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“Homicide and Circumstantial Evidence”

Taught by Imran Ali on Feb. 24, 2025



Ali

“Self-Defense Post-Rittenhouse: How the Law of Self-Defense is Changing”

Taught by Imran Ali on Feb. 24, 2025



Moore

“M2M (Minneapolis to Minnesota): American Stories of Cultural Change”

Taught by Dr. Shawn Moore on Feb. 24, 2025



Krapfl

“Officer Involved Shootings: What to Expect”
By DCI Special Agent Mike Krapfl on Feb. 25, 2025



Cretsinger

“Death of Ranea Ball/ Prosecution of Richard Fleck”
By Iowa Attorney General Statewide Prosecution Section Chief Keisha Cretsinger on Feb. 25, 2025

**Dates: February 24-25, 2025
at Prairie Meadows
Conference Center, Altoona**

See Pages 10 and 11 for more details on
IPOA Conference 2025. Registration Page is on 13.





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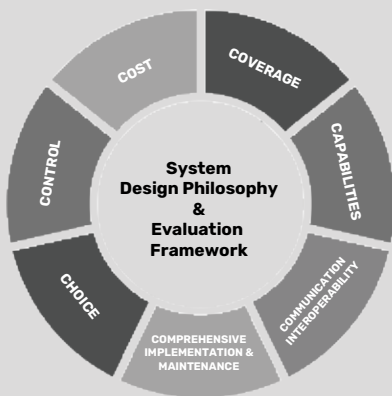
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A big “Thank You” to the advertisers who make this publication possible!

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Successes and Disappointments at the Iowa Capitol This Year

Hello Iowa Law Enforcement.

Here we are in the fall. Summer seemed to fly by, as does time. Camper, motorcycle, and lawn mowers will soon be put away as well as the deck furniture. Ugh. I have not been able to figure out why spring, summer, and fall go by so quickly and winter drags.

Your association has been busy this summer partnering with the Iowa Police Chiefs Association in getting our IPERS retirement bill through the Legislature this upcoming session. This bill, if passed in its entirety, would make protected class of IPERS mirror the Sheriffs' and Deputies'.

The center piece is the 80% draw at retirement, which would mirror all the other systems, and other pieces such as being able to retire at 50 years of age and 22 years of service and a couple other things. We are working at getting this pre-filed before session so there is not a last-minute rush. Your association and the Chiefs have been talking to legislators who realized we should have been included in last year's bill and certainly are supportive of getting this correction done for us.

Now, this does not come without a cost. IPERS protected class is over 100% funded, which means that the fund could afford one piece of the bill without any increased costs to the members in the form of rate increases. However, with every piece we add it is certain our members share of the IPERS contribution will increase. In some cases, our percentage would be very marginal, but in other scenarios it could be upward of 5 to 8 percent. We are looking at making the deduction a 50/50 split between employer and employee. This would repre-



Chief Marty Duffus
Osceola Police Department

sent an increase in your IPERS deduction. However, I think, as one who has paid a higher rate for a while, the benefits of higher retirement pay and earlier retirement are worth the increase.

This must also be palatable to the employers as the state has over the past two years taken property tax money from them. In some cases, the increase of tax money has not been able to cover the increased costs of health insurance to the employer. That is how tight many of the budgets really are. We will certainly keep you posted and ask each of you to contact your local legislators and encourage them to back this correction bill.

Conference: Our annual Training Conference is February 24-25, 2025, at the Prairie Meadows events and conference center. Once again, we have an excellent field of speakers lined up. Chief Dave Niedert and Terry Dehmlow have done an outstanding job of bringing in people at the top of their

field with lots of experience. I am sure everyone will find something valuable to take back to their respective departments. Might even be something new there. And, as always, the Conference fees are incredibly reasonable. Hope to see you there!

Now for your association: Because of the strong financial management of Terry Dehmlow and a great board of directors, past and present, your association is financially strong. We have every intention of keeping it this way. We do depend on memberships for funds however. So, I am always asking the members to ask their neighbor if they are members and if not, why not? Encourage them to join! Also, if you are interested in serving on a committee or joining the board send Terry or I an email and we will see what we can do to accommodate you. We would love to have your input!

