

OFFICE OF

September 11, 2025

RE: Chief Robert Bage

Dear International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Members,

It is my honor to endorse Chief Robert Bage as a candidate for the position of Fourth Vice President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

I have had the privilege of knowing Chief Bage through my own years of public service as Mayor of Destin, Okaloosa County Commissioner for District 5, and State Representative for Florida House District 4. Now, as President of Northwest Florida State College, I continue to see firsthand his integrity, professionalism, and commitment to strengthening the communities he serves.

With over 25 years of distinguished law enforcement service, he currently serves as President of the Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA), as a Board Member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Florida Representative for the State Association of Chiefs of Police, Commissioner on the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, and as an appointee to the Florida Immigration Council. His leadership and dedication have provided him with the expertise and vision needed to guide law enforcement at all levels.

The FPCA has already unanimously endorsed Chief Bage, and I gladly add my personal endorsement. Chief Bage is certain to bring valuable insight, professionalism, and experience to this vital role—serving law enforcement agencies across our nation and the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel Ponder', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mel Ponder

Mel Ponder