



## MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

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# Northampton Police Chief Submits Resignation, Mayor Outlines Search Process for New Chief

NORTHAMPTON - Today, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra announced that after 25 years of dedicated service to our community, Police Chief Jody Kasper has decided to pursue a new opportunity in Nantucket, Massachusetts. Chief Kasper's last day as Chief for Northampton will be January 1, 2024.

Mayor Sciarra shared:

*"I want to express my profound gratitude for Chief Kasper's outstanding contributions during her tenure with the Northampton Police Department (NPD). Chief Kasper has been a remarkable trailblazer in law enforcement. She has tirelessly worked to innovate, diversify, professionalize, and enhance transparency at NPD. Her leadership has led to numerous awards and accolades, including Woman Law Enforcement Executive of the Year by the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives.*

*Chief Kasper has played a crucial role in helping Northampton through complex discussions regarding policing in the 21st century. Her approach has been characterized by unwavering professionalism, a genuine openness to community concerns, and a deep respect for diverse perspectives.*

*As a fellow public servant who deeply admires her dedication, I am profoundly grateful for the impact she has had on our community. I will miss Chief Kasper, and I know her presence will be missed in Northampton. Her expertise and leadership will greatly benefit the residents of Nantucket, and I commend them on their excellent choice for their next Chief of Police. Please join me in thanking Chief Kasper for her exceptional service to Northampton and wishing her success in her new role."*

Jody Kasper joined Northampton's police department in 1998 and served with distinction as Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Staff Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Detective Lieutenant, and Captain of Police Operations before being appointed the Chief of Police in June 2015. She grew up in nearby Shelburne Falls.

"I'm grateful to have worked with such committed people in the Northampton Police Department and throughout the city's departments. It has been an honor to serve the city alongside my colleagues. Together, we've made real progress for our community, " said Chief Kasper.

Having received Chief Kasper's formal resignation, Mayor Sciarra has directed her staff to begin a formal search for a new Police Chief.

Mayor Sciarra will designate Captain John Cartledge as the interim Chief of Police while the search is conducted. Serving the Northampton Police Department since 1995, Captain Cartledge is a Northampton native who graduated from Northampton High School. He later pursued his bachelor's at Westfield State University and received a master's degree in criminal justice from Capella University. He has served and risen through every rank at the NPD to his current position as the department's Captain of Administration, and he is the senior captain.

The next steps for the formal search for Northampton's next Chief of Police will include issuing a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) to engage a consulting firm that specializes in recruiting qualified candidates, selecting a consultant, appointing a screening committee which will include city officials, residents, and other experts, conducting interviews, announcing finalists, holding a public opportunity to meet the finalists and then share opinions with the city, and ultimately choosing a candidate that Mayor Sciarra will submit as her appointment to the City Council for confirmation in accordance with the Northampton Charter, Article 2, § 2-10.

For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at 413-587-1249 or [mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov).