



Contact Information:
Nate Geinzer, City Manager
Phone: (810) 225-8022
Email: geinzern@brightoncity.org

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Revered City of Brighton Police Chief Tom Wightman Retires



Police Chief Tom Wightman will be retiring from the City of Brighton on January 26, 2017 after 11 ½ years of leading the Police Department. The Chief's retirement will conclude 38 years in law enforcement, including 24 years with the City of Royal Oak Police Department and 3 years with the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Chief Wightman said that his time with the Brighton Police Department has been the most rewarding of his career, stating that, "I have had the pleasure to serve among some of the most outstanding and dedicated police officers in the profession." The Chief has expressed his appreciation for the many years of support from City officials and the Brighton community, adding that, "Brighton is an exceptional place and I feel fortunate to have been allowed to contribute to the progress and safety of this community."

Chief Wightman has been a transformational leader during his time with the City of Brighton. The Police Department has seen tremendous growth and improvement in training techniques, technology, and involvement in the community. He encouraged the philosophy of community policing and institutionalized community engagement and volunteerism in the department. He also instituted policies to improve the lives of his officers, such as changing to 12-hour shifts, and being instrumental in rewriting county-wide protocols to make them more practical for officers to follow.

His staff describe him as a mentor and someone "...who is always looking out for his officers." Chief Wightman had a true open-door policy and rewarded creativity and innovation in his staff. He took the time to see to the professional and personal development of the officers under his command to promote growth. He is so popular with his officers that they voted him Officer of the Year in 2008, a high distinction within the department. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 2008 and is an 11-time Community Service Award recipient.

"Under Chief Wightman, the City of Brighton Police Department earned the respect and admiration of the entire community. Chief Wightman's integrity and steady leadership will leave a lasting impact on everyone who worked with him. We are extremely thankful for his 11 years of service to the City of Brighton," Mayor Muzzin said on behalf of City officials.

Chief Wightman has indicated that he currently has no plans to take on other employment after retirement, saying that he has many years of accumulated projects at home to keep him busy.

Deputy Chief Rob Bradford, a 20-year veteran of the Brighton Police Department, will serve as Acting Chief of Police immediately following Chief Wightman's retirement.

PRESS RELEASE