A History of Service

Southgate was originally a part of the Ecorse Township. It was officially incorporated as a city in October of 1958. It was the last city in the Ecorse Township to be incorporated. The history of leadership in the Southgate Police Department reflects the transformation of a rapidly growing from Ecorse Township to a vibrant downriver city. Today the Police Department has a staff of 42 sworn police officers.

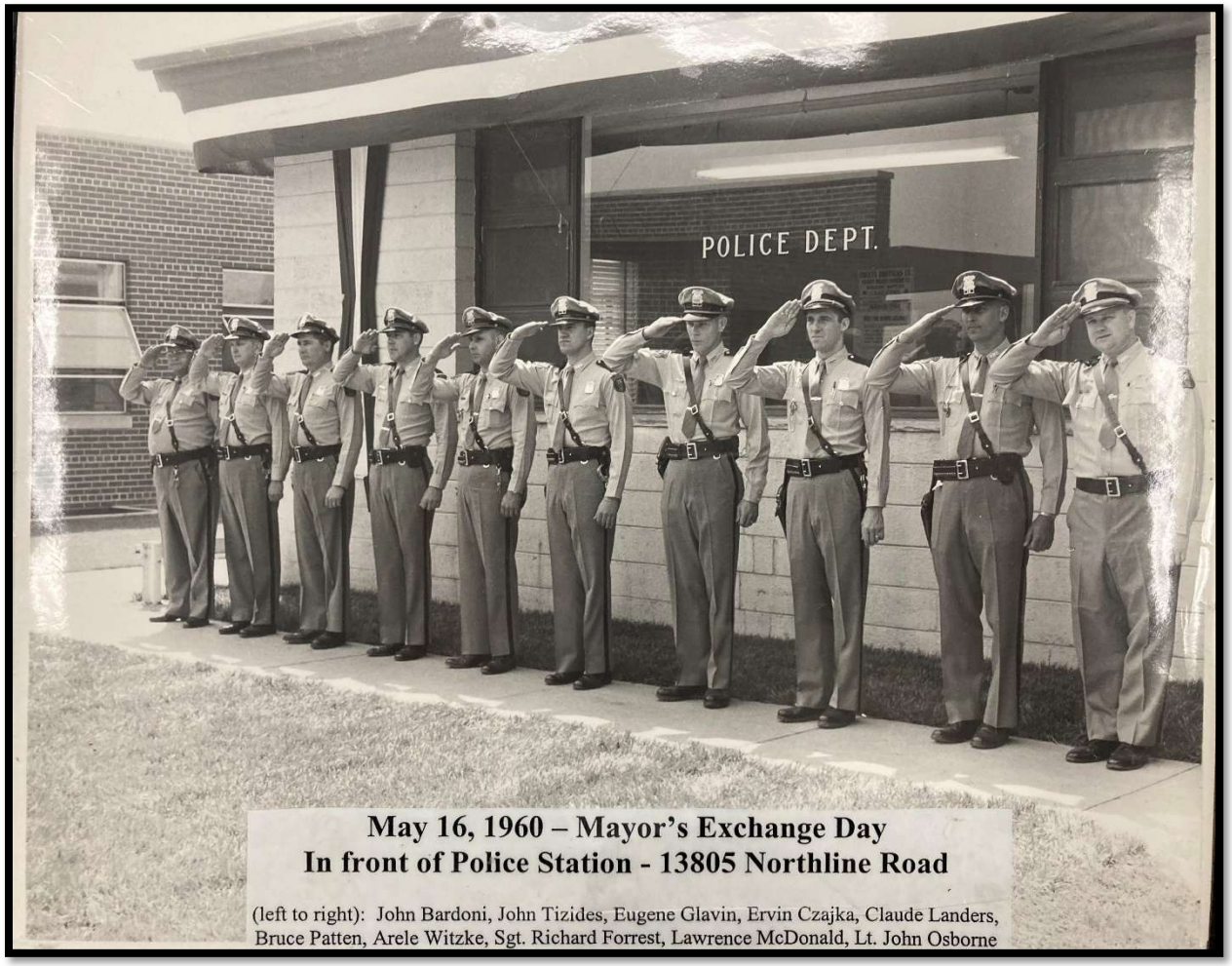


Southgate Police Administration

By charter, Southgate is governed by Public act 78 the Mayor has invested in him the power to appoint the public safety director, police chief and fire chief, but only after a competitive testing process as outlined in the public act and through union contracts. Here's a list of individuals that have earned the designation of Southgate Police Chief and Southgate Director of Public Safety (Police and Fire).

William Paul, 1951—the department was established in1951 as the Ecorse Township Police Department. William Paul was the Police Chief from one month before he resigned.

Bentley Galloway, 1951-1958—Galloway was one on the original ten officers hired into the Ecorse Township Police Department in May of 1951. Galloway resigned in 1958.



