

MATT THOMAS

Aurora, Illinois | [REDACTED]

Professional Summary

Dedicated and assertive law enforcement executive with over 27 years of rewarding police experience. Approachable and personal leader with a knack for anticipating conflicts and diffusing potentially volatile situations with tact and diplomacy. Exceptional communicator with notable success in managing large operations focused on intelligence-based policing, reducing violent crime, and fostering community relationships. Possesses strong investigative and analytical skills with a commitment to confidentiality and ethical standards. Actively seeks opportunities to increase employee productivity and engagement in the workplace.

Specific Skill Areas

- Executive-level Public Safety Management
- Legal and Liability Risk Management
- Emergency Management Planning
- Strong Collaborative Leadership
- Budget, Financial Planning, and Asset Management
- Business Analysis and Process Management
- Policy and Procedure Development
- Regulatory Compliance
- Team Building and Professional Development
- Project Management and Implementation
- Building Community Programs and Engagement
- Media and Public Relations

Work Experience

Deputy Chief of Police

2022 – Present

Aurora Police Department

Assist the Chief of Police in managing, directing, and controlling all daily operations, personnel, and department initiatives for the second-largest municipal police agency in the state of Illinois.

- Manage budget allocations, resource distribution, and strategic planning to optimize department performance.
- Provide leadership to a department of 336 sworn officers and 95 non-sworn professional staff, consisting of three collective bargaining units, ensuring efficiency, accountability, and adherence to law enforcement best practices.
- Serve as department spokesperson, engaging with community leaders, media, and stakeholders to build public trust.

Administrative Services Commander

2021 – 2022

Provided general management direction and control for the Administrative Services Bureau, which consisted of Technical Services, Records, Telecommunications, Detention, Critical Incident Intelligence Center, Training Division, and the Office of Professional Standards.

- Manage technical projects, which requires collaboration with the Information Technology Department as well as other stakeholders to identify operational needs and forecast expenditures, develop methodologies for implementation, and secure resources for continued support.
- Responsible for budget management, staff training, program/policy development, regulatory compliance, and other filing requirements.

Central Services Lieutenant**2020 – 2021**

Provided general management direction and control for the Critical Incident Intelligence Center, Special Events, Records, and Detention. Managed large-scale projects from conception to completion with inter-agency teams consisting of 50-60 people.

Patrol Services Lieutenant**2017 – 2020**

Commanding Officer for Area 1 Patrol Operations and Canine Program Coordinator. Applied intelligence-based policing tactics for patrol operations, acted as field command for high-risk incidents, and developed policing strategies for large-scale events, including Aurora's inaugural Pride Parade. Led emergency response efforts and coordinated interagency collaboration during critical incidents.

Investigative Sergeant**2011 – 2017**

Managed investigators assigned to various areas of expertise. Served as a Public Information Officer, Crime Stopper Coordinator, and an Investigator with the Office of Professional Standards.

Patrol Sergeant**2008 – 2011**

Performed front-line supervision for Area 2 patrol operations, ensuring a uniform response to calls for service. Evaluated and implemented solutions to quality-of-life issues for city residents. Used tact and professionalism when responding to citizen complaints and initiated administrative investigations.

Patrol Officer and Investigator**1997 – 2008**

Responded to all inquiries from the public in a prompt and professional manner. Investigated all types of crimes from allegations of abuse to cold case homicides. Served as a member of the DuPage County Major Crimes Task Force.

Education, Training, and Certifications**Northern Illinois University Dekalb, IL****1993 – 1997**

- Bachelor of Science: Sociology – Criminology
- Minor in Business Administration

Noteworthy Leadership and Management Training

- Department of Homeland Security Leadership Academy Class #20
- Management and Leadership Development Program
- Northwestern University Supervision of Police Personnel
- FEMA Incident Command Systems (ICS) levels 100, 200, 300 and 400
- Liability of Police Supervisors – Law Enforcement Training, LLC
- Police Executive Research Forum – International Collaboration on Policing Masterclass
- Command & General Staff Function for Incident Management
- Police Internal Affairs Investigations

Awards and Recognition

- Exchange Club Police Officer of the Year (2009 – for solving two cold case murders)
- Aurora Police Department Police Officer of the Month (2008 – murder investigation, 2009 murder investigation, 2013 – murder investigation)
- Received over 10 Departmental Commendations and over 20 Divisional Commendations
- Received over 20 Letters of Appreciation from citizens and neighboring law enforcement agencies