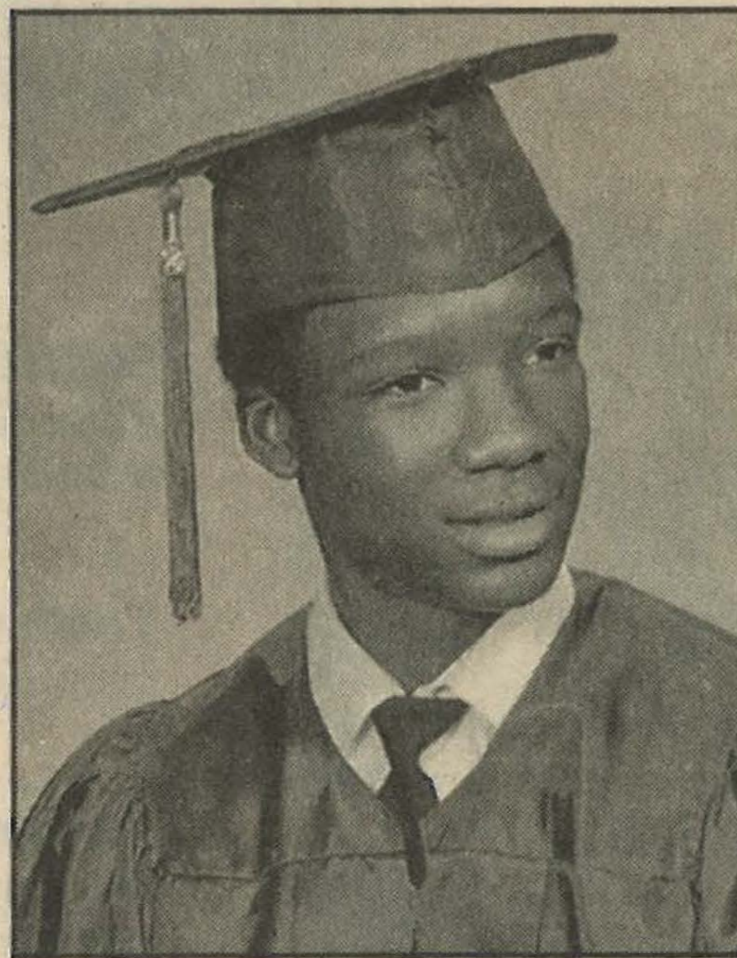


# **Tony R. Jones**

## **Simply the Best - A Living Legacy of Service**



*Before graduating from Eastside High School in 1974, Tony Jones had been recruited as a member of the Gainesville Police Department's Police Explorer and Police Cadet program.*





*Capt. Tony Jones, left, and officer Dave Thomas combine talents to corral enery of the young.*





***TOP: On his last day at work, Police Chief Wayland Clifton heads out of his office to an interview. Police employees urging Clifton to stay had decorated the outside of his door with headlines and messages.***