Finally, my wife and I drive around the State with our camper and/or our motorcycle. I frequently stop into member agencies and thank them personally for being members. I ask what more we can do for them and I get answers. I also stop into non-member agencies and try to recruit them to our association. But the best thing for me when I make a visit is hearing their department history and officer accomplishments. The pride that is exuded by everyone telling their stories is obvious. And these stories are important! I leave those agencies invigorated and prouder than ever to be the President of this wonderful organization – but most of all, proud to wear this badge!

Stand strong, be safe, do what is right and BE PROUD!

Marty

Iowa Peace Officers Association (IPOA) Membership Dues were Payable on September 1 for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. If you have not yet paid, please do so now so IPOA can continue to serve all law enforcement officers in Iowa.

Dues are only \$30 to renew membership; \$35 for new members.

Pay by mail at: IPOA, P.O. Box 100, Denver, Iowa 50622

To download the member application go to:

<http://iowapeaceofficers.org/membershipapplication.html>

and at the top of the page click on "Membership application for the IPOA"

IPERS Benefits Advisory Committee - Cost Studies for Protection Occupation Pension

By **Kellie Paschke**
IPOA Legislative Consultant

At the request of IPERS staff and affected groups, an actuarial study was completed to analyze the impact of certain changes to the benefit structure for non-retired members of the Protection Occupation group. Some of the changes analyzed include:

- Increasing the benefit multiplier from 1.5% to 2.5% for years of service between 22 and 30 (maximum 80%).
- Adding a permanent and automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 1.5%, compounded annually.
- Adding an option to retire without full benefits at age 50 with 22 years of service.

This actuarial study was prompted by 2024 legislation that approved increased pension benefits for members of the Sheriffs' and Deputies' pension system, but excluded other law enforcement groups.



Kellie Paschke
Legislative Consultant

Results of the study show the following:

1. Increasing the benefit multiplier to 2.5% for years of service between 22 and 30 would increase the overall pension contribution rate by .56% (15.52% to 16.08%). Using the current allocation method, this would mean a contribution increase for members of .22% (6.21% to 6.43%) and

employers of .34% (9.31% to 9.65%).

2. Adding a permanent and automatic COLA adjustment of 1.5% annually would increase the overall pension contribution rate by 3.53% (15.52% to 19.05%). Using the current allocation method, this would mean a contribution increase for members of 1.41% (6.21% to 7.62%) and employers of 2.12% (9.31% to 11.43%).

3. Adding an option to retire will full benefits at age 50 with 22 years of service would increase the overall pension contribution rate by .55% (15.52% to 16.07%). Using the current allocation method, this would mean a contribution increase for members of .22% (6.21% to 6.43%) and employers of .33% (9.31% to 9.64%).

This information will be provided to legislators for the 2025 legislative session to support legislation that offers parity between the various pension systems. Legislators will also consider whether the MFPRSI system should provide a full retirement option at age 50.



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New ILEA Staff, Funding, Guest Instructor Opportunities, More

By Director Brady Carney

Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

ILEA has been very busy the last few months celebrating Basic Academy graduation, starting a new Basic Academy cycle, welcoming several new faces to team ILEA, ongoing migration to Acadis and preparing for the upcoming legislative session.

Basic Academy Updates

Sixty-six of Iowa's newest Peace Officers from Class 315 and Class 316 graduated the ILEA Basic Academy on August 16th. Congratulations to each and every one of them. Meanwhile, 86 recruits are in the midst of their Basic Academy experience as members of Class 317 and Class 318. If you are involved in the hiring process at all, test-in for the January Basic Academy cycle will take place in Ames on Monday, December 9th at 9 am.

New ILEA Staff

Several fresh faces have been added to ILEA over the last couple months:

- David Gonzalez – Human Trafficking (HT) Instructor: David has over 25 years of law enforcement experience and has been instructing for several years now. David is a nationally recognized expert and will be traveling throughout the State to provide high-quality HT training.

- Kelli Oliver – Training Specialist: Kelli came to ILEA from the education field and specializes in instructional coaching and content & curriculum design. Kelli will be instrumental in ensuring instructional best practices are followed to increase learning and retention, assisting with continual updates to all facets of curriculum, and building a variety of online in-service options.

- Josh Starkey – Instructor: Josh has over a decade of law enforcement experience and will be assisting with firearms, rifle, OWI/SFST, traffic stops and a variety of other scenario-based training programs.

- Kristi Traynor – Legal Counsel: Kristi has practiced law for many years and is well-versed in several areas that are beneficial to ILEA and the law enforcement profession. Kristi represented ILEA over the last four years while working at the Attorney General's Office, so she has been able to hit the ground running.

