

From: Weber, Stacy  
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:17 PM  
Subject: CITY NEWS: City announces next Chief of Police

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 12, 2014

Contact: Stacy Weber

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

The City of Toledo would like to announce that Deputy Chief George Kral has been named the new Chief of Police for the Toledo Police Department. This year Deputy Chief Kral has undergone a transition to become the next Chief of Police as current Chief William Moton is pursuing retirement. It is the City's view that this transition be seamless and Deputy Chief Kral receive the necessary experience to become the next Chief of Police before holding the position.

William Moton received his Bachelor and Master degree in Sociology and Public Administration. William was hired to the Toledo Police Department in September of 1983, was promoted to Sergeant in 1986, Lieutenant in 1989, and Chief of Police in 2014.

Having served in the United States Marine Corp as a decorated Vietnam War Veteran, Moton understands all too well the concept of teamwork and what it takes to get the job done. His tenacity and discipline for thoroughness and solid police work have netted him profound results in his career.

"William Moton has been an immeasurable asset to the Toledo Police Department, his dedication and determination with ongoing operations will be greatly missed," said Mayor Collins.

George Kral holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and a Master of Science degree in Justice Administration. "George has proven to be a leader in our community, and brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to his new position as Chief of Police for the Toledo Police Department," said Mayor Collins.

George was hired to the Toledo Police Department in December of 1990, was promoted to Sergeant in 1995, Lieutenant in 2006, Captain in 2011, and Deputy Chief in 2014. George has also held assignments in patrol operations, crime analysis, internal affairs, investigative services, records bureau, planning and inspections, and served as Commander of the Support and Administrative Services Division.

Stacy Weber  
Public Information Officer  
Office of Mayor D. Michael Collins







# Jefferson AWARDS FINALIST



## George Kral

In an age where law enforcement officers might be in literal or figurative battles in communities, George Kral's leadership as Chief of Police in Toledo is building a bridge of compassion and understanding for both who serve and those served.

Serving as a national model of community unity since taking the helm of the Toledo Police Department in January 2015, Chief Kral has created numerous programs all designed to make the community and police officers partners in making the city safer together.

Three of the more notable programs — Coffee with a Cop, Police in the Park, and Blue Lunch Specials — have become well-attended community staples in all neighborhoods of the city.

George served in the U.S. Navy from 1984-90 and began his career in the Toledo Police Department in 1990. In 1995 he was promoted to Sergeant of the Operations Division which began his rise in the ranks. He has managed district stations, investigations, detective bureaus, records management, strategic planning, and administration of the department.

Chief Kral instills compassion in his view of policing. He views the officer's role to protect and serve by focusing on the "serve."



Julia Reynolds  
TOLEDO POLICE  
OFFICER  
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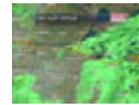
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# George Kral reflects on two years as police chief

*Published: Thursday, January 5th 2017, 5:05 pm EDT*

*Updated: Thursday, January 5th 2017, 6:23 pm EDT*

Reporting by **Michelle Shiels, Reporter**  [CONNECT](#)

TOLEDO, OH (WTOL) - George Kral is celebrating two years as chief of the Toledo Police Department.

Since his swearing-in, Kral has been working on goals to change the face of the department and bridging the gap between officers and the people they are sworn to protect.

Chief Kral had two priorities when he took over as chief. The first was with his officers' motivation.

"If they're not motivated to go out and do the job, it's not going to do any good. So a big part of my time as chief is going to be to make sure that our moral, our officers are taken care of," Kral said in a 2015 interview with WTOL.

He said he is happy with the progress of that goal two years later.

"Something as simple as changing the color of a shirt," Kral said. "We're getting 35 new police cars coming before May. That's a huge morale booster."

Kral also promised to improve the department's relationship within the community, and that too has happened.

Countless Coffee with a Cop and town hall meetings have been held. More Block Watch groups formed, and a stronger community service section at TPD has grown. All are ways of allowing officers to get out from behind the desk and out of their cruisers to meet the residents they serve.

"Chief Kral treats the people like they should be treated, they should be aware of things, they should know about crime, and he does want the feedback," said former Block Watch leader Tina Scott.

Through his tenure as Chief, Kral was faced with unexpected moments, like the death of Mayor Mike Collins and K9 Falko. There was also an officer-involved shooting death of a man in custody, two officers criminally charged, dwindling manpower as retirements take center stage and the police class postponed.

