

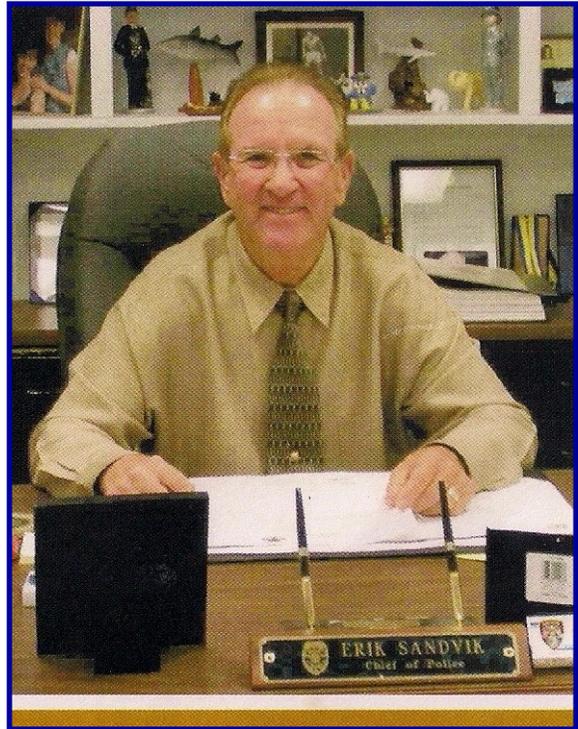
## Chief of Police Erik Sandvik

1998-2007

Chief Sandvik came to Bartow Police Department in March 1998 from Pinellas Park Police Department. Sandvik succeeded Chief Tony Sparks who resigned in June of 1996, and at the age of 53, had over 30 years of law enforcement experience.

A 26 year veteran of the Pinellas Park Police Department, Chief Sandvik worked his way up the ranks to become Operations Captain. In 1981 he was chosen Officer of the Year.

During his tenure as Bartow Chief of Police, the Department achieved its first ever Accreditation through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) in 2000. In addition, in the mid 2000's he implemented the use of tasers. Initially against the defensive tool, Sandvik had agreed to be the first person tased, should the department



implement the device. He kept his promise and was tased.

Chief Sandvik especially enjoyed the holidays, Halloween and Christmas being his favorite. Each year, for the Crickette Club's Annual Halloween Parade, he would chose a theme and the department would decorate a parade float which he would ride on. At Christmas, he regularly dressed up as Santa for open house at the station and Christmas parties.

Following a scathing city-wide employee survey in 2007, City Commissioners chose to relinquish several city department heads, including City Manager Joe DeLegge and appointing Linda Culpepper as Interim City Manager.

On July 5, 2007, Interim City Manager Linda Culpepper, relinquished Chief Sandvik of his day-to-day operations. The City Commissioners voted to allow Sandvik to retain his title of Police Chief until his retirement on March 2, 2008, and he was replaced by Polk County Sheriff Major Larry Williams.

Chief Sandvik returned to Pinellas County where he kept a second home.

