

Media Release

Aberdeen Police Department

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Aberdeen's First Female Police Officer Retiring After Forty Years of Service

Aberdeen, MD – Officer First Class Karen Kerins of the Aberdeen Police Department is officially retiring after forty continuous years of service. She is the longest serving female sworn officer to date in Harford County, Maryland.

Officer Kerins initially applied to the Bel Air Police Department in September 1980 but another candidate was selected. The Bel Air Police Department referred Officer Kerins to the Aberdeen Police Department who also had an opening for an officer. She was hired by then Chief of Police, Whitey Elliot and began her law enforcement career on October 12, 1980. OFC Kerins was the first female officer hired by the city of Aberdeen and was the second female officer hired in Harford County behind Ann Todd of the Havre de Grace Police Department (Retired/2000).

Officer Kerins served the majority of her career (27 years) in the Patrol Division and spent four of those years as the first female K9 handler in Aberdeen and Harford County. During her tenure, she was instrumental in assisting the States Attorney's Office with child abuse investigations before the creation of the Child Advocacy Center in 1993. In 2007, she was transferred to her newly assigned position as the first School Resource Officer for the Aberdeen Police Department and was assigned to Aberdeen High School. For the next 13 years, OFC Kerins worked as the SRO at the high school until being transferred in 2018 to cover the three elementary schools within the city of Aberdeen. In June of 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, OFC Kerins initiated her formal retirement process and July 18th, 2020, will be her last day as a sworn Officer for the city of Aberdeen Police Department.

-Images below-

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