All are part of the job, though he says it's made easier with the support he is receiving from those he serves, as well as the mayor.

"Mayor Hicks Hudson is a fan of the police department, we talk all the time," Kral said. "With her support, we continue to make the department better and city better."

Chief of police is not an elected job, and Kral says he has at least seven years until retirement and hopes he can continue to do exactly what he is doing until then.

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## Toledo Police Chief George Kral announces retirement



AUG 8, 2022

5:29 PM

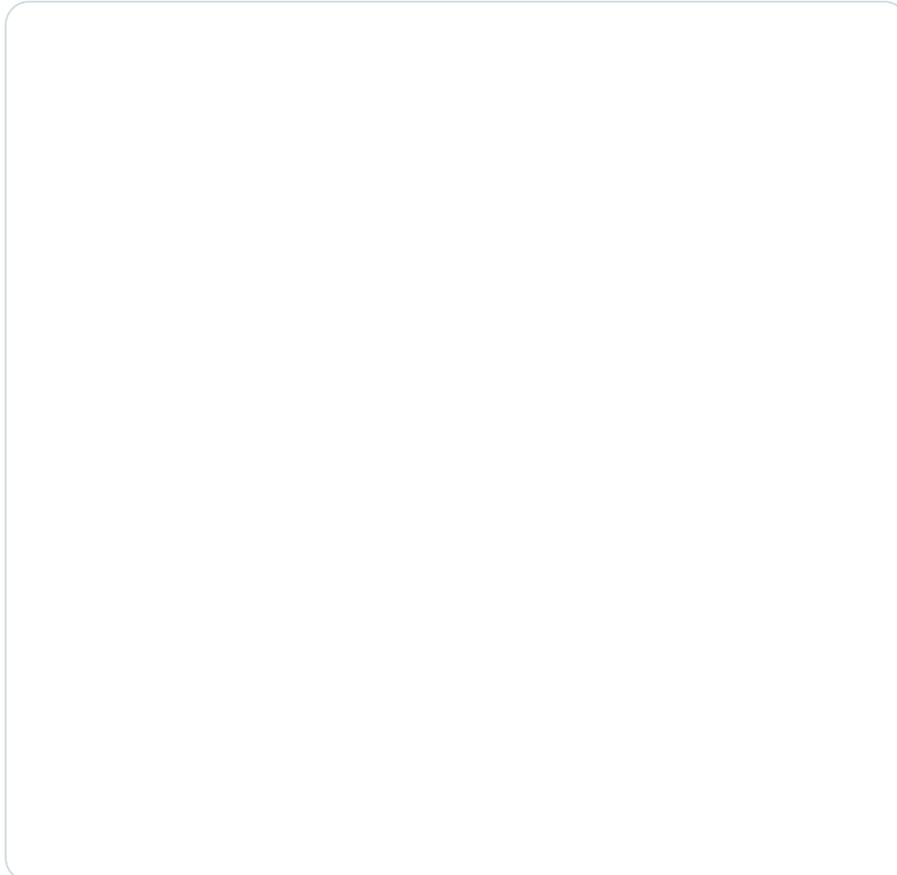
Toledo Police Chief George Kral is retiring from the department Jan. 9, he announced Monday.

"I've truly loved every minute being your chief of police," Chief Kral, 56, said in an announcement via Twitter.

**Chief George Kral**  
@gkraltoledo · [Follow](#)



After more than 32 years of service to the residents of the [@city\\_of\\_toledo](#) I am announcing that I'll be retiring from [@ToledoPolice](#) on January 9, 2023. I've truly loved every minute being your Chief of Police.



12:51 PM · Aug 8, 2022



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He noted that he has more than 32 years of service to the residents of Toledo.

A 24-year veteran and age 48 at the time, Chief Kral was promoted from deputy chief to the department's top job in January, 2015 by then-Mayor D. Michael Collins.

Chief Kral succeeded Chief William Moton, who retired Dec. 26, 2014 after one year.

In a statement, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz called Chief Kral "a truly outstanding public servant during his 32 years of service to our city." "...And in particular, he has distinguished himself over the past seven years as one of the best chiefs of police in the country."

"I always tell Chief Kral that, in my opinion, being a police chief is the single hardest job in America, and yet Chief Kral has handled the unique pressures of his job with both grace and excellence," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said.

A successor for Chief Kral has not been named.

