

Joseph Witkowski

- **Retired Academy Director, Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee**
- **Retired Captain, New Haven Police Department, New Haven, CT**

Joe Witkowski has over 30 years of public safety training experience. He began working in the field as a security officer at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT. Joe subsequently was appointed as a police officer for the City of New Haven and was assigned to the Newhallville/East Rock District on both walking and mobile beats. He was selected as an instructor for the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and certified as a Field Training Officer for new officers' post-academy training.

After his promotion to Sergeant, Joe was assigned to the Department's traffic unit, focusing on programs to enhance traffic safety. He ran the Field Training Program, Workzone Safety Program, and supervised fatal crash investigations. Joe planned and conducted both in-service and academy training for the Department in Impaired Driving, Breath Testing, Field Training, Workzone Safety, and Report Writing. He was awarded the 2008 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) "Top Cop" award.

Following a promotion to Lieutenant, Joe served as deputy patrol commander, shift commander, and then district manager. He continued to plan and conduct both in-service and academy training for the Department. As a district manager, Joe acted as the focal point for the Hill South community regarding all police-related activity, maintaining partnerships with other departments, agencies, and community groups to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

Joe was subsequently assigned as the Director of Information Services, responsible for using technology to help the Department attain its long-term goals. He coordinated the Department's transition to an electronic reporting system which included dispatch, records management, and mobile systems, developing curriculum to ensure that all Department personnel received training. He recruited instructors, coordinated Train the Trainer instruction, and scheduled training for over 300 sworn personnel in a 2-month period.

After retiring from New Haven with the rank of Captain, Joe was appointed as the director of the Western Massachusetts Regional Police Academy. He directed the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) recruit officer training program, graduating a total of 11 recruit classes. Joe supervised instructors and support staff in the preparation and delivery of training, ensuring instructor effectiveness and performance. He became a certified instructor for the MPTC and continued to teach topics for the recruit classes.

Since retiring from the MPTC, Joe has continued serving as a part-time police officer for the Town of Roxbury, CT. He continues to teach in-service and recruit training as a contract instructor for the Massachusetts MPTC, and is a POST certified instructor for the State of CT. Joe is a senior trainer for the National De-Escalation Training Center and is a certified trainer in Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety.

Joe attended Southern CT State University, being awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and History, and educator's certification for Social Studies. He is a U.S. Army veteran, retiring as a Major after serving over 20 years on active duty and in the National Guard.