



CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2026

City of Watertown Announces Appointment of Captain Cristin Lyon as Police Chief

The City of Watertown is pleased to announce the appointment of Captain Cristin Lyon as the City of Watertown's next Chief of Police, effective July 31, 2026.

Captain Lyon began her career with the Watertown Police Department on February 24, 2005, as a Patrol Officer. Throughout her career, she has served as a Police Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant and most recently being promoted to Police Captain on August 17, 2024.

As a Police Detective in the General Crimes Division, Captain Lyon played a pivotal role in numerous criminal investigations, with a particular focus and passion for investigating crimes against children. She later supervised the C Platoon overnight shift as a Patrol Sergeant before commanding the D Platoon overnight shift as a Patrol Lieutenant.

Throughout her career, Captain Lyon has demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership, training and professional excellence. She has served as a Field Training Officer, Police Academy Instructor and member of the department's Special Response Team (SRT). Since 2008, she has also served as the department's Accreditation Program Manager, leading the Watertown Police Department through three successful accreditation reassessments. In addition, she developed and led the department's Recruitment Program.

Beyond her work within the department, Captain Lyon has represented the City of Watertown through her involvement in several local and regional public safety organizations, including the Animal Cruelty Task Force, Jefferson County Threat Assessment Advisory Group (J-TAAG) and the Mobile Crisis Council. She also serves on advisory boards for SUNY Jefferson and Jefferson-Lewis BOCES.

Captain Lyon is a member of the New York State Association of Captains of Police and New York Women in Law Enforcement.

Her commitment to public service extends beyond law enforcement. Captain Lyon developed the Paw and Order Animal Rescue Fund to assist abused and neglected animals held as evidence during criminal investigations. She also volunteers with the Shop with a Cop Program and Making Strides of the North Country and serves as a Trustee for the Jefferson County SPCA.

Captain Lyon's untiring dedication to public service has been recognized throughout her career. She received a unit citation for her role in evacuating residents during a life-threatening fire in 2006, earned several commendations for her service on the Special Response Team and was recognized by the Fayetteville, North Carolina Police Department for her assistance in a high-profile sex abuse investigation.

Captain Lyon earned associate and bachelor's degrees in criminal justice, as well as a master's degree in criminal justice administration.

The City of Watertown congratulates Captain Lyon on her appointment and looks forward to her continued leadership of the Watertown Police Department and her continued service to the residents of the City of Watertown.