"As I begin to think about the future of the Toledo Police Department and who should be its next leader, I do so knowing that Chief Kral will have impossibly large shoes to fill," Mayor Kapszukiewicz said.

Attempts to reach Chief Kral for additional comment were not immediately successful Monday afternoon.

*First Published August 8, 2022, 1:23pm*



## Chief Kral looks back at time with Toledo Police Department



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AUG 21, 2022

9:30 AM

Over the course of more than three decades with the Toledo Police Department, Chief George Kral held every single position available except for one – and not for lack of trying.

Chief Kral is 56 and has held the top position for nearly eight years. He recently announced his plans to retire in January, 2023.

The reason for Chief Kral's departure is simple – in Ohio, police officers and firefighters have the option to enroll in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, which allows eligible employees to accumulate a lump sum of money for retirement. When officers hit 25 years of service and 48 years of age, they're allowed to stay just eight more years after that, or risk losing the money.

“If it wasn't for the DROP program, I wouldn't be leaving,” Chief Kral said. He joked that his wife would've kicked him out of the house if he didn't take

the money.

Chief Kral said that the mayor hasn't yet announced how the replacement chief will be chosen — it could be a state or national search, or it could be an internal promotion. Chief Kral said that the mayor would likely decide by the early fall.

If there was still no full-time replacement identified by the time Chief Kral retires on Jan. 9, he said that the current assistant chief, Mike Troendle, would serve as the interim chief.

Brian Byrd, former chief of the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department and current public safety director for the city, wished Chief Kral well in his retirement after years of working together.

"I would like to congratulate Chief Kral on his retirement," Mr. Byrd said. "I have known and worked with him since we were both deputy chiefs on our departments. It has been a pleasure to work with him and I wish him the best in his well-earned retirement."

Chief Kral began with the police department as a field operations patrolman at age 24, and several years later, he was promoted to street sergeant. Then, he moved to internal affairs for a year and a half before becoming a district station administrative sergeant under then-deputy chief and current Lucas County Sheriff Mike Navarre.

"I recognized back then the work ethic and the qualities that he possessed," Sheriff Navarre said of Chief Kral. "I was not at all surprised that he moved up the ranks as quickly as he did."

Chief Kral's longest stint was as a detective sergeant in the special victims and domestic violence unit, where Chief Kral stayed for 11 years. He was then promoted to lieutenant in 2006.

After that, Chief Kral was back in field operations as a watch commander, before transitioning again to planning and research. He was promoted to captain in 2010, again by now Sheriff Navarre, before moving to the records department to learn how it worked.

In 2014, he was promoted to assistant chief, and one year later, then-Mayor D. Michael Collins appointed him as the new Toledo Police Chief.

The only position Chief Kral never held was on the SWAT team.

“I wanted to,” he said. “I put in for it twice and was never picked.”

Chief Kral said he tried to move around between departments frequently so he could get the best viewpoint of how everything worked together.

“I was blessed when it comes to assignments here,” he said. “By the time I got up to the suite of offices, I had a really good understanding of how each division worked and how they worked together to help each other out, to supplement their missions. So I felt that by the time I got here, I was in a very good position to run the entire department.”

Even though he spent time serving in nearly every section of the police department, Chief Kral said that his current position was without a doubt his favorite.

“With all of the trials and tribulations and issues, this is the most fulfilling, the most challenging, the most frustrating,” he said. “And really, we have a good time up here. We try to keep things light while knowing that we have a very serious job to do.”

When Chief Kral began his term as the head of the department, he had a few major goals in mind – increasing the size and diversity of the department, reducing crime, and bringing the police and the community together. Overall, the chief said, crime has gone down, with the exception of 2021.

“Obviously, we’ve come off our worst year ever when it comes to homicides,” he said. “But we’re down almost 28 percent in homicides this year, so I think coming off of COVID and the pandemic and the riots, I think crime is going down. But I think it’s something that we’re going to have to work at always, regardless of who’s sitting in this chair.”

In a statement, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz said that Chief Kral had distinguished himself as one of the best police chiefs in the country, and that his successor would have “impossibly large shoes to fill.”

“I always tell Chief Kral that, in my opinion, being a police chief is the single hardest job in America,” the mayor wrote. “And yet, Chief Kral has handled the unique pressures of his job with both grace and excellence.”

The chief said he agreed with the mayor about the difficulty of his job.

“Especially in the past three years with leading the agency through COVID, through the George Floyd riots and protests... I had 300 people on my front lawn in the summer of 2020. They marched at my house,” Chief Kral said. “And then the defunding the police rhetoric, trying to keep TPD staffed the way it should be... it’s been an incredible challenge.”

But neither the pandemic nor the protests of summer 2020 were the worst part of Chief Kral’s time heading the department.

“The worst part was losing Officers Dia and Stalker,” he said. “I look at their pictures every time I go in and out of my office. I think about them every day... every good thing that has happened is overshadowed by that, and just to watch two families lose someone, and to watch people in this building mourn...”

His sentence trailed off, and he sat silently for a moment staring at his desk.

Officer Brandon Stalker was 24 when he died from a single gunshot wound after an armed standoff in the Old West End in January, 2021. Officer Anthony Dia was 26 when he was shot in the chest after checking on an intoxicated man in July, 2020.

“It was a gut punch. I’ll never go a day whether wearing this uniform or not that I don’t think of those two guys,” the chief said.

“He went through some very challenging times, having lost two officers in the line of duty and dealing with the gun violence that’s occurring across the country — it’s not unique to the city of Toledo,” Sheriff Navarre said. “And oftentimes, the chief of police is the one that bears that responsibility, and he handled that pressure admirably and did whatever he could to bring those numbers down.”

There were a lot of good parts of being chief, too. Chief Kral said he enjoyed watching officers do good in the community every day, growing and embracing their jobs. He said he would miss the people the most when he leaves.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen next,” Chief Kral said. “If someone calls [with] an officer job, I would most certainly consider it. I’m only 56, I

think I have a few more years left in the tank.”

He wanted to be productive and serve the community, whether in a city role, a state role, or an outside agency. But Chief Kral said he didn’t plan on going looking for a position – he’ll wait for something to come to him.

Until that happens, Chief Kral wants to take time to be a grandpa to his eight-month-old grandchild. He also wants to lose the slice in his golf game.

“I think it’ll be very difficult to fill those shoes,” Sheriff Navarre said of the outgoing chief. “I don’t think we’ve heard the last of George Kral.”



**Alexa Scherzinger**

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## Editorial: A job well done

THE BLADE EDITORIAL BOARD

AUG 9, 2022

9:08 AM

Toledo Police Chief George Kral deserves the many accolades he will surely receive heading into retirement.

The chief isn't retiring until Jan. 9, and he isn't the type to back away from his continued duties. So the Toledo's Police Department remains in good hands.

The individual who steps into his shoes would do well to follow his example of dedication to policing and to engagement with citizens.

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Since 2015, the chief guided the Toledo Police Department through difficult times, most notably during the summer of 2020 during local demonstrations focused on the death of George Floyd.

The chief, rather than setting a confrontational tone, made efforts to engage with demonstrators, and limit what violence occurred between

police and protesters.

Mr. Kral marched with protesters supporting racial justice on June 1, giving evidence to his commitment to improving police and community relations. During the protests across the country, that constituted a rare sight. It likely contributed to halting the escalation from protests to riots which occurred in so many cities.

That is just one measure of the chief's thoughtful and open approach to policing.

Chief Kral works tirelessly to bring increased professionalism to the force. At the same time more than any chief in history, he's aimed to create a more diverse force through recruiting efforts to new police academy classes.

The fight against crime always took center stage for the chief despite the challenges of facing record-breaking homicide statistics in 2021. Chief Kral worked on operations like LASER to fight crime in concentrated efforts in high crime areas of the city. Those operations often included cooperation with other local law enforcement agencies and took guns, drugs and repeat offenders off the streets.

The department also endured losses. During 2020 and 2021, two of the department's officers died in the line of duty. The chief honored the fallen officers and renewed his commitment to the safety of officers.

There have been challenges that a police chief alone cannot solve. Those include political matters, along with personnel matters governed by contracts between the city and police unions.

When Chief Kral retires early next year, he deserves the thanks of all Toledoans. He's been doing his job properly. He will leave his successor a department much stronger, more professional, better trained and more diverse than ever before.

The chief's job isn't over quite yet. To date and surely to continue, it is a job well done.

*First Published August 9, 2022, 12:00am*



## Toledo mayor names interim police chief and new city prosecutor



NANCY GAGNET ✓

The Blade

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JAN 5, 2023

5:45 PM

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz has tapped Deputy Police Chief Michael Troendle to serve as the city's interim police chief.

