

Neil Ferdelman

Chief of Police



1. How long have you been with us?

I was sworn in as the Greenhills Police Chief on June 18, 2013.

2. What kind of other jobs have you had, and where were they?

I haven't had too many jobs! I became a Hamilton, Ohio Police Cadet on January 2, 1976 when I was 19 and still in college. Over the years, I went through the ranks of the Hamilton Police Department: I was promoted to Police Officer in 1977, Detective in 1989, Sergeant in 1992, and Lieutenant in 1996. I was appointed the Chief of Police of the City of Hamilton in 1998, and served 14 years as the police chief there, retiring in 2012. I was asked to return to the department as a consultant in 2013 and continued to work there until I was appointed the police chief here. For 25 years, I served as an assessor and team leader for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, and have traveled all over the country conducting assessments at police agencies.

3. What commendations have you had?

I am certified as an Advanced Law Enforcement Planner by the International Association of Law Enforcement Planners. I have received some commendations for various things in the past, but for almost 20 years as a police chief, I have been the one issuing them to others! I did receive the Key to the City in Hamilton in 2012.

4. What was the best case you ever worked on?

I have a difficult time picking one criminal case. I have arrested murderers, rapists, and robbers, but it is hard to pick a case that is the "best" because in all criminal acts, there are victims and those who love them who have all tragically lost something. I guess my favorites are lost children cases where we figure out quickly where the child is and everyone is overjoyed at the end. There are so many bad outcomes to things that police officers regularly see and do that we are always happy when things end well.

5. What things do you love or like about Greenhills?

That's another difficult question because there are so many things to like and love about this community. I have visited Greenhills with my family for at least the last 30 years. My wife grew up here, and we always brought our children to Johnny's Toys, and then had dinner when they were younger at the Hitching Post, or as they grew up, at Riley's. My wife was the one who told me about the vacancy in the police chief's position, so she was the reason I applied.

I love showing people our community. From the quiet residential neighborhoods to the homey feel of the center of the community, from the commons to the gazebo, to me it typifies what America should be. I love that we have a very safe community, and our Greenhills police officers are dedicated to keeping it that way.

6. What do you see as Greenhills' biggest issue and how do you feel it can be fixed?

I believe Greenhills was especially hard hit by the financial downturn in the last decade, coupled with political changes in Columbus. The loss of the Local Government Fund and the estate tax hit at the same time that Greenhills was and is paying off debt from properties purchased over a decade ago. It was a good move at the time to revitalize neighborhoods desperately in need of improvements, but the real estate market was affected by the financial downturn as well. Our Council, Municipal Manager, and Finance Director have developed and adopted smart financial plans that will ease these strains in the future. As I see improvements at the shopping center, new businesses, and continued investment in the community, I think that Greenhills' future is bright!

7. And what do you want people to know about the Greenhills Police Department?

I believe that the Greenhills Police Department is one of the best, but don't just take my word for it. Since 2007, the department has voluntarily opened itself up to inspection from independent, outside assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Every three years, the Commission sends in police chiefs from other states who pore over our policies, talk to officers and citizens, and inspect agency operations from an outsider's perspective. The agency has maintained its accredited status for almost a decade, a feat accomplished by less than two percent of the nation's law enforcement agencies.

I am impressed by the quality of police officers we have. We conduct rigorous training, and value the good relationship we have with the citizens on our community. As you know, we have expanded our interaction with our citizens by offering a variety of community programs that have included community meetings, neighborhood meetings, a heroin seminar, the Citizens Police Academy, as well as an upcoming self-defense class.

It is a privilege to serve a great community, and I am looking forward to some great things yet to come!