

Chief Brendan Cox (Ret.) Albany Police Department, New York Albany, NY

Brendan Cox began his 23 year career in law enforcement as a patrol officer with the Albany Police Department. He rapidly advanced through the ranks and became a detective sergeant in the Children and Family Services Unit. He subsequently served as a lieutenant in Special Operations before he returned to the Children and Family Services Unit as a detective lieutenant. In 2006, he became a commander and oversaw the Detective Division. In 2008, he was promoted to Assistant Chief in Charge of Operations. A few years later, he was promoted to deputy chief and was appointed Chief of Police in 2015.

Under Chief Cox's leadership, the Department of Justice recognized the Albany Police Department as one of the top 15 police departments in the country as part of the COPS Advancing 21st Century Policing Initiative. He oversaw the implementation of a ground-breaking Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) initiative, which gives officers new tools to address crime related to drug addiction, mental health, poverty, and homelessness.

In 2017, Chief Cox retired from policing. He is currently the Director of Policing Strategies at the LEAD National Support Bureau. He holds a BS in Criminal Justice from the University of Dayton, a MPA from Marist College, and is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police. He is a member of the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group; an Executive Fellow with the Police Foundation; and sits on the boards of several local organizations, including the Albany Police Athletic League and the LaSalle School of Albany.

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 200 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews..

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