- Matt Wood – Instructor: Matt has over a



decade of public service and instructional experience via the U.S. Navy and law enforcement. Matt currently serves as an adjunct instructor for ALERRT and will assist with ALERRT, defensive tactics, firearms, rifle, many use of force applications and a variety of scenario-based training programs. They bring a wealth of knowledge, fresh perspectives and a collaborative approach. Saying we are excited to add these outstanding individuals to team ILEA is an understatement!

ILEA Instructor Endorsements

At the end of 2024, all ILEA instructor endorsements (driving, DT, firearms, rifle, SFST) will comply with the three-year window outlined in Chapter 4 of IAC 501. If you are outside of the three-year window with an expired ILEA instructor endorsement, you will need to attend a new instructor course.

We have spent the last year communicating this message to agency leaders and offering a large number of instructor renewal opportunities around the State to help get those who are interested back into compliance with long-established administrative law.

Please keep in mind that when you attend an ILEA instructor renewal, you are renewed through the end of the calendar year on your third year. With that in mind, you are not penalized or faced with shorter instructor endorsement window by attending a renewal earlier in the calendar year.

If you wait until the end of the year to register for and attend a renewal, you run the risk of going on a waiting list, having to travel even further or missing out on renewal opportunities altogether.

Continued Migration to Acadis

Earlier this year, all State agency websites were redesigned and rebranded in an effort to create a consistent and professional forum for members of the public and all stakeholders.

As a result of this streamlining process, the interactive components from the ILEA website had to be housed elsewhere. Our hiring forms, training registration forms, separation forms and really all things ILEA are now accessible via your Acadis portal via the ILEA website: <https://ialea.acadisonline.com/AcadisViewer/Login.aspx>

If you do not have Acadis portal access or have issues logging in, please reach out to Katy Fukuda (Kathryn.fukuda@iowa.gov)

ILEA Funding

The upcoming legislative session will bring another opportunity for increased Basic Academy funding. Last year's collective efforts resulted in ILEA's appropriation more than doubling from \$1,238,504 to \$2,904,407. Law enforcement agencies are now responsible for 1/3 of Basic Academy tuition costs while the State is responsible for 2/3 of Basic Academy tuition costs. My sincere hope is to continue the funding increase so the ILEA Basic Academy will be tuition-free in the near future.

Another opportunity during the upcoming legislative session is to create and enhance dedicated law enforcement training facilities. There is no doubt that the expectations and roles of law enforcement have expanded in recent years, so it's imperative that our ability to conduct high-quality training in a variety of areas also changes with the times. As has been said before, a properly funded ILEA is a benefit to every single law enforcement agency and law enforcement professional in Iowa!

Guest Instructor Opportunities

We continue to benefit from experts across the State who share their knowledge and passion with ILEA Basic Academy recruits. It takes many helping hands to provide high-quality training to as many people as we do at one time, and we're thankful for the agency leaders who allow this to happen. If you're interested in assisting with the ILEA Basic Academy, please visit and sign up on our website: <https://ileatraining.iowa.gov/volunteer/>.

On behalf of everyone at team ILEA, thank you for what you do on a daily basis, and thank you for the ongoing partnerships. We are excited for what lies ahead! Please reach out any time with questions or concerns, or better yet, stop in and see us. Be safe, be well and take care of each other!

Time Waits For No One...

Hello everyone. This may be the hardest article that we have had to write. That is because this will be our last. Greg and I are both retiring at different times next year.

Looking back at all the articles we have written, we found it spans a period of almost 14 years. Where does the time go? We remember being asked so long ago to author a recurring article in the magazine and felt honored and overwhelmed. We just want you to know that it has been an ABSOLUTE HONOR to be allowed to have done this for so long. Thank you.

While looking back at all our articles, we saw that there were so many different topics covered we thought we would end our run with a rundown of some of the most important ones. So here are some bullet points:

- Control first then cuff.
 - Write a thorough and complete report. If it's not in the report it didn't happen.
 - Exercise every day. Just do something physical.
 - Train on your own dime.
- Train hard. It makes everything easier.
- Know your case law. Keep up with rulings at every level.
 - Get enough sleep.
 - Eat healthy. It's a lot easier to do than you think.
 - PPM – Physics, Physiology and Movement.
 - Be open minded to new ideas. Especially if you are in a leadership position.
 - Spend money on functional and practical, quality equipment.
 - Remember the 6 Pillars of Character and follow them.
 - Treating people with dignity and fairness is an absolute Officer Safety Tactic.
 - Train in a respectable system. Don't fall for Bullshido.
 - Take care of your mental health. Ask for help. Seek counseling

if you need to talk to someone.

