



CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2026

City of Watertown Announces the Retirement of Police Chief Charles P. Donoghue

The City of Watertown extends its sincere congratulations and appreciation to Police Chief Charles P. Donoghue as he retires on July 31, 2026, after more than 33 years of dedicated service to the Watertown Police Department and the City of Watertown.

Chief Donoghue began his career with the Watertown Police Department on February 1, 1993, as a Patrol Officer. Throughout his distinguished career, he served as a Police Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Training Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, and was appointed Chief of Police on June 29, 2014.

During his career, Chief Donoghue helped shape the department through his leadership, professionalism, and commitment to public safety. As Training Sergeant, he served as Director of the Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy and oversaw in-service training for the department. As Patrol Lieutenant, he commanded the afternoon shift before being appointed Chief of Police.

In addition to his leadership roles, Chief Donoghue served on the Special Reaction Team (SRT), DWI Patrol, Crash Management Team, Honor Guard, and as a Police Academy instructor. His dedication to training, mentoring, and serving the community has left a lasting impact on the department and the City of Watertown.

Beyond his service within the department, Chief Donoghue has represented the City of Watertown through his leadership on numerous local and regional public safety organizations, including the North Country Crime Analysis Center, Metro-Jefferson Drug Task Force Executive Board, Coordinated Community Response Board, Jefferson County Business Against Drugs, and advisory boards for SUNY Canton and SUNY Jefferson. He has also remained active in professional organizations, including the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Chief Donoghue's service has also been recognized with numerous honors throughout his career, including being named a "Top Cop" by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for his work in DWI enforcement. He also received the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions during a life-threatening incident in 1998 and was part of the investigative team recognized by the New York State Chapter of the

International Association of Arson Investigators for the successful investigation of the Max's Outfitters fire.

Chief Donoghue's commitment to public service also includes service in the U.S. Army Military Police and the New York Army National Guard, along with earning associate's degrees in business administration and criminal justice, a bachelor's degree in business management, and a master's degree in criminal justice.

On behalf of the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and City staff, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Chief Donoghue for his more than three decades of dedicated service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our community.

Please join us in congratulating Chief Charles P. Donoghue on an outstanding career and wishing him good health, happiness, and all the best in his well-earned retirement.