



LaShanna Potts

1st Assistant Chief, Columbus Police Department

1st Assistant Chief LaShanna Potts made CPD history along with Chief Elaine R. Bryant after being named by Mayor Ginther as the first outside hired Police executives in CPD history. She is the second in command of a division that employs approximately 1800 sworn members and approximately 300 civilian employees.

1st Assistant Chief Potts came to Columbus after serving more than 24 years with the Detroit Police Department. She started her career shortly after high school joining the police academy in 1997. She began her career working patrol in the Eleventh Precinct, eventually being sought out to join the special operations within the precinct concentrating on the most violent offenders. Her other assignments with the Detroit Police Department included working Vice Enforcement, Eighth Precinct Patrol/Special Operations, and Police-Law where she was a liaison between the department and city law.

She was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2013, where she was assigned to the Central District/Third Precinct working patrol and administration before being assigned as the Community Policing Sergeant. During her tenure as a Sergeant she worked Neighborhood Policing Bureau, Criminal Investigation Bureau, and was the Chief of Staff for the Assistant Chief of Enforcement Operations.

She was promoted to Lieutenant in 2016 and assigned to Chief's Neighborhood Liaison, where she shined creating robust community programming that brought the community and police together. With the help of her team she helped to enhance and create many initiatives such as CITI Camp (Children in trauma Intervention), Cop on the Block, Secret Santa, Chief Car Show, Community Block Parties, Chief's Senior Cupid Ball, Police Athletic League-Team Up, Co-Creator of Sisterhood and Brotherhood Program which partnered female and male officers with high school students for mentorship. She also created the Detroit Police Department Fallen and Critically Injured Officer Fund which provides funding for families of fallen and critically injured officers. She was an active member and creator of the Detroit Police Department Peer Support Program, which provides support to officers experiencing trauma. During her time at Chief's Neighborhood Liaison she also oversaw the LGBTQ Liaison program, restructured and increased the ranks of both Police Chaplains and Reserves program, managed the media relations team of the Public Information Office, while overseeing the Police Cadet and Explorer program.

1st Assistant Chief Potts was promoted to the rank of Captain in 2019, where she was assigned to the Sixth Precinct during a time when the precinct was experiencing low morale and community distrust. She was tasked by the Chief to bring up officer morale, increase non-fatal shooting closure rates and repair community relationships. In just two short years under her tenure, the Sixth Precinct became the model for community policing also carrying one of the highest closure rates for Non-Fatal shootings during her

tenure. The Sixth Precinct continues to be an example even after her departure. She used innovative ideas such as; creating a Community Closet in the space once used as precinct holding cells, created a meditation room for officers to decompress after a difficult run and she began holding outdoor roll calls in areas that were experiencing an uptick in crime. She rented ice cream trucks to engage the children in the community and adopted families who were in need. She hosted many round table discussions focused on healing and repairing the relationship between the police and community. She was re-assigned to the Eighth Precinct prior to her appointment. She is the recipient of many awards for her dedicated work in rebuilding community relations and is widely respected throughout the law enforcement community as a consummate professional.

Education and Credentials

- 1st Assistant Chief Potts holds a Bachelor's Degree from Siena Heights University graduating with honors (Magna Cum Laude) and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership.

Member of the following Organizations

- NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement)
- IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police)
- Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Police Executive Forum (PERF)
- Major City Chiefs Association
- Board member Girls and Boys Club of Central Ohio