



Houston Police Department

Harold L. Hurtt

Chief of Police

Biography

On February 27, 2004, Mayor Bill White of Houston announced Harold Lindsay Hurtt, Chief of Police for the Phoenix, Arizona, Police Department, as his nominee and choice to head the Houston Police Department.

Chief Hurtt, a veteran of the United States Air Force, began his law enforcement career in 1968 as a patrolman in the Phoenix Police Department. Accordingly, and during his tenure with Phoenix, he attained many promotional achievements, including the ranks of Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain/Commander, Major, Assistant Chief, and eventually Executive Assistant Chief of Police. Consequently, in 1992, Chief Hurtt retired from the Phoenix Police Department to become Chief of Police for the Oxnard, California, Police Department. Chief Hurtt left his post as Chief of the Oxnard Police Department in April 1998 to return to Phoenix as that city's Chief of Police.

Chief Hurtt is a noted proponent of the "community policing" concept and has been innovative in helping to institute neighborhood police storefronts. While Chief of the Oxnard Police Department, he incorporated the department's cable television program, "Street Beat," into that department's community policing effort. In Phoenix, he instituted his "knock-and-talk" campaign, going door to door in that city's neighborhoods to listen to residents' concerns about police and community issues. Additionally, he also led efforts to increase the number of officers who speak Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese in the diverse Phoenix community.

In 2002, Chief Hurtt was selected by his peers as President of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, which is an organization of the 57 largest police forces in the United States and Canada.

Chief Hurtt graduated from Arizona State University in 1977 with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, and later earned a Master's Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix in 1991.

Chief Hurtt was born in Campbell County, Virginia, and he and his wife, Lonetta, have five children and seven grandchildren.

On Wednesday, March 24, 2004, Houston's Mayor and City Council confirmed the appointment of Harold L. Hurtt as Houston's 37th Chief of Police.