May 16, 1960 – Mayor's Exchange Day
In front of Police Station - 13805 Northline Road

(left to right): John Bardoni, John Tizides, Eugene Glavin, Ervin Czajka, Claude Landers, Bruce Patten, Arele Witzke, Sgt. Richard Forrest, Lawrence McDonald, Lt. John Osborne

William Shaffer, 1958-1976—Shaffer was also one of the original ten officers hired into the Ecorse Township Police Department. In October of 1958 Southgate was incorporated as a City and in November Shaffer was appointed as the City of Southgate's first Police Chief. Shaffer serviced as the police Chief until he left on a medical retirement in 1976.

John Osborn, 1976-1977—after the medical retirement of Shaffer, Osborn served as the acting Police Chief for ten months he then retired.

Robert Perrin, 1977-1987—Perrin was hired in 1955 and promoted thru the ranks serving as a Sergeant, Lieutenant and Inspector before being appointed to Police Chief in 1977.

John Terbreck, 1987-1990— Terbreck was hired in 1960 and promoted thru the ranks serving as a Sergeant, Lieutenant and Inspector before being promoted to Police Chief in 1987. Terbreck was a 1981 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Quantico, VA Class #125.

Ian Holmes, 1990-1996—— Holmes was appointed to Police Chief in 1990. Prior to being promoted to Police Chief Holmes served as a Sergeant and Lieutenant before being promoted to Police Chief in 1990. Holmes was a 1982 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Quantico, VA Class #171.

Donald Calvin, 1996-2002— Calvin was appointed to Police Chief in 1996. Prior to being promoted to Police Chief Calvin promoted thru the ranks as a served as a Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant and Deputy Chief. Calvin hold a Bachelor Degree in Science from Madonna University.

Lawrence Hall, 2002-2006— Hall was appointed to Police Chief in 2002. Prior to being promoted to Police Chief Hall promoted thru the ranks as a served as a Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant and Deputy Chief. Hall holds a Bachelor Degree in Science from Michigan State University and a Juris Doctor Degree in Law from University of Detroit.

Charles Castle, 2006-2009— Castle was appointed to Police Chief in July of 2006. Prior to being promoted to Police Chief Castle promoted thru the ranks as a served as a Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant and Deputy Chief. Castle holds both a Masters and Bachelor Degree in Science from Madonna University and an Associate Degree in Arts from Henry Ford College.

Thomas Coombs, 2009-2016—Coombs was appointed to Police Chief in 2009 and then appointed to serve as the Cities First Director Public Safety in Charge of Police and Fire Operations in 2010. Prior to being promoted to Police Chief Coombs promoted thru the ranks and served as a Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant and Deputy Chief. Coombs holds a Bachelor degree in Science

form Lake Superior State University. Coombs was a 2011 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Quantico VA Class #247. Coombs is also a graduate of the Eastern Michigan University School for Police Staff and Command in 2009.

Jeffrey Meussner, 2010-2012—Meussner was appointed to Police Chief in 2010. Prior to being promoted to Police Chief Meussner promoted thru the ranks and served as a Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant and Deputy Chief. Meussner completed the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command in 2007.

Jeffrey Smith, 2012-2021—Smith was appointed to Police Chief in July of 2012 and then appointed to the Director of Public Safety in charge of Police and Fire Operations in October of 2016. Prior to being promoted to Police Chief, Smith promoted thru the ranks as a served as a Patrol Sergeant and Patrol Lieutenant. Smith was a 2016 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Quantico VA. Smith holds a Bachelor Degree in Science from Ferris State University and an Associate Degree in Arts from Henry Ford College. Smith is also a graduate of the Eastern Michigan University School for Police Staff and Command in 2012.

Brett Selby, 2016-2020—Selby was appointed to Police Chief in October of 2016. Prior to that Selby was a Day Shift Patrol Lieutenant. Selby was a 2019 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Quantico VA. Brett holds a Master Degree in Public Administration from Eastern Michigan University and a bachelor degree in Economics from Central Michigan University. Selby is also a graduate of the Eastern Michigan University School for Police Staff and Command in 2013.

Joseph Marsh, 2020 - 2025—Marsh was appointed Police Chief January 2020. Prior to that Marsh served as Patrol Lieutenant and was the department's liaison to the reserve police division. Prior to joining the Southgate Police Department in 2003 Marsh was a Detroit Police officer and served 6 years in the United States Marine Corp. Marsh holds a Master Degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University and a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice from Madonna University. Marsh is also a graduate of the Eastern Michigan University School for Police Staff and Command in 2018 and the Michigan Police Executive Development Seminar in 2020. In January of 2021, Marsh was appointed to Director of Public Safety for the City of Southgate.

Mark Mydlarz, 2021 - present—Mydlarz was appointed Police Chief January 2021. Prior to that Mydlarz served as Day Shift Patrol Lieutenant and was the department's field training coordinator. Mydlarz holds a Bachelor Degree in Public Safety from Siena Heights University and an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Schoolcraft College. Mydlarz is also a graduate of the Eastern Michigan University School for Police Staff and Command in 2017.