- Your career is a marathon not a sprint.
- Have interests/hobbies outside of law enforcement.
- Have friends outside of law enforcement.
- Network with other law enforcement officers when you can.
- Join a law enforcement association to learn more about whatever topic you are interested in – DT, Firearms, Forensics, etc...
- Read, Read, Read...
- Hard, realistic, competent training is the foundation for confidence on the job.
- Get off social media. It will rot your brain. LOL
- Start investing and saving for retirement as soon as you get hired. Talk to an investment specialist often about that retirement plan.
- Change is inevitable and constant, and not always bad.
- Look out for each other and have the hard conversation if needed.
- Almost all of society has your back. Remember that. Silent majority.

We know there are probably so many more things we could say but we don't want to drag this out.

We will leave you with a portion of a speech from Teddy Roosevelt from April 23, 1910: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit be-

**Thank you to
Sgt. Erie and Officer Gergen
for your many years
of support to the IPOA!**

longs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Again, thank you for listening to two old knuckle-dragging dinosaurs for so long. We hope we helped in some small way. If you ever need anything, just reach out to us.

Train Hard. Stay Safe.

About the Authors:



Sgt. Greg Erie

Greg Erie has been with the Waterloo Police Department since 1995. A former Marine, Sgt. Erie is currently assigned to Watch III Patrol. Prior to his July 2016 promotion, he served as the Training Unit Coordinator for 9-1/2 years. He is a prior member of the Tactical Unit, FTO, and a TASER and defensive tactics instructor. He is a member of ILEETA. His email is erieg@waterloopolice.com.

Officer Chris Gergen

Chris Gergen has been with the Waterloo Police Department since 1997. Officer Gergen is state and federally certified as a Control Tactics Instructor. He also teaches in several other areas. Officer Gergen is married with three kids. He can be reached at gergenc@waterloopolice.com.



Iowa Peace Officers Association (IPOA)

2025 Annual Training Conference

February 24th & 25th, 2025



At the Prairie Meadows Conference Center, Altoona, Iowa

Monday, February 24th, 2024: 8 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Check in / Registration

8:30 a.m.: Present Colors / Benediction / Welcome followed by the day's three training sessions:

1. "Homicide and Circumstantial Evidence: Proving a Case With Little Direct Evidence" taught by Imran Ali. This is a case study where participants will walk through a rural homicide where typical evidence and forensics are not present. Participants will learn tips on investigating these cases.

2. "Self-Defense Post-Rittenhouse: How the law of self-defense is changing" taught by Imran Ali. This two-hour course examines recent self-defense cases and will use case studies to illustrate concepts like: stand your ground, duty to retreat, and defense of others.

3. M2M: (Minneapolis to Minnesota) American Stories of Cultural Change – taught by Dr. Shawn Moore. Discover a reimagined perspective on history through a fresh lens with M2M's DEI and implicit bias training. Journey from the birth of our country to the present day, uncovering stories of resilience against oppression that reveal the roots of persistent inequalities and foster a deep understanding of diverse perspectives in America. This training isn't just about the past; it's a powerful exploration empowering us to collectively shape a more inclusive future (4 hours). This 4-hour class will immerse attendees in M2M's curated educational adventure, breaking free from traditional boundaries to explore the rich cultures woven into America's fabric. Engage your senses in a profound exploration that brings history to life, offering a new perspective on the issues facing communities today. It's more than a history lesson; it's an opportunity to build stronger, more connected communities for a brighter and more equitable future. Historical context for modern impact. This training embarks on a historical journey through American's past, connecting the dots from it to present day. It sheds light on instances where events and locations were not always inclusive, fostering a deeper understanding of persistent inequalities that have shaped the diverse perspectives among Americans.

Tuesday, Feb. 25 activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the Annual IPOA Memorial Service followed by "Officer Involved Shootings" and "The Death of Ranea Ball." The Annual IPOA Board Meeting will be held after lunch. (see next page for Tuesday details)

Monday's Speakers: Imran Ali on Self-Defense, and Homicide & Circumstantial Evidence; Dr. Shawn Moore on Cultural Change

Imran Ali will speak on Use of force over the Last Decade, and Homicide and Circumstantial Evidence.