***LEFT: Clifton congratulates new interim Chief Tony R. Jones.***

Photos by STEPHEN MORTON  
The Gainesville Sun



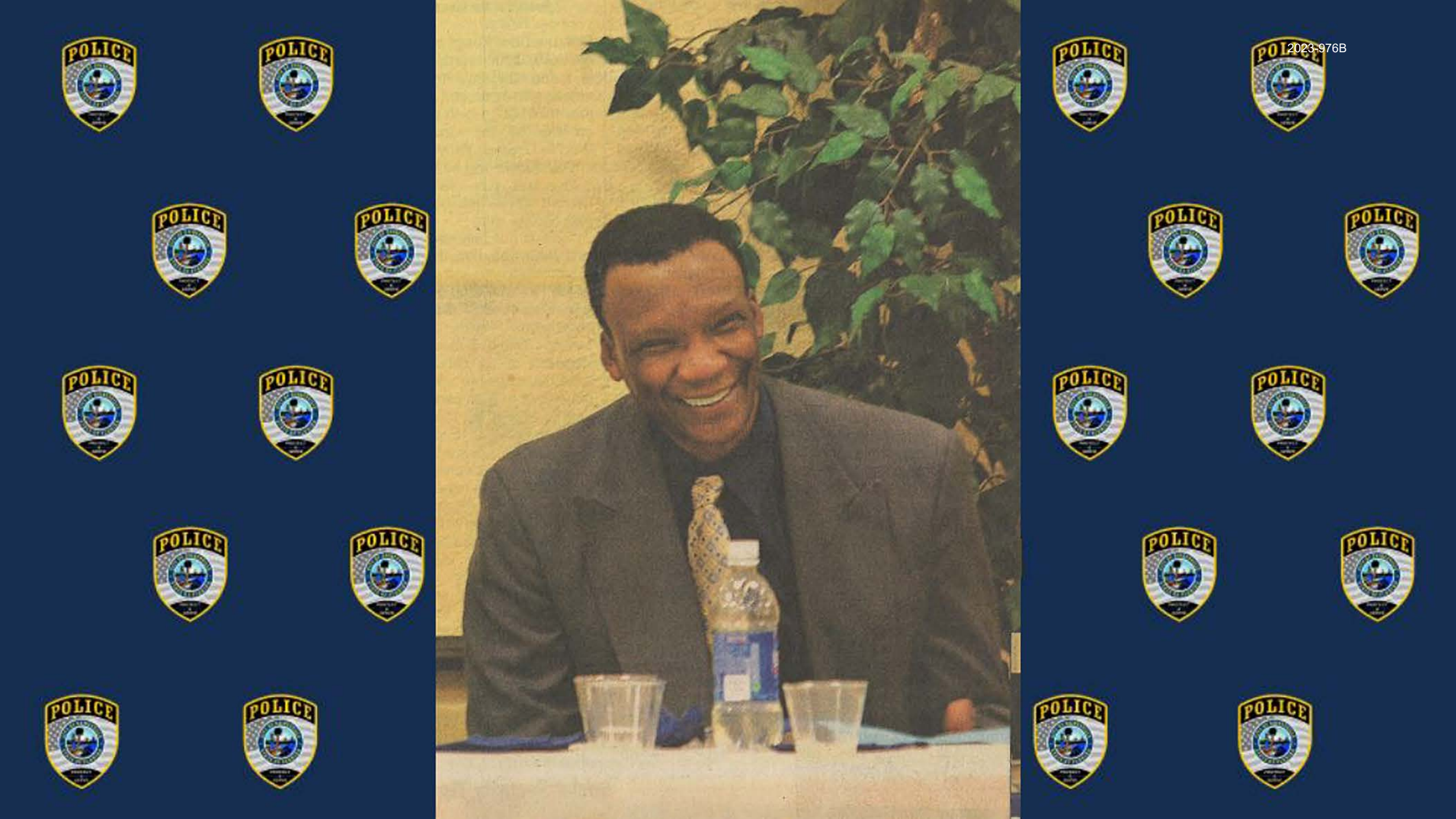
## Jones sworn in as police chief



After County Judge Jeanne Dawes Crenshaw administered the oath of office to Interim Police Chief Tony R. Jones and 13 new Gainesville Police officers, Jones gives her a hug Friday in the Thomas Center Spanish Court. Jones was chosen by City Manager Wayne Bowers to replace longtime Police Chief Wayland Clifton, who resigned last week.

2023-976B







# RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Honoring



Captain Tony R. Jones  
1975-2004

March 3, 2004  
5:30 p.m.

Thomas Center,  
Spanish Court



2023-976B



Dist. Cmdr.  
Tony Jones

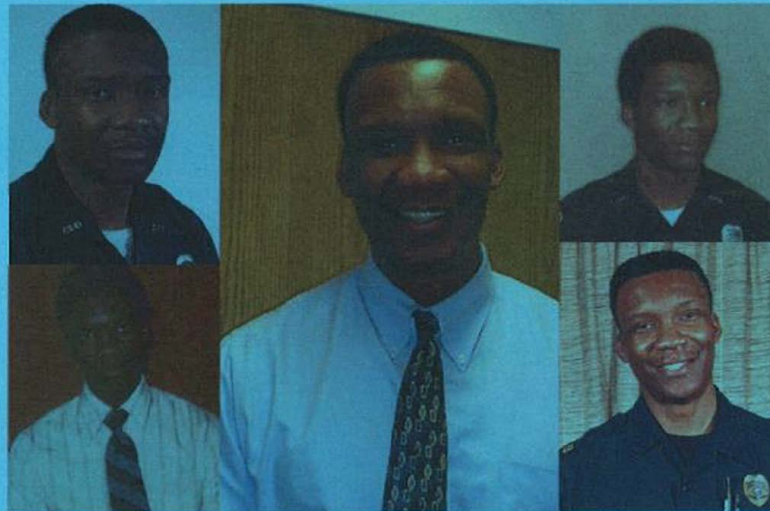


2023-976B



# A Salute to Tony Jones

A Man of Honor, Integrity,  
Compassion & Commitment



**Springhill Missionary  
Baptist Church**

**120 SE Williston Road**

**Saturday ♦ May 5, 2007 ♦ 5:30PM**



2023-976B





2023-976B

# Tony Jones is named new chief of GPD

*City Manager Russ Blackburn rejected the five finalists for the job.*

**By Megan Rolland**  
Staff writer

In a surprising announcement, Gainesville City Manager Russ Blackburn threw out a pool of five finalists for Gainesville chief of police and on Thursday selected interim Chief Tony Jones, who had not applied for the position.

"It's not very often you get to select someone who is revered," Blackburn said of Jones, who in accepting the position did not commit to serve more than a year.

Blackburn emphasized that the nationwide search that fielded 93 candidates helped him realize Jones

was the most qualified candidate, and then the arm twisting began.

Jones, a 53-year-old retired Gainesville Police Department captain, had said when the process to find a chief first began that his family commitments would prevent him from accepting the chief position permanently, and thus he did not apply for the position.

As a retired city employee, he will draw a city pension and a salary while serving as chief.

