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Toledo Police Chief Derrick Diggs retiring this month, will be rehired by Bell

3/1/2013

BY IGNAZIO MESSINA
BLADE STAFF WRITER



The Blade/Andy Morrison
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Toledo Police Chief Derrick Diggs plans to retire later this month and be rehired the next day by Mayor Mike Bell.

Chief Diggs, 57, said he is leaving the job March 21 because he has reached the maximum number of years that police officers and firefighters are allowed to remain in Ohio's Deferred Retirement Option Plan, DROP.

“There is still work to be done,” Chief Diggs said. “I am only leaving the position as police chief because I am required to do so.... I am willing to put off retirement to continue in that role and serve the citizens of Toledo if the mayor chooses that to be done.”



Chief Derrick Diggs will retire on March 21 and be re-hired the next day in the same role by Toledo Mayor Mike Bell.

Mayor Mike Bell will be sending Toledo councilmen a letter today regarding the chief's pending retirement and his planned rehiring.

“This is an election year and I am reticent to make a permanent appointment of a new candidate when it is possible that there may be a different mayor next year,” Mayor Bell wrote.

The mayor asked council to reappoint Chief Diggs to the top cop job, but noted that he would name him acting chief if needed.

DROP is an optional benefit that is meant to be "cost-neutral for the pension fund."

A calculator on the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund's Web site estimates Chief Diggs could receive a pension of about \$71,000 based on his nearly 36 years of service and his \$102,132 annual salary.

DROP permits public safety officers to build retirement savings in exchange for reduced lifetime pensions.

To be eligible for DROP, officers or firefighters must be at least 48 years old with no less than 25 years of service. That decision freezes future pensions as long as they remain in the DROP program. Then for at least three years and up to eight years, the monthly pension they otherwise would draw accumulates in a separate account, along with interest and a portion of their 10 percent of salary contributions.

Former Toledo Police Chief Mike Navarre retired in 2011 after maxing out the number of years in Drop. Former Toledo Fire Chief Mike Wolever retired also in 2011 after 33 years of service. He was also maxed out in DROP, said Jen Sorgenfrei, Mayor Bell's spokesman.

A review of city of Toledo executive exempt employees, which includes directors, commissioners, managers, and attorneys, shows seven Bell administration officials who have retired and are working for the city. They are Mayor Bell, Deputy Mayor Shirley Green, Deputy Mayor Steve Herwat, Director of Affirmative Action & Contract Compliance Perlean Griffin, Acting Commissioner of Public Utilities David Leffler, Commissioner of Public Utilities Don Moline, and Senior Attorney John Madigan.

Chief Diggs' data-driven policing project, called ORION, which stands for Observation Research Intelligence Operations Network, has been at the top of his efforts to reduce crime.

Under his watch since taking over the department on Oct. 21, 2011, a new camera system known as “eye in the sky” has been installed along city streets.

The chief said data-driven policing helps to deter crime, improves officers’ response, and helps investigators solve crimes. He stressed that burglaries in Toledo declined by 22 percent from 2011, and homicide detectives solved 83 percent of the crimes they investigated, compared to the national average of 52 percent.

“This is a new way of policing and this cannot be measured in a year or two,” Chief Diggs said. “This will take five years to measure the accuracy of the data to see how successful we can be with this program.”

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Toledo's top cop resigning, cites 'irreconcilable differences' with mayor-elect

12/13/2013

BY TAYLOR DUNGJEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER



Diggs

THE BLADE

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The countdown to the end of Derrick Diggs' tenure as Toledo police chief has begun.



The chief made a verbal announcement of his decision to Mayor Mike Bell and his staff Thursday.



Diggs

The 58-year-old Toledo native announced Thursday he will retire effective Jan. 2, citing “irreconcilable differences in policing philosophy” between himself and Mayor-elect D. Michael Collins.

The chief made a verbal announcement of his decision to Mayor Mike Bell and his staff Thursday; he plans to “pursue other professional law enforcement opportunities,” according to a statement from the mayor’s office. The chief was not available for interviews Thursday.

