

Chief William A. Powell

Bill Powell was raised on the South Side of Chicago and educated in the Chicago Public Schools, graduating from Fenger High School in January of 1970. Powell enlisted in the United States Air Force in March 1970, and served until March of 1974. During his tour, Powell was an Air Freight Specialist, an Air Passenger Specialist, and was trained and working as an Air Force Recruiter at the time of his discharge. In May of 1974, Bill Powell was hired by the Illinois Department of Corrections as a Youth Supervisor II at the Illinois Youth Center in Geneva, Illinois, a position he held until he was hired by the City of Aurora Police Department in December 1977.

At the time, Bill Powell became the fourth African American Police Officer for the city of Aurora. During his tenure as a police officer, Bill Powell has worked in the Patrol Division, the Gang Unit, and the city's Narcotics Unit. Powell was also detached to an Illinois State Police Narcotics Unit, where he was part of a group that did drug investigations over the Northern Region of Illinois. Powell was the first African American in the city's history to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1993, and he was immediately assigned to supervise the Special Operations Group, a job he held until 1998 when he was transferred to Patrol as a supervisor.

In August 2000, Bill Powell was again promoted, becoming the first African American Lieutenant in the history of the Aurora Police Department. At that time, he was assigned as the Area Two Lieutenant, which encompasses the Near East Side of Aurora. In November of 2001, Powell was assigned as the Lieutenant supervisor of the Investigations Division, a position he held until January 15, 2005, when he was promoted to the rank of Commander of the Investigations Bureau within the Aurora Police Department, again becoming the first African American to be promoted to this rank.

Bill Powell was appointed as Chief of Police for the City of Aurora Police Department effective November 2, 2005.

Powell is married to Chris, and they have four grown daughters, two grandsons and one granddaughter.