

Biography - Chief Brad L. Nelson

Chief Brad L. Nelson was appointed as Police Chief on December 2, 2013, after retiring from the Columbia, Missouri Police Department. Chief Nelson served over 20 years with the Columbia Police Department, where he earned the rank of Captain and was a Commander in all three of CPD's divisions, Patrol, Investigation and Administration.

Chief Nelson began his career at the Excelsior Springs, MO Police Department in 1984 and rose to the rank of Sergeant prior to being hired by the Columbia Police Department in 1992.

Chief Nelson is a graduate of the Northwestern Police Staff and Command School and the FBI's National Academy. Chief Nelson is an active member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and a Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP) Executive Board member.

Chief Nelson has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Central Missouri State University (CMSU) and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri - Columbia.

All told, Chief Nelson has 35 years of law enforcement experience in two states.

Chief Nelson served in the United States Air Force Reserve for over 13 years. Chief Nelson was born in Nebraska has lived in the Midwest his entire life. He is an avid Kansas City Chiefs fan and a Harley-Davidson and Indian motorcycle enthusiast.

Chief Nelson has been married to his wife, Tamara, for 33 years and they have two grown children including one son who is a 5-year veteran of the Columbia, Missouri Police Department.