Mr. Collins said he plans on Monday to announce the next chief of police, and the rest of his cabinet.

“The individual who I will announce as police chief has already established himself as one of the most respected police officers on our department, and I am confident he will lead our department in the highest level of professionalism,” the mayor-elect said.

Mr. Collins, a retired police officer and former president of the police patrolmen’s union, did not elaborate on the irreconcilable differences between himself and Chief Diggs.

Other changes are coming, Mr. Collins said. “The only deputy chief retained will be Don Kenney and he will remain in charge of operations,” he said.

The fate of the department’s only other deputy chief, Diane Ruiz-Krause, was unclear.

Chief Diggs, the department’s first black chief, was appointed to the position in 2011, succeeding Mike Navarre, who retired after 13 years as the department’s highest-ranking officer.

From nearly the start of the mayoral campaign season, Mr. Collins has said he would not keep Chief Diggs in his current role. Whether the chief would retire, be fired, or be demoted was unclear until Thursday.

The Toledo Police Patrolman’s Association endorsed Mr. Collins for mayor, though it “fought for the chief to stay,” union President Dan Wagner said.

“We had a great working relationship with him. We’ve worked very well together, and working together has moved the department forward. It’s improved morale and made guys work harder on the streets and I think that’s reflected in the crime statistics for the first half of the year,” Mr. Wagner said.

Mr. Wagner said he fielded phone calls all day from union members who were upset that Chief Diggs would not continue to lead the department. Some officers said the union never should have endorsed Mr. Collins; others wanted to know what, if anything, can be done to keep Chief Diggs in his third-floor office at the Safety Building.

Morale has improved under Chief Diggs, Mr. Wagner said. The next chief, in addition to a learning curve, also will have to work with a rank-and-file who didn't want to see Chief Diggs go.

"The next chief is going to have one heck of a hurdle," Mr. Wagner said. "There's the sentiment that you're not Derrick and we wanted Derrick."

Mr. Wagner also said a seemingly record-low number of grievances were filed under Chief Diggs' rule — he could recall one or two.

Officers like and respect the chief, in part, because of the advances in technology, Mr. Wagner said.

Since Chief Diggs took the office in October, 2011, the changes to the department have been fairly dramatic.

Chief Diggs vowed, before his first official day as chief, to have a "bold and ambitious plan" to move the department forward.

He introduced data-driven policing, which includes regular meetings with command staff to discuss crime trends and the real-time crime center surveillance camera system. The department brought back its motorcycle unit and now has a canine unit.

More than two years ago, he also said he wanted to re-engage the city and repair a strained relationship between police and the community.

To do so, the Police Probation Team was expanded, more resources were put into the Police Athletic League, at-risk youth went on a prison visit, and five corridors were selected for special policing units that will hit the streets in 2014. The Toledo Community Initiative to Reduce Violence brought gang members into court where officials and concerned citizens told them to stop shooting.

The chief also teamed up with Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp to introduce a downtown Team Policing unit to respond to the concerns of residents and businesses.

The police department is also more visible on the Internet.

The department had profiles on Facebook and Twitter, but they were never used. In May, Chief Diggs appointed Sgt. Kevin Braun to be the department's first digital information officer, charging him with running the online accounts. Since Sergeant Braun took over, the pages have become wildly popular — although they draw occasional criticism. They have almost 13,000 "likes" on Facebook and more than 2,000 "followers" on Twitter.

Chief Diggs' tenure was not without speed bumps, which includes a court battle with The Blade after the city refused to turn over the police department's map of gang territories.

The newspaper created its own map, with the help of gang members, and won a lawsuit against the city in the 6th District Court of Appeals. Though the city still refused to turn over the map, an anonymous source provided the newspaper with the department's official map.

Chief Diggs can claim an apparent drop in crime during the first six months of the year versus the same time in 2012. According to statistics from the department, property crimes were down 23 percent and violent crimes were down 19 percent.

Mayor Mike Bell, who is a close personal friend of Chief Diggs, was not available for comment. Block Watch Chairman Lon Shaver did not return a call seeking comment.

Staff writer Ignazio Messina contributed to this report.

