

Commander Chris Vallejo



Commander Chris Vallejo is a strategic and innovative Senior Law Enforcement Official and 29-year veteran of the Austin Police Department and currently an Investigations Commander.

Commander Vallejo holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science with specializations in constitutional law and political science. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institution for Police Leadership School and has completed advanced coursework and training in evidenced-based policing and executive leadership.

He was awarded a prestigious NIJ LEADS Scholar fellowship, dedicated to supporting police leaders in their use of research and science to inform policy and practice, and has extensive experience delivering operational, investigative, and administrative leadership at the line, supervisory and command levels. A recognized community leader, Chris has fostered long-lasting trust and accountability through countless partnerships with local community organizations and national educational institutions dedicated to reform, racial equality, and justice.

Commander Vallejo is a National Policing Institute Executive Policing Fellow, delivering counsel and direction to the NPF on contemporary issues in policing. He is a nationally recognized advocate for police reform through 21st-century policing principles, evidence-based community policing strategies, and collaboration, serving as a volunteer board member for the Texas Justice Institute.

In partnership with Texas State University and the National Policing Institute, Commander Vallejo has conducted occupational stress research to support the APD's wellness initiatives and ensure performance management and optimal health of his officers and command. He has received notable commendations and awards for his police service and leadership including the Meritorious Unit Citation, and Superior Service Citation, and is a two-time recipient of the Patrol Unit of the Year Award.

Evidence-based policing with a focus on 21st-century policing principles, integrity, and community partnership is Commander Vallejo's leadership philosophy and focus to support the City of Austin, and the diverse communities that it serves.