Chief Chris Magnus
Tucson Police Department, Arizona
Tucson, AZ

Chris Magnus began his career in 1979 as a dispatcher with the City of Lansing, Michigan. He later became a deputy sheriff with the Livingston County Sheriff’s Department before transitioning to the Lansing Police Department, where he eventually rose to Captain of Administrative Services. In 1999, he left the Lansing Police Department and became the Police Chief of Fargo, North Dakota, shortly thereafter.

During his six years of service in the Fargo, Magnus focused on strengthening ties with the local community by implementing the first two-state regional dispatch system in the nation, a forensic children’s interview center, and a refugee liaison program.

In 2006, Magnus became the Chief of Police of Richmond, California. Under his leadership, the city of Richmond saw significant reductions in both violent and property crime, which built stronger relationships between the police department and the community.

Magnus became Chief of the Tucson Police Department in 2016. His tenure thus far has been notable for his continuing commitment to provide justice for those affected by sexual assault and domestic violence. He has consistently emphasized the importance of training police officers on how to appropriately respond to incidents involving those suffering from mental illness.

Magnus testified before the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing and worked closely with the U.S. Justice Department to improve policing practices. He holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice and an M.A. in Labor Relations from Michigan State University.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership is a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice solutions that improve public safety. With 150 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews.

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