Contact Taylor Dungjen at: tdungjen@theblade.com, 419-724-6054, or on Twitter [@taylordungjen](https://twitter.com/taylordungjen).

Collins will announce Diggs replacement next week

BLADE STAFF



Toledo police chief

Derrick Diggs

THE BLADE

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Toledo police Chief Derrick Diggs will retire Jan. 2, citing “irreconcilable differences in policing philosophy” with D. Michael Collins, the city's mayor-elect.

The chief told Mayor Mike Bell today that he would retire at the end of the mayor's term, according to a news release from Jen Sorgenfrei, city spokesman.

Chief Diggs will “pursue other professional law enforcement opportunities” and Mr. Collins will be able to appoint a new chief.

The chief will not be giving media interviews, police officials said.

Mr. Collins said today, in an e-mailed statement, that he has the "utmost respect for Chief Diggs as an individual."

He said he will announce his candidate for police chief, and other director positions, by Dec. 16.

"This individual shares some of my philosophies on how to best meet the safety needs of our community as defined during my mayoral campaign," Mr. Collins said.

Chief Diggs was appointed as chief in 2011, succeeding Mike Navarre, who retired after 13 years as the department's highest-ranking official.

Chief Diggs is the department's first black chief.

Since his appointment, much has changed, including adding a canine unit, a real-time crime surveillance center, and the Toledo Community Initiative to Reduce Violence.

The Toledo Police Patrolman's Association officials said they hoped Chief Diggs would remain in the position after Mr. Collins takes office. The union supported Mr. Collins in his bid for mayor, but has supported the current chief.

TPPA President Dan Wagner could not immediately be reached for comment.

EDITORIAL

December 23, 2013

Copping out



Diggs

THE BLADE/DAVE
ZAPOTOSKY

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The departure of Toledo Police Chief Derrick Diggs was all but inevitable after Mayor-elect D. Michael Collins defeated incumbent Mike Bell last month. After the election, Mr. Collins asked Mr. Diggs to resign.

The mayor-elect said Friday, in an interview with The Blade's editorial page, that he was stung that Chief Diggs, who worked with Mr. Collins as a police officer, failed to defend him against campaign allegations of racism. Last week, Mr. Collins said he would promote Toledo Police Lt. William Moton to chief, after Mr. Diggs announced he would retire, citing "irreconcilable differences" in philosophy with the new mayor.

Despite these differences, Mr. Collins should respect Mr. Diggs' record of reducing crime, acknowledging the major progress the chief achieved in making Toledo safer through technology and data-driven and community policing.

Mr. Collins says he plans to hire 40 police officers a year over the next four years, which should, with retirements, provide a net increase of at least 10 officers a year. He also wants to focus on community policing, with officers who know the neighborhoods they patrol and the people who live there. No police chief in the country would argue with that.

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But many of Chief Diggs' initiatives are also worth maintaining. After taking office in late 2011, Chief Diggs improved community relations and boosted the morale of his 500-plus officers, despite historically low numbers of officers and demoralizing pay cuts.

He stressed community policing and crime-prevention programs, including options for juvenile offenders and prison visits to Ryan Correctional Facility in Detroit for at-risk youths. He planned to expand the department's domestic violence unit. These are initiatives the new administration should continue.

Chief Diggs also put renewed emphasis on social media. He turned the department's Facebook page into one of the nation's most active police pages.

Under Mr. Diggs, the department used data to target resources on crime "hot spots." He met with high-ranking officers every two weeks to analyze crime data. Commanders were held accountable for crime spikes in their areas.

Those efforts helped drive double-digit percentage decreases in violent and property crimes in Toledo during the first half of this year, according to FBI statistics. Homicides are down 45 percent; rapes, 11 percent; assaults, 23 percent, and burglaries and auto thefts have dropped more than 20 percent.

Mr. Diggs fell short — way short — on communications and transparency, regarding news media as irritants and engaging in an illegal, silly, and ultimately futile fight to prevent The Blade from obtaining the department's gang map.