Ali is a former prosecutor and Senior Director of Training, Consulting and Investigation Services with Minnesota-based Eckberg Lammers Attorneys at Law.

In 2014, he spearheaded the East Metro Human Trafficking Taskforce, and for five years prosecuted national and international sex trafficking rings, trained and presented to thousands of officers and prosecutors, helped draft legislation and testified for stiffer penalties for sex trafficking offenders.



Imran Ali

Dr. Shawn Moore will speak on American Stories of Cultural Change.

Dr. Moore is a former Police Officer for Brooklyn Center Police Department.

He has 20 years of professional experience in the field of Cultural Competency, Conflict Resolution, and Community Engagement. This has included working as a community liaison in the Moundsview School District, a community and cultural coordinator for North St. Paul School District, Coordinating the Scholars Program at Century College, and Director of community engagement and service learning at Bethel University, and Metro



Dr. Shawn Moore

State University. He has taught in this field as an adjunct professor, senior Mall of America training officer, and community-training liaison.

Dr. Moore is currently a Volunteer State Mediator for Hennepin County. Throughout all of his work experience he has been tasked with the responsibility to teach and conduct cross-cultural, conflict resolution, and community engagement workshops and trainings. He also gained experience from his time living abroad which included living in Guam for four years. Also, Shawn spent significant time in Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, Australia, and South Africa.



Iowa DCI Major Crimes Unit Special Agent in Charge Krapfl's Presentation: "Officer Involved Shootings: What to Expect"

By Chief David J. Niedert
Independence Police Department

Mike Krapfl is a Special Agent in Charge in the Major Crimes Unit with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, where he oversees agents working homicides, robberies, officer-involved shootings, and other felony offenses.

Krapfl served as an agent in the Major Crimes Unit for 14 years and previously worked as a patrol officer and in-



DCI Special Agent in Charge Mike Krapfl

investigator for eight years with a municipal police department. Krapfl holds a master's degree in public policy and a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology from the University of Northern Iowa.

He instructed for 12 years as a member of the criminal justice faculty at the University of Dubuque.

Krapfl is a member of the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA) and presents at state and national law enforcement conferences.

Iowa AG Statewide Prosecutions Section Chief Cretsinger Will Speak on the Death of Ranea Ball and Prosecution of Richard Fleck

The Iowa Attorney General Chief of the Statewide Prosecutions Section, Keisha Cretsinger, will present a case study on the homicide investigation in the death of an Ames woman, Ranea Ball, and the prosecution of Richard Fleck.

Cretsinger is a graduate of Simpson College and the University of Iowa College of Law.

After a brief period of civil work and criminal prosecution in the state of Wisconsin, she returned home to Iowa to work as Assistant County Attorney in Story County.

During her 10 years with that office, Cretsinger fo-



Section Chief Keisha Cretsinger
A.G. Statewide Prosecutions Section

cus primarily on prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault cases under a partial grant from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

As an Assistant Attorney General, Cretsinger worked in the Area Prosecutions Division representing the State of Iowa in Sexually Violent Predator civil commitments in addition to prosecuting sexual assault and homicide cases.

She has most recently been promoted to the position of Chief of Statewide Prosecutions.

Iowa Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP) Taking Applications

By Mike Venema
ILEAP Director

Exciting News for Iowa law enforcement: The launch of the Iowa Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP).

ILEAP is happy to announce that we are accepting applications for candidate agencies. This prestigious new program is designed to elevate law enforcement standards across the state by introducing a robust framework for accreditation. ILEAP accreditation is a voluntary program aimed at ensuring that Iowa law enforcement practices reflect the most current and effective professional standards while minimizing liability for agencies and their members.

Until now, the only choice for law enforcement accreditation in Iowa was national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA). There are over 400 law enforcement agencies in Iowa. Two-thirds of these departments have ten officers or less

(full-time and part-time combined). Many of these smaller agencies found it particularly difficult to find the resources and staff time necessary to achieve CALEA accreditation. Iowa was one of the few states that did not have a state-level law enforcement accreditation program.

In 2023, the Iowa Police Chiefs Association (IPCA) and the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA) were awarded a grant through the Department of Justice – Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS Office) to establish a voluntary, statewide accreditation program for law enforcement agencies of all sizes in Iowa. The IPCA, ISSDA, and the U.S. Department of Justice all recognize the importance of law enforcement agencies across the country adhering to the highest standards of policing procedures.

