

Director of Public Safety



Eric Van Hook was appointed the Director of Public Safety on November 26, 2013. As the Director of Public Safety, Van Hook oversees the City of O'Fallon's Police, EMS, and Fire Departments. He was appointed as a police officer for the City of O'Fallon in 1990, where he continues to live today with his wife Laura.

Van Hook served as the city's D.A.R.E. officer from 1993 until 1995, at which time he assumed the duties as a detective. During this time Van Hook became a member of the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis. In 2000, Van Hook was promoted to

the rank of sergeant, and continued to serve as the Detective Sergeant until 2005, when he was promoted to lieutenant.

After promotion to lieutenant, Van Hook served as a Patrol Lieutenant-Watch Commander, and was responsible for the day to day operations of the patrol sergeants, and officers assigned to the patrol division. He served in that capacity until 2008, when he was promoted to the rank of captain and served as the Operations Commander. As the Operations Commander, Van Hook was responsible for the patrol division and community service officers.

In 2012, Van Hook was appointed to the rank of Chief of Police for the City of Collinsville, Illinois. He served as Collinsville's Police Chief until 2013, at which time he returned to O'Fallon and was appointed the Director of Public Safety.

During Van Hook's career, he has received multiple Chief's Commendations for Community Service, Medal of Merit, Officer of the Year, Southern Illinois Chiefs of Police Unit Citation Award, and advanced through the ranks of the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis to the position of Deputy Commander.

Van Hook received a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from Webster University, a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Management from Sterling College, and is a graduate of Class 257 of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

Van Hook currently serves as President of the Southern Illinois Chiefs' of Police Association. He is also a board member for the Major Case Squad and Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southern Illinois. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Southern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission. He has also been a member of Rotary since 2005, and has served on the Executive Board of the O'Fallon Township High School's Endowment Board since 2010.