



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS



## **Chief Darrel Stephens (Ret.) Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Charlotte, NC**

Darrel Stephens began his law enforcement career in 1968 as an officer with the Kansas City Police Department in Missouri, where he served for 8 years as a commander and unit sergeant. In 1976, he joined the Kansas City Police Department as Assistant Police Chief and served for three years before moving on to become the Police Chief of Largo, Florida. He led the department for three years and later transferred to the Newport News Police Department in Virginia, where he also served as Police Chief.

In 1986, Stephens became Executive Director of the Police Executive Research Forum (P.E.R.F.). In 1992, he began working with the city of St. Petersburg, Florida, initially as an administrator for two years and then as Chief of Police for another five years. In 1999, he became Chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. His focus on community-driven policing was later cited as the reason for a 22% drop in crime.

Stephens retired from policing in 2008 and went on to work for John Hopkins University for five years as the Director of State and Local Problems. In 2010, he held the position of Executive Director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, one of the largest associations of police agencies in North America. He holds a B.S in the administration of justice from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a M.S. in public administration from Central Missouri State University. In 2005, Stephens received the P.E.R.F Leadership Award and was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. In 2010, he was inducted into the Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame and received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Evidence-Based Crime Policy from George Mason University. Most recently, in 2017, he received the Sir Robert Peel Medal for Evidence Based Policing from the Police Executive Program at Cambridge University and the Major Cities Chiefs Association Leadership Award.

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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..

For event bookings, contact [Speakers@LawEnforcementAction.org](mailto:Speakers@LawEnforcementAction.org)

For media, contact [Media@LawEnforcementAction.org](mailto:Media@LawEnforcementAction.org)

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Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition