



TOWN OF VERNON

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John Kelley, 25-year Veteran of Vernon Police Department, Selected as Next Chief of Police

(VERNON, Connecticut) – The Town Council Tuesday evening approved Mayor Dan Champagne’s appointment of Vernon Police Captain John Kelley as Vernon’s next chief of police.

Mayor Champagne selected Captain Kelley after an extensive review and interview process.

The Town Council endorsed Mayor Champagne’s recommendation to appoint Captain Kelley, effective July 9th. He replaces outgoing Chief James Kenny, who is retiring after 40 years in law enforcement, the last 15 as chief in Vernon.

“Vernon has a long tradition of excellence in its police department and it was important to find a candidate who would continue and build on that legacy,” Mayor Champagne said. “I am confident Captain Kelley is the right person to do that.”

Captain Kelley has served as second in command of the Vernon Police Department for the past six years. Before that, he served as a sergeant and lieutenant and managed patrol officers and detectives and oversaw investigations into serious incidents.

As captain, he has overseen daily operations at the police department and handled internal investigations and labor complaints. He also assumed command and coordinated major incidents in the chief’s absence, and worked with the chief on budgets. He joined the police department in 1996.

“In Vernon we expect town departments and their leaders to provide a high level of community engagement and service to our residents,” Town Administrator Michael Purcaro said. “I look forward to working with John in his new capacity as Chief, and to the contributions he will make to protect and serve our community.”

Captain Kelley grew up in Vernon, graduated from Rockville High School and the University of Connecticut, where he earned degrees in sociology and criminal justice cum laude. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and has continued to receive advanced training. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, having attained the rank of sergeant.

“It’s a great honor to be selected as Vernon’s next police chief,” Captain Kelley said. “I have always been proud to be a Vernon police officer and look forward to leading a group of professionals who have devoted their lives to serving and protecting this wonderful community.”

The new chief continues a family tradition of service to Vernon. His father, Robert E. Kelley, served as Vernon Fire Chief for 21 years and as a firefighter for 42 years.

Captain Kelley is married and has two daughters.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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