

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### **Beloit Police & Fire Commission Appoints Interim Police Chief**

**Sept. 30, 2020** - The Beloit Police & Fire Commission has named Beloit Police Inspector Thomas Stigler as interim chief of the Beloit Police Department with the departure of Police Chief David B. Zibolski. Zibolski retired last week to become the police chief in Fargo, North Dakota.

Stigler joined the department in March 2018 as a captain. He previously worked his way through the ranks at the Milwaukee Police Department until his retirement as an inspector at that department. Inspector is the second-highest rank in the City of Beloit Police Department.

A timeline for the search for the next police chief has not yet been set by the Beloit Police & Fire Commission.

Stigler will continue to lead the department's training efforts, including requiring all officers to go through implicit bias training in January. Additionally, the City of Beloit Police Department will be continuing its training in Integrated Communication, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) training to help defuse potentially violent scenarios, especially when an individual is experiencing a mental crisis.

The training practices were previously implemented in the Beloit Police Department and will continue moving forward. The implicit bias training will focus on awareness on unconscious biases and mitigation to control those biases to promote a positive outcome. The training will be done by Dr. Bryant Marks, PhD, who is the founding director of the National Training Institute on Race & Equity at Morehouse College.

"I hope that we would continue on the path that we are on in treating everyone equally and it's important to reinforce this message in the department and in the community," Stigler said.

ICAT training was developed by taking a comprehensive approach to deescalate violent and critical incidents, including through experts in law enforcement, mental health and legal fields. The intent of the ICAT training is to provide officers with the tools, skills and options that they need to successfully and safely defuse critical incidents.

“We believe this is a good investment in our future,” Stigler said. “We are doing this because it is the right thing to do.”

Additionally, the City of Beloit Police Department is training seven additional patrol officers to join the Crisis Intervention Team with the intent that these highly-trained and focused officers would be available on each shift to respond to those in crisis. The Crisis Intervention Team takes a holistic approach to improve interactions between law enforcement and those going through a crisis - a majority of which are mental health-related scenarios. The officers on the Crisis Intervention Team work with professionals in the entire system to improve an outcome for an individual rather than taking a traditional law enforcement approach. The goal is to resolve the issues and get the individual in crisis the help that the individual needs.

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