

Thomas E. Bennett was appointed as Chief of Police for the Suffolk, Virginia Police Department on June 15, 2009. Chief Bennett retired from the Newport News Police Department after twenty-four (24) years of service. He began his career with the Newport News Police Department as an Auxiliary Officer in 1984. Chief Bennett served in the Patrol and Investigations Division prior to promotion as a Supervisor. Chief Bennett served as a Supervisor within the Investigations, Patrol and Vice Narcotics Divisions of the Department. He was promoted through the ranks and retired as Assistant Chief of Police in 2009.

Chief Bennett has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology from St. Leo's college. He received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Old Dominion University. Bennett is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy, 200th Session. He completed the Senior Management Institute for Police – Police Executive Research Forums 35th Session, United States Secret Service Dignitary Protection School, and is a FEMA PDS Certified Emergency Management Professional.

Chief Bennett serves as an Assessor and Team Leader for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He has completed the Leadership Institute for the Peninsula and has been extensively trained in incident command and weapons of mass destruction. Chief Bennett is a subject matter expert in the areas of weapons of mass destruction planning and training, terrorism response plans, sniper response plans, hurricane response plans, community policing, and use of force. Throughout his career, Chief Bennett has embraced innovative concepts to improve service to citizens as well as those that improved internal operations. He encourages open and honest communications to build and maintain trust within the Police Department and has consistently worked with other Agencies and elected Officials to accomplish common goals.

Chief Bennett currently serves on the Hampton Roads Regional Academy Criminal Justice Board and Executive Committee, the Hampton Roads Chiefs of Police Association as Vice-President and the Suffolk Partnership's Executive Board. Chief Bennett's affiliations include the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the PELS Alumni Association, the Police Executive Research Forum Alumni Association and the F.B.I. National Academy.

Chief Bennett is active in his community and serves as a Coach in Little League athletics, being a youth mentor and speaking at local schools. Chief Bennett and his wife Diana have two daughters and one son.