

Cory Nelson



Cory Nelson is a 34 year law enforcement veteran, 32 with the Madison, WI Police Dept where he retired in 2021 as a Captain.

During his time at MPD he held command roles in a variety of areas including Internal Affairs, Precinct Commander, SWAT, and City Wide Shift Commander. He also spent 15 years as a Detective in a variety of investigative teams including; Violent Crimes, Sensitive Crimes, Arson/Fire Investigations, Cold Case Unit, County Wide Narcotics Unit and Officer Involved Critical Incident Investigations. He led efforts to begin MPD's Violent Crime Unit and Burglary Unit as well as proposed and implemented the Detective Sergeant role to the department.

He served on the Dane County Major Case Management Team and has received a number of state and federal awards for case investigations from various agencies over his career. He is a graduate of the Wisconsin Command College and was elected to the Board of Directors. Cory is also a certified Wisconsin Public Manager.

He also has significant experience and is a subject matter expert in Focused Deterrence and Pre-arrest Criminal Deflection/Diversion programs, involving individuals suffering from substance abuse disorders. He has taught at a number of national conferences on both of these topics, including the International Chiefs of Police Association Conference, US Attorneys Conference and a variety of Violence Reduction Network (VRN) and Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Conferences. He has also trained the Shelby County TN Sheriff's office and Memphis TN Police Department on how to implement a Focused Deterrence Program.

Cory has been a member of the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) Project on American Justice since its inception and is a recognized Subject Matter Expert for them.

He is an Executive Fellow with the National Police Institute and is a former National Institute of Justice LEADS Scholar. He has also served on the Priority Criminal Justice Needs group, a collaboration between the National Institute of Justice and the Rand Corporation.

Currently, Cory serves as a law enforcement Subject Matter Expert for the Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities- Center for Health and Justice (TASC-CHJ) group.

Cory also currently serves as a part time faculty member at the Madison Area Technical College Police Academy and is the Emergency Management Coordinator in the town where he lives.

Cory currently serves his community in a variety of volunteer roles and is on the board of directors for the local Chamber of Commerce. He was also named Lake Mills, WI "Volunteer of the Year" in 2022.