

Lieutenant David Bissonnette – Middletown, RI Police Department

Lieutenant Bissonnette is the senior Police Lieutenant with the Middletown, RI Police Department. He has over 22 years of Law Enforcement experience including six years as a Patrol Officer, two years as a Sergeant & over 14 years at the rank of Lieutenant with most of his time assigned to the Patrol Division. He has extensive experience on all shifts and in all aspects of patrol. This includes unknown and high-risk motor vehicle stops, active diffusion strategies, use of force application and investigation, report writing, policy writing and member of the department Honor Guard. He also holds the position of department Use of Force instructor and is a certified Force Analyst with the Force Science Institute. His previous assignments include Field Training Coordinator, In-service Training Coordinator, member of the Initial Response Team, Recruitment and Hiring, Accident Reconstruction and Drug Recognition (DRE).

Lt. Bissonnette has over 19 years experience teaching Use of Force at both the recruit and in-service level & has been the Officer in Charge of the Use of Force training program at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy since 2012 where he oversees a cadre of 19 POST certified instructors. He is a member of the RI Municipal Police Academy's Drill Instructor cadre and in addition to Use of Force, he also teaches classes in Law Enforcement Active Diffusion & De-escalation, Autism for Law Enforcement and Unknown and High-Risk Motor Vehicle stop tactics. He has also been a guest instructor at the Rhode Island State Police Academy and the Providence Police Academy.

On an in-service level, Lt. Bissonnette has taught at the RI Municipal Police Academy, the Rhode Island State Police, the Rhode Island Sheriff's Department, The Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Center & numerous other municipal & college/university police departments & security forces throughout New England.

He is the co-author of the Use of Force curriculum that is taught at all police academies throughout the state and is also the co-author of the model Use of Force policy used by the majority of the police departments in Rhode Island. He

has conducted several Use of Force reviews and is considered a subject matter expert by the RI Attorney General's Office in the field of force with experience testifying in front of both a grand jury and in a courtroom. He is currently assigned to the Administrative Services Division.