Jones served as interim chief after former Chief Norman Botsford retired earlier than expected in July, and on Wednesday Jones agreed to step into the role for at least a year.

"We're still twisting," Blackburn joked after announcing his selection and expressing hope that Jones would stay in the position longer.

When asked what had changed his

mind, Jones said, "Right now is a pivotal time for the police department. (The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement) will give us ... solutions or recommendations we hope to implement, and I want to be there to see that some of those plans be implemented."

NOBLE was hired by the city to review the Gainesville Police Department's internal policies following a difficult year in which five officers resigned amid internal investigations and three officers were disciplined for harassing prostitutes and drug dealers while off-duty.

Several sources indicated one of Jones' strengths comes from the fact that he was outside the Botsford administration under which the scandals occurred but also that Jones had the institutional knowledge that

**CHIEF** on Page 4A



DOUG FINGER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

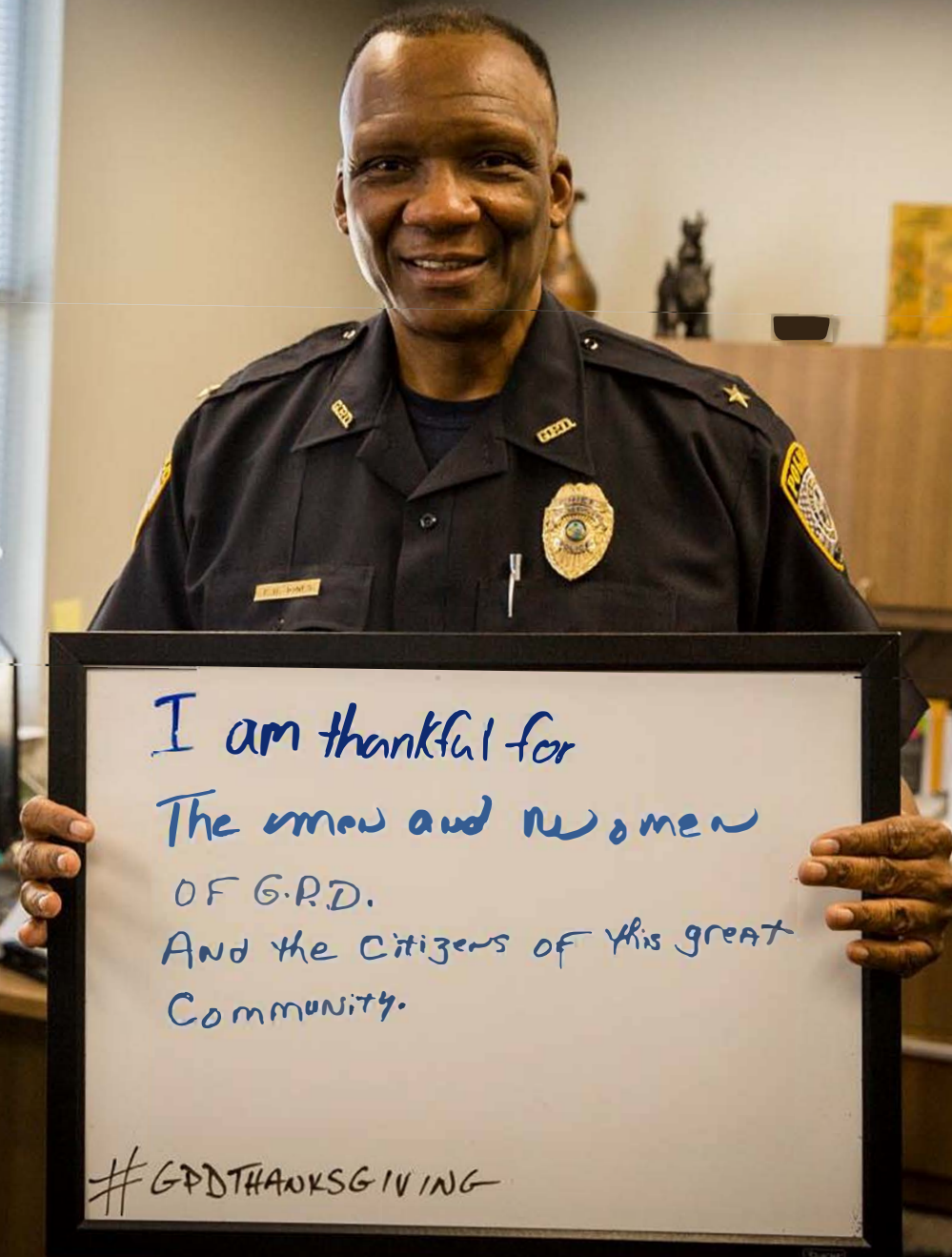
New Gainesville Police Chief Tony Jones attends a news conference to announce his new position by Gainesville City Manager Russ Blackburn at City Hall on Thursday.











I am thankful for  
The men and women  
OF G.R.D.  
And the citizens of this great  
Community.

#GPDTHANKSGIVING













2023-976B







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**Thank you for your decades of service  
to the City of Gainesville and the  
Gainesville community!**