

Paul D. Watkins III is a Captain with the Verona Police Department in northern New Jersey and has been in law enforcement since 2003. Paul has been a supervisor since 2011 and he spent his first eighteen years of his career in patrol, to which he is most proud, as he feels this is where you have the most contact with the public and can best serve the community.

Paul earned his BA degree in Criminal Justice from Caldwell University (Caldwell, NJ) and completed a MS degree in Criminal Justice Leadership at Northeastern University (Boston, MA). Paul is a Certified Public Manager (CPM), conferred through Rutgers University and has graduated from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Command & Leadership Academy (formerly known as the West Point Command School), as well as the FBI Supervisory Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute, and Executive Command Institute, to complete the FBI LEEDA Trilogy. Paul is an Accredited Command Executive (ACE), certified through the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP).

Paul enjoys traveling and has spent time in Ireland, training with the An Garda Siochana (Irish National Police Force), the National Police Service of Northern Ireland (NPSI) and has trained alongside the London Metropolitan Police, as well as the City of London Police while over in England. Paul is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (Session 274).

Paul now serves in an administration role in his agency and his responsibilities include Professional Standards Commander, in charge of the Detective Bureau, oversight of the Field Training Officer Program, background investigations for all departmental applicants (civilian and sworn), accreditation manager, policy maintenance, review and creation, as well as training for the department. In addition, Paul is an FBI trained Hostage Negotiator, Mental Health Officer (CIT), SWAT operator, Motor Vehicle Accident Reconstructionist and New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC) certified police academy instructor. Paul is a certified instructor in De-escalation, Less Lethal Tactics, Disorder Control, OC Spray, and the Driving Simulator. Paul is also an ICAT and ABLE (national) instructor. Paul also delivers the ABLE curriculum throughout the nation as an instructor with the Georgetown Law Center for Innovations in Community Safety (CICS). Paul travels the country teaching courses on different levels of leadership, and numerous other best practices in policing, as well as

promotional test preparation to in-service police officers for a Police Training company based out of New Jersey.

Paul is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), FBI Leadership Executive Development Association (LEEDA), FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA / NJ FBINAA), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Verona PBA Local 72 and the Essex County Emerald Society.

Paul is married with three sons. In his free time, he coaches baseball for his sons' teams and coaches their basketball teams, up until High School. Paul can often be found somewhere in New York City, taking in live bands as they perform in venues throughout the city.