All Iowa communities benefit when they are assured their law enforcement personnel follow nationally recognized standards and best practices that provide efficient, effective, and fundamentally fair policing. ILEAP is

intended to ensure accountability and transparency. This will help build trust and respect within our communities and enhance an agency's implementation of effective policing strategies.

The goals of developing ILEAP were to provide a comprehensive framework for an obtainable, affordable, and maintainable accreditation program for agencies of any size. The program proactively mitigates risk and is designed to meet local policing needs. It reflects the professional service delivery the citizens of Iowa expect from their law enforcement partners.

Funding Opportunities. Agencies interested in ILEAP accreditation are eligible for a limited number of grants to cover the initial application fee and the necessary software for initial ILEAP accreditation. This financial support helps ensure that all Iowa law enforcement agencies can pursue this valuable recognition without undue financial burden.

For more information or to apply, please contact us at: ileap@iowapolicechiefs.com.

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Iowa Peace Officers Association
2025 Conference Registration

The annual conference of the Iowa Peace Officers Association will be held on **February 24th & February 25th, 2025** in Altoona, Iowa at the Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino Conference Center. Conference registration fees are \$125.00 per person and include lunch both days.

Prairie Meadows has offered a group room rate for conference attendees if reserved on or before February 1st, 2025. Rooms can be reserved online using the following link and booking information. You may also contact the hotel by calling 515-957-3000. Mention the IPOA Conference and you will receive the conference rate. Room online registration:

Website: <https://book.rguest.com/wbe/group/1609/PrairieMeadowsRacetrackandCasino/auth>
Group Code: PEACE0225
Password: 863001392

To register for the Conference simply detach the form below and return with appropriate registration fees enclosed prior to February 10, 2024. You may also email registration information to: iacop2@mchsi.com. This is the preferred method for registration.

Mail completed conference registration to:
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Sergeant Bluff Police Department Joins Iowa Peace Officers Association (IPOA) as a Member Department

The Sergeant Bluff Police Department serves as the dedicated law enforcement agency for the City of Sergeant Bluff in Woodbury County, Iowa.

In September 2023, the Sergeant Bluff Police Department moved to a new location at 401 4th Street in Sergeant Bluff. The relocation was a significant step toward expanding and modernizing our facilities to better serve the community of around 5,800 residents.

Sergeant Bluff has a rich history, having been established in 1852 and officially incorporated in 1902. The city gets its name from Sergeant Charles Floyd, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, who passed away in 1804 while exploring the new lands acquired by the Louisiana Purchase. Sergeant Floyd was laid to rest on a prominent bluff overlooking a stream that would be named the Floyd River. Sergeant Bluff is bordered by Sioux City to the north and west.

The Sergeant Bluff Police Department is focused on safeguarding the lives and property of its residents. The Department focuses on building strong partnerships with local businesses, public safety agencies, and the community. This collaborative approach allows the Department to provide essential education, training, and services. They also offer valuable public services, including vehicle theft examinations and fingerprinting for medical licenses, educational licenses, and daycares.

The Sergeant Bluff Police Department consists of Chief Scott Pack, Assistant Chief Brent Rosendahl, a full-time School Resource Officer, Patrol Officers Travis

Hutzell, Jory Ward, Mark Huot, Jereme Muller, Joseph Ebner and Andrew Hansen; Office Manager Ranelle Condon, and four Reserve Officers.

The Department boasts a wealth of law enforcement experience totaling over 133 years. Notably, over half of our officers have served in the United States military, bringing experience and expertise to their law enforcement duties.

Members of the Sergeant Bluff Police Department actively participate in the community, including being part of the Sergeant Bluff Volunteer Fire Department and collaborating with the local school district. The Department maintains a robust partnership with the Sergeant Bluff–Luton Community Schools, actively engaging with students through programs like D.A.R.E. and supporting extracurricular activities such as the successful SB-L Archery Team, which has achieved remarkable success at both state and national levels.