Mr. Collins expects Mr. Moton to be a far more open police chief. In recent media interviews, Mr. Moton has appeared candid and straightforward, but the real test will come when problems prompt reporters to ask hard questions about policies and procedures. Reporters, like police officers, have jobs to do.

It's encouraging that Mr. Moton wants to build on the data- and intelligence-led policing that Chief Diggs brought to the department. An experienced street cop, he seems to understand the deep-seated mistrust, even animosity, that some community members feel toward cops. No police department can be effective without the support of residents.

Mr. Moton, 68, will serve about one year as chief before he retires under the terms of an incentive program. He said he would use that time to identify a successor. That assumes Mr. Moton's successor will come from within the Toledo Police Department — and it ought to be far too early to assume that.

Mr. Collins told The Blade's editorial page that he's not ruling out hiring a successor to Mr. Moton from outside the department, but he expects another leader to emerge from the ranks of the city force. The new administration appears reluctant to consider executive candidates from outside of Toledo.

That's a mistake. Hiring a police chief from within the department has advantages and disadvantages, but the mayor cannot afford to limit the field of candidates for important jobs.

Toledoans deserve a national search for a permanent chief, whether he or she comes from within the department or outside. Meanwhile, Mr. Collins would best serve the people of Toledo by maintaining police policies and programs that have worked well under Chief Diggs.

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Derrick W. Diggs



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DERRICK DIGGS OBITUARY

Derrick W. Diggs

Derrick W. Diggs, 67, passed away peacefully, on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at ProMedica Toledo Hospital surrounded by family members and friends. Derrick was born on May 25, 1955, to Martha Thompson. He graduated from DeVilbiss High School in 1973, where he was a star quarterback for the football team. He was an inductee of the DeVilbiss High School Hall of Fame in 2013. He also played football at Adrian College where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Political Science. He also earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Toledo.

As a child, in elementary school, Derrick was influenced to become a police officer after a visit to his school by a Toledo Police Sergeant. He accomplished his childhood dream when he became a member of the Toledo Police Department in 1977. He worked in various sections and units on the Department from street patrol to Investigative Services to Community Services. He was promoted to sergeant in 1986; lieutenant in 1990; captain in 1995; and deputy chief in 2001. He was appointed to Chief of Police in

2011, the first African American to attain that position. He served over 46 years in law enforcement, the last few as chief in the City of Fort Myers, Florida. ×

He was a Chief made for the 21st century. He embraced the use of technology to improve police service. He was nationally known for his use of intelligence-led policing which tracked crime patterns and led to reduced crime. He also understood the importance of working closely with community members and partners and worked hard on community engagement programs in Toledo and Fort Myers. He was committed to officers who worked for him and mentored a generation of future leaders on both Departments.

However, not too many people got to witness his other side, the family side. He was a constant source of strength and support to his son, Derrick. Sending texts to constantly remind him to watch his 6, make sure he got the job done, to lead from the front, and take care of his officers. He formed a special bond with Lisa that started off with her being scared and intimidated by him to being best friends and Lisa being his person of comfort when he was at his worst.

The birth of his grandson, Derrick (AKA Diggy), brought out his softer side. They had a very special bond. Only his grandfather could get a six-year-old to wear Dior cologne and Polo brand clothes and then come up with a phrase for Diggy "you can't put a price tag on being full-time pretty". The special time shared with him and Diggy just walking to the mailbox in Florida. The special smiles that appeared on his face when his grandsons told him about their team games and practices. His love for pizza parties with the family. And his newfound use of emojis when sending texts of support and love.

He leaves to cherish his memory son, Derrick D. Diggs (Lisa); sister, Shirley Tucker; grandsons, Ashton Mitchell, Mason Mitchell, and Derrick Michael Diggs and a host of relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents. Derrick will be remembered as a loving and supportive father and grandfather. He will also be remembered as a passionate but kindhearted police officer, public servant, and leader who was committed to serving his community and serving those in need.

Friends are invited to visit from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday February 24, 2023 at Epworth United Methodist Church, 4855 Central Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43615, where services will be held 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 25, 2023. To watch the service via

livestream, go to www.epworth.com. Interment at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park
livestream can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/event/2901558>.



