

5/15/24

CHIEF ERIC HAWKINS

Chief Hawkins started his career with the Southfield, Michigan Police Department in 1990, starting as a Police Cadet and appointed as a sworn police officer in 1991. His assignments included School Resource Officer, Certified Police Bicyclist, oversight of the department's tactical unit, command of the downtown sub-station, and oversight of all community policing programs. Chief Hawkins rose through the ranks and was appointed Southfield's Police Chief in October of 2012. As Southfield's Chief, he oversaw dramatic decreases in crime as well as the creation of citizen and youth police academies. Chief Hawkins also created a Police Chief's Citizens Advisory Board.

Chief Hawkins retired from Southfield and was sworn in as Albany, New York's 25th Police Chief on September 7, 2018. During Chief Hawkins' tenure in Albany, he has prioritized strengthening police-community relations, the health and wellness of employees and the recruitment and retention of personnel. Chief Hawkins oversaw the implementation of several new community-oriented programs in Albany, including a paid Police Cadet Program, an internationally-recognized Police Therapy Dog Program and the Community Liaison Partnership (CLP) – a program that allows city residents to help train police academy recruits. Additionally, Chief Hawkins oversaw the acquisition of a new Police Training Center Facility, infrastructure updates to Police Headquarters and the Communications Center, and the integration of certified social workers into police operations.

Chief Hawkins earned a Juris Doctor from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University, a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and an Associate's in Business Administration from Oakland Community College. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy Session 234, FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar Session 80, Eastern Michigan University's School of Police Staff and Command, the FBI Command Institute for Police Executives, and Central Michigan University's Law Enforcement and School Liaison Program Institute.

Chief Hawkins' professional affiliations include: International Association of Chiefs of Police, FBI National Academy Associates, FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association, New York State Department of Civil Service Police Examination Review Committee, New York State Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Council, New York State Partnership for Youth Justice Committee, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Police Executive Research Forum, New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and Northeastern Association of Chiefs of Police.