

PADUCAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Robin Newberry
444-8590

Date: August 4, 2016

The Paducah Police Department is proud to announce that Chief of Police Brandon L. Barnhill was named 2016 Chief of the Year by the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP) Wednesday night during the organization's annual conference in Bowling Green.

Barnhill, 42, has been with the Paducah Police Department since October 1998. He was appointed Chief of Police on Sept. 19, 2013.

Barnhill was nominated by Assistant Chief Brian Krueger. In his nomination letter, Krueger cited a number of Barnhill's priorities since becoming chief. Among them were organizational and personnel development, relationship-building with the community and minority recruitment.

Since taking over the helm of the PPD, Barnhill has established the Chief's Roundtable Community Forum, which brings leaders of the African-American community together with police department Command Staff to discuss issues and bring forth ideas for change and improvement.

Under his leadership, the department has seen the formation of the Police Foundation of Paducah/McCracken County, a non-profit entity that helps the department achieve goals related to employee development and education, community engagement, and technology and equipment.

Additionally, Barnhill has overseen the police department's efforts to join with Murray State University to develop the Cultural Leadership Academy, which serves to improve participants' ability to analyze social issues, improve understanding of ethical and moral implications related to working with diverse populations, and implement effective community-based leadership.

Also of note thus far in Barnhill's tenure:

- Creation of a full-time Crime Analyst position that allows the department to assess crime trends and aids in resource deployment
- Collaboration with a local church to help in the development of a mentoring program for at-risk youth

- Collaboration with Paducah Tilghman High School students and teachers to facilitate better understanding and dialog between our department and local youth

“Chief Barnhill serves as an excellent representative of the KACP, and is a great example of what it takes to be a successful police chief,” Krueger said.

In letters of support for Barnhill’s nomination, two local business leaders said the following:

“Chief Barnhill proves every day to his officers and to our citizens that he ‘has the right stuff’ to successfully lead the Paducah Police Department in an exemplary fashion. Paducah is extremely fortunate to have this man of vision, character and commitment in such an important position of leadership.” -- Joe Frampton, Chairman and CEO, Paducah Bank

“A successful organization stands out due to the passionate leaders who are able to effectively tell their story to garner local support. Chief Barnhill has been that passionate leader in Paducah for the police department.” -- Jim Garrett, Owner, Supply Solutions

City leaders were delighted to hear the news of Barnhill’s honor.

“Chief Barnhill’s leadership exemplifies excellence, compassion and ethics,” said Mayor Gayle Kaler. “He is a leader in tough times and has shown that he can make tough decisions and listen to the needs of others. We are proud of his achievement and congratulate him and his family today.”

“Peer recognition is perhaps the highest standard that exists for selection of an individual for outstanding leadership and accomplishment,” said City Manager Jeff Pederson. “The City Organization, the Paducah Police Department and the entire Paducah community can take pride in knowing that Chief Barnhill has been recognized in this manner.”

Chief Barnhill has a bachelor’s degree from Murray State University and a master’s degree from Andrew Jackson University. He is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School for Government “Leadership in Crises” seminar; the Southern Police Institute Administrative Officers’ Course; and the Department of Criminal Justice Training Executive Development Program. In addition to KACP, he is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the FBI’s Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. He is incoming President of KACP.