



The Life Member

Ohio Association of
Chiefs of Police

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Where Are They Now?

Chief Charles F. Hitzel—IV, Retired

Submitted by Chief Charles Hitzel

Charles F. Hitzel, IV was born October 18, 1955 in Painesville Ohio to Charles F. Hitzel, III and Emma “Snyder” Hitzel. He graduated from Painesville Harvey High School in 1974. In 1976 he graduated from Lakeland Community College in Mentor, Ohio with an associate’s degree in Criminal Justice. Also he graduated from the Ashtabula County Sheriff’s Department Police Academy where he placed 5th in his class of 50.

Charles Hitzel was hired by the North Kingsville Police Department in September of 1977. During his 13 year career as a patrol officer, his responsibilities included: scheduling; accident reconstruction; and, writing the budget. He was also the evidence officer and range officer. In January of 1988, Charles received a full scholarship to the Police Executive Leadership Collage (PELC) which was funded, created, and administered the Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc. He was promoted to Chief of Police of North Kingsville in June of 1990. In 1994, one of his proudest accomplishments, he graduated with the 178th class of the FBI National Academy.

During his tenure as Chief, he implemented several programs such as D.A.R.E. and GREAT at the North Kingsville Elementary School. He instituted an after school youth program; a community policing youth bowling program; and, in conjunction with the North Kingsville PD, established a “Youth Summer Day Camp” which provided over 200 “at risk” children with tutoring, games, arts and crafts, and lunch.

Along with the Ashtabula County Juvenile Court he developed a first time Juvenile Traffic Offender Program where juvenile drivers were provided the opportunity to write an essay explaining their responsibility as a driver in the State of Ohio toward other drivers, their parents, and themselves. Traffic tickets would then be dismissed after reading their essays to other violators.

Charles was one of the creators and founding officers of the Northeast Ohio Police Athletic League (NEO PAL). He served on the executive board from its inception and volunteered in many of its programs. He assisted in creating and also coached for the NEO PAL Midget Basketball League over 20 years. In addition, he served on the executive board and was past president of the Ohio State Police Athletic League. Furthermore, Charles served four years on the executive board of the National Police Athletic League.

Charles retired as Police Chief in 2002 from North Kingsville PD. After retiring, he created a 501-C3 nonprofit organization, Ohio Cops for Kids. The organization raised money for Police and Fire Departments throughout Ohio. Cops for Kids also donates to Children’s Services in Ohio. In 2009, over \$400,000 was raised to assist children.

Chief Hitzel and his wife, Shelley, a retired school teacher, currently reside in Ashtabula, Ohio.



Look who retired now!

District 2:

Chief Joseph Daniel Willard Police Department
Chief Robert Selders Waterville Police Department

District 3:

Chief Bruce L. Simeone Niles Police Department
Chief Paul T. Romond Avon Lake Police Department

District 4:

Chief Stephan Schwein Oxford Police Department
Chief Harold L. Schafer Union City Police Department

This is a Chief from the 1940’s photo. If you have any idea who this might be, please email Chief Holcomb at oacp@oacp.org