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MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES FOR DERRICK DIGGS

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Rest In Peace Derrick

Samuel Francazio

March 5, 2023

My Friend in Adrian College and teammate and friend on and off the Football field. Samuel Francazio

Samuel Francazio

Friend

March 5, 2023

Derrick was one of the first people I met at Adrian College. He has always been a favorite person in spite of not keeping in touch. He was known for being a tough football player and a kind person. Deepest sympathies to his family.

Beverly Betz Bucar

Friend

February 26, 2023

R.I.P. Derrick. I remember watching you play football at Adrian College. From all the reports I have read regarding your work shows that you were a wonderful person and leader. God Bless you and your family

Sue Heidlebaugh

School

February 25, 2023



May God's Comfort, Peace Strength Healing and Above His Love surround you cousin Shirley , Derrick and family I hear my cousin Dirky aka big boisterous voice this Chief Derrick Diggs is everything are right how's Auntie Mazie do you need anything Stay Strong in thee Lord and in thee Power of His Might Love you Prophetess Janet Dunn and Family

Prophetess J Dunn

Family

February 24, 2023

I met Derrick when i joined the Adrian College football team. I remember how fast he ran and what a natural leader he was. He always seem to work harder than anyone else. It's sad to see him go. God bless him - Opie

Jim Glass

Friend

February 24, 2023

I watched the amazing changes he made in Ft myers. The gangs feared him and he cleaned up that town. I wintered there for years and saw what he did . Rest in peace chief.

Jayne Steiner

Other

February 23, 2023

RIP Derrick, such a loss for both departments. He was my classmate at TPD and was chief with a firm but compassionate hand. We were lucky to have him.

Bill Williamson

February 23, 2023

RIP old friend. Sounds like you lived an amazing life. Go Bulldogs!

Ralph Smith

School

February 23, 2023



Kim Cuthbertson, Fort Myers

February 23, 2023

I remember when Chief Diggs First came to fort myers. I would always see chief Diggs In the community. The last time we met I remember you said to me "continue to excel in everything you do" I live by that now. Thanks for all yu did for the community and the city of fort myers I'll miss you

Henry sparks

Friend

February 23, 2023

It is not often you meet a person like Chief Derrick Diggs. He was proud, humble, encouraging, and compassionate to family, friends, and coworkers. You will be missed but your spirit will live on. My condolences to the Diggs family and to all

that had the privilege to know Derrick.

Rest in Peace, my friend

George Taylor

February 21, 2023

Rest in peace Chief Diggs.

Debi Ortyl Miller

Other

February 20, 2023

Great student/athlete at DeVilbiss High School. It was my pleasure to have the opportunity to coach Derrick his senior year.

James Rance

School

February 20, 2023

Derrick will be missed.

Joe Francis

Friend

February 20, 2023





My Prayers and Condolences to the family. Chief Diggs made a lasting impression on me and the Fort Myers, Florida Community Chief Diggs, believe in me he will truly be missed in this Community. Take your rest, You have fought the good fight of faith and the victory is Won.

Taunya Cola
Friend

February 20, 2023



Rest in peace Chief Diggs. It was a pleasure and a privilege to work for you. You will be missed by so many.

Kimberly Cuthbertson

Work

February 18, 2023

My deepest sympathy to Derrick and family. It was my honor and privilege to be Derricks administrative assistant/Executive Officer for many years at TPD. Beneath Derrick's tough exterior was a bright, gentle, kind-hearted man. Derrick was my friend and mentor, and he will be truly missed by me, my family and the communities of Toledo and Ft. Myers.

Mark King

Work

February 18, 2023



Derrick's smile was infectious; an often serious no nonsense guy would break out this big grin that could light up a room when the mood was right. We are better as a community because of your leadership Chief Diggs... thank you for your service and especially your friendship in both the 419 and the 239! God's speed.

John Mangas

Friend

February 18, 2023

Derrick was a great guy! Such a hard worker and did so much for Toledo. When we would see him at Venturas he would always have a big smile and greet us with a loud Hello and hugs! He will be missed. Thoughts and prayers for his family and friends. RIP.

