

Richard S. Coleman **Chatham County Sheriff**



Richard S. Coleman is a proud Savannah native and a product of Chatham County's rich heritage of service and leadership. Raised by two beloved local educators, his father, "Coach" Roosevelt Coleman, and his mother, Principal Vernell Coleman, he learned early the values of discipline, compassion, and a deep commitment to community. A graduate of Sol C. Johnson High School, he continued his education by earning a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master's degree in Public Administration.

For nearly 30 years, Sheriff Coleman has dedicated his life to public safety and community uplift. His journey through law enforcement has included serving as a Georgia-certified peace officer, holding leadership roles such as Chief of Internal Affairs, Assistant Chief of Police, and Police Operations Commander. Through each role, he developed a reputation for fairness, accountability, relationship-building, and leading with both strength and heart.

In November 2024, Sheriff Coleman made history when he was elected as the first African American Sheriff of Chatham County, winning the confidence of the community by more than 10,000 votes. He was sworn in on December 28, 2024, beginning his service on January 1, 2025. He now serves not only as a law enforcement leader but as a bridge-builder, working to restore trust, expand services, and create safer pathways for every family in Chatham County.

Sheriff Coleman is a devoted father and a God-fearing leader who believes that safety is strengthened through unity, dignity, and collective responsibility.

