



Biography

Doug Kowalski

Chief of Police

Prosper, Texas

Chief Doug Kowalski began his law enforcement career in 1975 when he joined the New York City Police Department as an Auxiliary Police Officer. In 1977, he moved to Texas and joined the Dallas Police Department, where he advanced through the ranks of Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Deputy Chief. During his career in Dallas he worked in Patrol, Internal Affairs, Training, Property Crimes, Narcotics, Communications, S.W.A.T. and Special Operations (Tactical and Traffic Divisions).

Chief Kowalski retired from the Dallas Police Department in July 2000 and joined the McKinney Police Department as Assistant Chief. He promoted to Chief of Police, serving in that role from January 2001 until October 2012. During this time McKinney was listed as one of the fastest growing cities in America, as the city grew from a population of 54,000 to over 140,000 citizens. Commensurate with this growth, under his leadership, the Police Department grew from a strength of 67 officers and 25 civilians (92 employees) to a force of 164 sworn and 47 civilians (211 employees). This burgeoning growth occurred as McKinney continually advanced in the rankings and was listed among America's Safest Cities.

To accommodate this growth, a new Public Safety Headquarters building was planned, designed, built, and occupied. Chief Kowalski was instrumental in the planning and design phases. The value of the planning and design was realized on August 17, 2010, when a lone gunman attacked the facility by setting his truck and trailer ablaze in front, and firing into the building over 163 rounds of .223 ammunition from a semi-automatic rifle. Although the gunman did not survive the assault, no employees were injured on that fateful day.

Additionally, under his command the McKinney Police Department earned recognition status under the Texas Police Chiefs Association Recognition Program for following the best practices for Texas law enforcement.

In January 2014, Chief Kowalski was appointed and is currently the Chief of Police in Prosper, Texas which is a growing community located in Collin County.

Regarding his formal education, Chief Kowalski earned his Master of Science Degree in Leadership and Justice Administration, graduating Summa Cum Laude, from the University of Texas at Dallas. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree, graduating Summa Cum Laude, from Wagner College in New York. He also attended Fordham University School of Law. In addition to graduating from the Dallas Police Academy, he has graduated from the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration School of Police Supervision, their 23rd Command and Management College, and their 10th Advanced Management College. He was appointed as Chair of the Advisory Board in 2019 and served through 2023. He also served as a Vice Chair of their Advisory Board and a Past President of their Alumni Association. Chief Kowalski also graduated from the 180th Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. Additionally, he is a Certified Fraud Examiner (C.F.E.).

Chief Kowalski holds Master Peace Officer and Instructor Certificates with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. He has lectured at the Dallas Police Academy, the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration, the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of North Texas, and at Collin College. He is currently a faculty member of the Caruth Police Institute at the University of North Texas. Additionally, he has testified as an expert witness on Tactical Operations before a United States Congressional Subcommittee. He is a member of the Collin College Law Enforcement Academy Training Advisory Board; a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) - Patrol and Tactical Operations Committee. He is a Past President of the North Texas Police Chiefs Association. He also assisted the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) in publishing a book, A Conflict of Rights, about Policing Protests, and a White Paper on Community Policing. Chief Kowalski is also a Board member of Life Path Systems, the MHMR provider for Collin County; the Past President of the McKinney Rotary Club; and a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason. In 2014 he was the recipient of the Dr. Gary Sykes Award for professional achievement in law enforcement presented by the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration.