



Township of Lower Makefield

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Lower Makefield Township Announces the Hiring of Chief Joseph D. Kelly, III as Chief of Police

(Lower Makefield Township, PA – March 25, 2025) —The Board of Supervisors and Township Manager David W. Kratzer, Jr. are pleased to announce the hiring of Joseph D. Kelly III as the new Chief of Police for Lower Makefield Township, effective April 1, 2025. He will be ceremonially sworn in by the Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors at their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. Chief Kelly brings over three decades of law enforcement experience, including significant leadership roles in municipal and transit policing, making him an exceptional choice to lead the Lower Makefield Township Police Department (LMTPD).

Chief Kelly has served as the Chief of Police for the Yardley Borough Police Department since 2015, where he successfully implemented proactive policing strategies, strengthened community partnerships, and enhanced departmental policies to align with modern law enforcement best practices. He is also the host of BUCKS BLUE, a regional radio show that highlights community policing efforts.

Prior to his tenure in Yardley Borough, Chief Kelly spent over 20 years with the NJ Transit Police Department, rising through the ranks to Acting Chief of Police. In this role, he oversaw a statewide law enforcement agency, managed a \$36 million operating budget, and played a pivotal role in reducing overtime costs, internal complaints, and employee turnover, all while increasing criminal arrests and clearance rates.

Chief Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in education from Seton Hall University. He is a graduate of the prestigious West Point Command and Leadership Program and has received numerous awards for bravery, valor, and outstanding police service throughout his career.

“We are pleased to welcome Chief Kelly to Lower Makefield Township,” said Daniel R. Grenier, Chair, Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors. “His extensive experience in both municipal and transit law enforcement, combined with his commitment to community engagement, departmental accountability, fiscal responsibility, and data-driven policing, make him an excellent choice for our police department.”

Chief Kelly expressed enthusiasm for his new role, stating, “I am honored to join the Lower Makefield Township Police Department and look forward to working with township leadership, residents, and officers to further strengthen public safety, community trust, and innovative policing initiatives.”

Lower Makefield Township looks forward to Chief Kelly’s leadership as he continues the tradition of excellence in policing, ensuring the safety and well-being of the community.

About Lower Makefield Township

Lower Makefield Township, located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, is a vibrant community committed to public safety, sustainability, and quality of life for its residents. The Lower Makefield Township Police Department is dedicated to providing professional, community-oriented policing to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.