Urbandale Police Officer Jessica Winter Joins the Iowa Peace Officers Association (IPOA) Board of Directors

I, Jessica Winter, have been a member of the Urbandale Police Department (UPD) since 2005. After earning my bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Simpson College, I started my career with UPD working patrol from 2005-2013. During this time, I worked night shift, day shift, swing shift and afternoon shifts. In September of 2013 I transferred to the Criminal Investigative Division and became a Detective. I have investigated a variety of case types to include property crimes, financial crimes, and crimes against persons. I also received specialized training in Fire Investigations, Trauma Informed Investigations, and Child Abduction Response. In September of 2017, I transferred back to the patrol division where I worked day shift. Just recently, in January of 2023 I transferred to the Support Services Division where I am the Officer for the newly created Crisis Intervention Team. In addition to these general duties, I have also held several collateral duty positions to include Field Training Officer, Bike Patrol Officer, R.A.D. Instructor, Peer Support Team, and Honor Guard. I have received numerous commendations during my career that include multiple Life Saving medals and a Meritorious Service Medal.

I am not the only member of my family who has chosen a life of service: my husband is a lieutenant for the Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire District, and my oldest son is a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps. I also have a younger son still in school and three Australian Shepherds to keep me busy when I'm off duty.

Representing, protecting, and advocating for law enforcement officers is something I am passionate about. I have served on the executive board for the Urbandale Police Protective Benevolent Association and have been on the executive board of the Urbandale Professional Police Officers Association (Union) since 2020. I am the current President serving in my second term as such. With the support of my



Urbandale Police Officer Jessica Winter's husband is a Lieutenant for the Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire District, her oldest son is a Corporal in the United States Marines, and her younger son is still in school.

fellow UPD members and my Chief of Police, I am honored to be able to expand beyond just serving the officers of the Urbandale Police Department and instead being able to represent and advocate for officers all over the State of Iowa as a member of the IPOA board.

Waterloo Police Department Welcomes New Chief Rob Duncan

Chief Rob Duncan

Waterloo Police Department

Hello to you all from Waterloo. I feel extremely blessed and humbled to be named the next Chief of Police for the City of Waterloo. I was born and raised in Waterloo and have worked for Police Department for the past 27 years, with 2.5 years at the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office prior to moving over to the P.D.

I have been married to my wife, Tara, for 34 years, we have three incredible grown children who have given us 11 grandkids (so far).

I have been very fortunate to work in many divisions within the agency including patrol, detectives, school resource, and the tactical unit. I also am a certified polygraph examiner.

Some of the things that are very important to me start with staff support from the top



down. Being a police officer and even working for an agency as a civilian is a very challenging job. We have great staff on this agency that need support from the agency leaders. Staff morale is a top priority for me. It is also important to make sure we give the resources to our people when crisis happens, even

on day-to-day calls. We are sending officers to peer support classes and will be starting up that program soon, and working on other ways to help with officer wellness and morale.

It is no secret that our agency has been involved in several critical incidents recently including two officers being shot on June 30th, the day before I was to be sworn in. We have been extremely lucky as it has been over 40 years since an officer was shot in the line of duty at this agency.

I want to publicly thank the many agencies that assisted us on that very difficult day, which included the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office, State Patrol, and the Cedar Falls P.D. The showing of support from around the state was incredible and we at the Waterloo P.D. appreciated it. I am happy to report that both officers that were shot are doing well and have come back to work on a light duty status.

The Seasons of Change & Challenges Law Enforcement Faces Now

By Jeff Brinkley

Mason City Police Department

As we go into late fall, it is always a reminder to me why I like Iowa. Experiencing the seasons – even three seasons in one day sometimes – is what I love most and why this will always be home for me. There are also seasons to life and cycles to things that impact all of us, including policing.

We've seen the pendulum shift away from many of our shared beliefs in policing over the past few years. I think we are now starting to feel it shift back – support from elected officials by way of funding or programming, increased numbers of applicants to fill job vacancies, and citizens who publicly support us. I tell people a lot: Iowa is a good place to wear a badge!

As these seasons continue and the pendulum swings, we know there is always work to be done. First, we want to take care of Iowa law enforcement officers. How do we achieve pension equity that is good for all of us? Are there long-term solutions to these questions that result in a stronger system that is more



resilient for us as a state?

Recruiting is a real concern and needs to be taken seriously. As we look at those who are poised to retire in our organizations, who will take their place as leaders? Who will we hire to replace those officers? How will we get them competently trained and prepared for their new duties? What keeps them on the job for three decades? Can we fully fund the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy to be able to deliver the highest quality training to new recruits?

Finally, how do we get the tools and support into the field that officers need most? How can we most efficiently collect toxicology evidence in OWI cases that leads to convictions? How do we provide support for behavioral health referrals that don't require a police response? How can we get quality prosecution for criminal offenders who need prison? What can we do to limit access to vaping devices, synthetic drugs, and alcohol for underage persons?

