

# Press Release

**LAKE CITY**  
**POLICE**  
**DEPARTMENT**



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*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

**For Immediate Release**

December 18, 2025

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## **12th Annual "Shop with a Cop" Program**

The Lake City Police Department recently marked another successful year of its Shop with a Cop program, celebrating twelve years of creating positive holiday experiences for local children and families. The annual event brings officers and children together for a special shopping experience that highlights connection, kindness, and community support.

This year's program was made possible through funding from Walmart, the Fraternal Order of Police Florida Gateway Lodge 187, and AgroLiquid, with additional support from the Walmart Distribution Center. These partnerships continue to play a key role in the program's long-standing success.

Children are selected each year through local schools and aftercare organizations within city limits, ensuring the program reaches families who may face financial challenges during the holiday season. The goal is to provide a meaningful experience that goes beyond gifts and creates lasting memories.

During this year's event, thirty children had the opportunity to shop alongside Lake City police officers. The one-on-one interaction allows officers to engage with children in a relaxed, positive environment, helping to build trust and strengthen relationships.

Chief Gerald Butler spoke about the impact of the program, saying, "Shop with a Cop is about more than gifts. It is about building trust, creating memories, and showing children and families that their community cares. We are grateful to our partners and proud to continue this tradition for the twelfth year."

Since its inception, the Shop with a Cop program has served more than 300 children in the Lake City community. The Lake City Police Department extends its sincere appreciation to all partners and supporters who help make this program possible and continue its positive impact year after year.

For more information about the Lake City Police Department and its community outreach programs, visit [www.lcfla.com/police](http://www.lcfla.com/police).



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