Marcia Rubini

Friend

February 17, 2023



Fort Myers has been blessed by his leadership! He has touched so many lives. Thank you for sharing your father and grandfather with our community.

Chris

Work

February 17, 2023

I am sorry for your loss Derrick. Your father was amazing father as you know. I loved your father very much and will miss him dearly. We had lots of memories together when we were younger. He is now our angel looking down and when you are sad look up and see his smile. He LOVED you dearly and was very PROUD of you.

I will forever miss you and love you RIP my love.

Debi

Friend

February 17, 2023



Words cannot express the heartfelt loss of Chief Diggs. An amazing leader who always stood behind his agency, this community and what he always believed to be the right thing to do. His mannerisms, quirkiness, and the rare but often times he cracked some jokes will be sorely missed. I was extremely fortunate and honored to serve on his staff.

Chief Diggs accomplished many good things in life by working hard and always following the path of honesty. A person that departs from this earth never truly

leaves, for they are still alive in our hearts and minds, through us, they live on.
God has a beautiful reward for you.

Godspeed "Car 1" rest easy boss, we will take it from here.

Lieutenant Roger Valdivia

Work

February 17, 2023

Most sincere condolences to Chief Diggs' family and friends. He was a pillar in our community and a fine role model, looked up to and respected. He will be sorely missed.

Gloria Klei

Other

February 17, 2023

I was in Police explorers with Derrick and followed his career ever since. He was an awesome person and I respected him alot!

John Roberts

Other

February 17, 2023

Derrick and I were great friends at DHS. He was one of the nicest guys I knew.
RIH my friend

Jan Stefango

February 17, 2023

May you rest in peace, Derrick. You are already sorely missed.

Maria

February 17, 2023

Dear Derrick Jr. and Family,

My role in your father's life was a unique privilege. My job for your father was an honor and responsibility that I never took for granted. My heart hurts knowing that he is not here, and I did not get to say goodbye, and my job is done. Chief always let me know that my team and I did an outstanding job. He was kind, respectful, humble, loyal, incredibly intelligent, and always called me Ma'am.

We prayed for Chief and his health. We prayed for his safety. We prayed that he could return to Fort Myers.

Chief's passing leaves a painfully enormous ache in our hearts, and we are still trying to process his absence.

I'm so sorry that your father is gone, but his legacy lives strong here in Fort Myers and with all who were honored to know him. Chief left an indelible impression and will never be forgotten. We are so grateful to have had him as our Chief of Police. We needed him desperately, and he delivered.

I was well aware of how much you and your children meant to him. He loved you all, his family, very much.

If I can be of any help at all here in Fort Myers, please do not hesitate to reach out.

God bless you all, and may angels surround you as you navigate these difficult times ahead.

Peace and hugs to your hearts...

Sonja R Jacobson (Marr)

February 17, 2023

sorry for every loss a wonderful guy taken way to soo

bryan brownell

Other

February 17, 2023



My deepest condolences and sympathy to his family and friends soo sorry for the loss

Luz Matta

Other

February 17, 2023

Lucky to call him a friend and former colleague.

Rick Reed

Rick Reed

Work

February 17, 2023

R.I.P. I didn't know you personally, but Ok saw the change. To a great man sleep in heaven, job well done.

SHIRLEY D LARKINS

February 17, 2023

IO worked for Chief Diggs on the 3/11 shift. He was my shift Lt. Great man and officer! He was firm, yet fair.

Bill Boardman TPD (Retired)

Work

February 17, 2023

Rest in peace, Chief Diggs.

Debbie Kearns, City of Fort Myers

February 16, 2023



RIP Chief. One of the best if not the best.

Robert (Bob) Duck

Friend

February 16, 2023

Chief Derrick Diggs will truly be missed by all. I personally thank him for his continued support both personally and professionally. Rest in peace Chief and you will definitely rise in power. Condolences to the entire family, the FMPD family and the City of Fort Myers Family. Phyllis Calloway

Phyllis

Work

February 16, 2023

Thank you for your service my you RIP MR DIGGS

Lisa Coffey

February 16, 2023

My thoughts and prayers to the family. RIP Derrick

Kim

February 16, 2023

Thank you for your service.