The list of potential issues goes on and on. As we work together as law enforcement agencies, law enforcement organizations, citizens, and elected officials, we need to not lose sight of what is good for Iowa. We need bi-partisan support for what is good for all of us and what is good for our future.

I hope that you will get involved individually and through the agencies and organizations that you belong to and work to be heard on issues that matter to you. We are better together and unified than we ever are alone on these issues that impact us each and every day. Be a part of something bigger than yourself and be a part of shaping the future.

Des Moines City Council Unanimously Approves Michael McTaggart as Chief of Police to Replace Chief Dana Wingert

The Des Moines City Council gave its seal of approval to hire Michael McTaggart as the City's 45th Police Chief at a special meeting on October 9.

"Michael McTaggart stood out as a candidate not only for his achievements, but also for the relationships he has built in our community over the past 25 years," City Manager Scott Sanders said. "Chief McTaggart will have big shoes to fill in his new role and I have the utmost confidence that he will be able to rise to the challenge."

"Finding the right person to lead our Police Department into the future has been a top priority since we learned of Chief Wingert's retirement," Mayor Connie Boesen said. "The law enforcement field is evolving rapidly, which is why we need a leader who is able to adapt and keep DMPD on the cutting edge of law enforcement."

The search process included multiple rounds of community engagement and feedback that helped shape the recruitment process, and including giving feedback on the two finalists.

"Our stakeholders consistently mentioned the need for a candidate who could connect with the community and had a great sense of humanity," Sanders said. "This established a standard that I kept coming back to when reviewing our candidates and helped finalize my choice. Michael's strong connection with the residents of Des Moines will serve him well as he continues to foster a sense of community between the Department and our city."

Michael McTaggart began his career as a police officer with the Des Moines P.D. 25 years ago before rising through the ranks to the position of major in 2022. Through the course of his career, McTaggart has spent time in the Patrol Division, Robbery / Homicide Section, Intelligence Unit and the Investigations Division before overseeing the Operations Division as major, the largest division in the DMPD.

"It's with great excitement that I look forward to serving as the next Chief of Police for the Des Moines Police Department," McTaggart said. "During my career, the DMPD has changed in numerous ways for the better and

I'm looking forward to continuing the progress of improving our law enforcement practices, relationship with the community and recruiting and promotion efforts."

McTaggart's time with the City also includes implementing and growing the C.A.R.E. and Mobile Crisis Response Team and spearheading the downtown safety plan, both of which have seen tremendous success.

"Michael has consistently shown his ability to implement new programs and practices that move the Des Moines Police Department forward," Sanders said. "His focus on the community, adaptability, and his long-term vision will benefit the entire department as he guides DMPD forward."

McTaggart possesses a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from the University of Northern Iowa. He has also completed training at the Senior Management Institute for Police with the Police Executive Research Forum and the School of Police Staff & Command with Northwestern University.

Fourteen Officers Completed DARE Officer Training (DOT) at the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center on Camp Dodge in Johnston

DARE Iowa Officer Training (DOT) #46 was held at Camp Dodge on October 13th - 23rd. We had 14 officers complete the training from five states.

The Iowa DOT#47 will be held April 27th - May 7th, 2025. This past year DARE Officers in Iowa presented DARE classes to over 20,000 students and we welcome all new agencies to get involved in this effort with our youth.

In the DARE training staff photo at the right (from l to r) are Tim Felton, Sheri Hall, Omar Bruical, Terry Dehmlow, and John Sheahan.

In the photo below of Iowa Officers participating in this DARE Officer Training class are (front row) Blake Diekmann/Spencer P.D, Melissa Hoch/Kossuth County S. O., Hope Wager/Scott County S.O., Jon Gates/Des Moines County Sheriff's Office. In the back row are Garrett Jahns/Eldridge P.D., Mike Olson/Lake Mills P.D., Ty Hollingsworth/West Union P.D., Joel Delaney/Adel P.D.



These Officers all completed the training and were involved in all aspects, including K-12 in the new “Keepin It Real” curriculum.

The Officers visited Lakewood Elementary School in Norwalk, Iowa, which gave them the opportunity to complete the training with a classroom visit.

DARE Iowa has partnered with Norwalk Elementary the past several years and we thank them for allowing our officers to visit and instruct a lesson.

This is a DARE America requirement prior to certification as a DARE Officer. The administration and staff are excellent to work with and we could not do it without their participation.





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