

# THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

## **Cecil E. Smith**

Chief Cecil E. Smith was selected to lead the Sanford Police Department after serving 25 years with the Elgin Police Department in Elgin, Illinois. He retired at the rank of Deputy Chief and it should be noted that prior to his retirement from the Elgin Police Department, Chief Smith was the first African American to hold the position of Deputy Chief in the Police Department's 175 year history.

Chief Smith's selection to lead the Sanford Police Department on April 1, 2013 came during one of the most publicized and controversial times in law enforcement and racial history, the Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman incident.

Under Chief Smith's leadership, his collaboration with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, prevented probable disaster. Many around the nation and the world believed or expected destruction within the City of Sanford. This collaboration resulted in multiple peaceful gatherings and expressions of disappointment from those within the community.

Unlike many larger cities around the country, Sanford remained calm under fire and has remained calm since the verdict.

Chief Smith is also a retired First Sergeant after serving 25 combined years with the U. S. Air Force and the Illinois Air National Guard. He is a graduate of Columbia College. He was past class president of Class #204 from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command - a graduate of the FBINA Session #234 and a graduate of the FBI LEEDA training.

Chief Smith has also published articles in FBI publications and recently received the Martin Luther King Drum Major Award for Civic Affairs.