Eric Rivera

Other

February 16, 2023

Rest in peace, Chief Diggs! Thank you for your 46 years of service in Law Enforcement and the commitment you showed to our town in the last years. Forever grateful for your "Leadership" to our FMPD officers, staff and to my family! You will be missed

My heart goes out to the family. You are an "angel" in heaven, watch over Chief Pepitone and all FMPD officers.

Lourdes Aldana. (FM.FL)

Lourdes Aldana

Work

February 16, 2023

Derrick,

Our family's sincere condolences for your loss. Your Dad was so terribly proud of you for all your many accomplishments. On the Football field or at the grade school Cross Country meets he cheered wholeheartedly for you. I ran into several times and he was so pleased to tell of your law enforcement path. He was a giant in many ways. God rest his soul and comfort you and your family.

Coach Cynthia Boomer and family. St. Charles Borromeo School.

Friend

February 16, 2023

Sergeant Diggs

Your dad was a great friend.

Linda and I have many fond memories at Ft. Myers beach eating breakfast at Pete's Time Out, drinking Yuengling's and eating birthday cake, and burritos at the Cottage. We will dearly miss our friend. Blessings too you and your family.

Gene and Linda

Gene Dulik

February 16, 2023





Chief Diggs called me on the morning of July 21st 2022 just after I was involved in a shooting, just before undergoing surgery. His words of encouragement and his calming voice to remind me that he was behind me 100% is something I will never forget. Rest easy Chief, we have the watch from here.

Glenn Eppler

Work

February 16, 2023

R.I.P. Chief Diggs. God Speed. Rest easy. We'll take it from here.

Jeff Jones (retired, CCPD)

Work

February 16, 2023

I live in Fort Myers and I saw the difference he made in the police force here. His legacy will live on. May he rest in peace

DJ

February 16, 2023



My heart goes out to his family, staff, colleagues & friends. Chief Diggs was a great leader for the Fort Myers, FL Police Department and the community. He was an epitome of a fair and just man. He transformed the police department to become a community oriented organization in such short time. As the Leader of the Fort Myers, FL Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc (POMC), we had a great repo with one another. I saw that he was passionate about serving & protecting the community. He will be greatly missed. Thank You Chief Diggs for your service & dedication to our city!!!

Angela E McClary- POMC Leader

Angela McClary

Other

February 16, 2023

Such a good man.

Mike Dewar

Other

February 16, 2023



Chief Diggs was a true professional in every way. I learned more from him in the last 5 years than I have under any previous Chief during my 32 year career. He was a man of integrity, compassion, knowledge, vision and common sense. His death is a loss to the City of Fort Myers, and American Policing. He will be missed.

Jeffrey A Meyers

Work

February 16, 2023

My condolences to the Diggs family. He was a dear family friend for many years and I feel so fortunate to have known him. I will always remember his smile and his laugh! He had a heart of gold and he will be missed immensely!

Betsy

February 16, 2023

You are forever missed at the Fort Myers Police Department. You were an amazing leader and boss.

Thank you for your lifelong service and prayers of comfort to your family!

Kristin Capuzzi

Work

February 16, 2023

What an honor and pleasure it was to know him.

A great, humble, inspiring, innovative, hard-working man who gave his all. Our condolences to his family, dear friends, colleagues, and classmates. What a wonderful, honorable legacy.

DeVilbiss Alumni & Hall of Fame Committee



Rest in Peace!

Mary Stewart

February 16, 2023

Derrick was not only a great leader he was a great neighbor to our community. He will always be remembered and missed. Richard & Wendy Hayes

Hayes

February 16, 2023

My condolences to the Diggs family. I enjoyed working with Derrick while at LMHA. While we differed in opinions on policing in public housing, I came to realize over the years he was a strong leader. Enjoyed seeing him cheer you on Derrick at St Francis football games back in the day.

Linda McMahon

Work

February 16, 2023

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IN DERRICK DIGGS'S NAME**