Extensive experience and knowledge of the department made him an excellent candidate for the job, Mr. Kapszukiewicz said at a Thursday news conference.

"I don't know that there are too many individuals in the department who have the breadth or experience and knowledge that he does; he truly has checked every box," Mr. Kapszukiewicz said.

Mr. Troendle, who will officially take over Monday for retiring chief George Kral, is a 29-year member of the department. He has worked in a variety of areas including field operations, investigation, SWAT, intelligence, and special operations, the mayor said.

Mr. Troendle was named deputy chief five years ago. He credits Chief Kral for providing a “road map” to move the department forward while engaging the citizens of Toledo to “trust us and buy into what we are doing at the police department.”

“I hope to continue those relationships and build upon them,” he said. “I am truly humbled and honored to lead the men and women in what I believe to be the best police department in the United States.”

Chief Kral announced his intention to retire in August and Toledo City Council approved up to \$50,000 in October to hire the national recruiting firm Ralph Andersen & Associates to help identify, screen, and evaluate potential candidates to replace him.

According to the mayor, nine individuals have applied for the position thus far, in which a new chief is expected to be named in March. Like other Toledo police officers, the newly hired chief will not be required to live in Toledo city limits, said city spokesman Gretchen DeBacker.

Newly appointed interim Chief Troendle, who, according to the Ohio Secretary of State’s website, is registered to vote in a Toledo suburb, has not yet applied for the job, but he plans to.

“At this time, I feel that I am the right fit to get in there and lead our department,” he said after the news conference. “One of the biggest things that we can do right now is let our officers know that it’s OK to be the police, it’s OK to go out there and do the job that you are trained to do. We need you out there doing it.”

At a staffing level of approximately 620 officers, he acknowledged that the department is not at full strength, and he hopes to bolster those numbers with new recruiting methods, including a plan that would make it easier for officers from other departments to transition to Toledo.

The mayor has said that 700 officers would be a desirable strength, he added.

“It’s getting harder and harder to get people to come through that door,” interim Chief Troendle said. “We need to make sure that we are getting the message out to our people that this is still an honorable profession, that this is a great career, and you can make a big difference here.”

Toledo ended 2022 with 65 homicides, a slight decrease over 2021 in which 71 homicides were reported.

While many factors could be attributed to gun violence in Toledo, the mayor said during the news conference that approximately 70 perpetrators could be linked to a majority of crime that happens in Toledo.

Those individuals are well known to police, and often if arrested are released by a “revolving door” court system, which has a backlog of cases because of the pandemic, Mr. Kapszukiewicz said.

During a committee hearing last month, Chief Kral backed that sentiment when he commented that 99 percent of those arrested in the past year were released after arraignment.

“We will continue to work the problem,” Mr. Kapszukiewicz said. “In a situation like this there are a lot of factors involved, there are a lot of issues at play. Things are moving in the right direction and with this team in place it will continue to move in the right direction.”

In addition to naming an interim police chief, the mayor also named Rebecca Facey as the new city prosecutor. She replaces the former prosecutor Dave Toska, who recently retired.

The city’s prosecutor’s office handles primarily misdemeanor cases, including serious ones like domestic violence cases as well as assault cases and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Other cases involve theft, trespassing, and traffic-related matters.

Formerly serving as a Lucas County assistant prosecutor, Ms. Facey specializes in domestic violence cases and that experience will help to guide her work in Toledo, she said.

Thousands of domestic violence misdemeanors are charged in Toledo Municipal Court each year, and often the cases are dismissed based on victims’ failure to appear. By applying evidence-based prosecution, regardless of victim participation, Ms. Facey hopes to move the cases forward.

“It’s going to need to be a collaborative effort to take a different approach to domestic violence cases, but I am looking forward to it,” she said. “We are fortunate to have a strong and talented group of attorneys representing the

citizens of Toledo in the city prosecutor's office, and I am eager to work with each of them as we strive to bring truth, justice, and safety to our community."

*First Published January 5, 2023, 12:55pm*



**Nancy Gagnet**

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The mission of the Toledo Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the city of Toledo by working in partnerships with the community to preserve life, enforce the law, provide quality services, reduce the fear of crime, and promote joint problem-solving for safe, secure neighborhoods.

Congratulations to Chief George Kral who retired on January 9, 2023, after serving more than 32 years with the Toledo Police Department. George was appointed to the department on December 14, 1990.

We wish George good luck, and best wishes for a long, healthy, and happy retirement!



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