Dean M. Esserman



Providence, Rhode Island, Chief of Police Dean M. Esserman has spent virtually his entire adult life in public service as a law enforcement practitioner. Born on September 6, 1957 in New York City, Colonel Esserman served as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn, New York from 1983 to 1987. He then served as General Counsel to Chief William Bratton of the New York City Transit Police from 1987 to 1991. Colonel Esserman was Assistant Chief of Police in New Haven, Connecticut from 1991 to 1993, where he put into effect a community-policing plan, the state's first federally funded drug gang task force, and cut crime city-wide. He then became Chief of Police for the M.T.A.

Metro North Police Department, headquartered in New York City. He served as Chief from 1993 to 1998.

Dean Esserman was appointed in 1998 as Chief of Police in Stamford, Connecticut, where he brought his nationally renowned philosophy of community oriented policing and cut crime by 50%. While in Stamford, he introduced many innovations and developed a national reputation as a police leader. Colonel Esserman was appointed Chief of Police of the City of Providence on January 10, 2003 and presently serves in that capacity.

He also currently serves as the Senior Law Enforcement Executive-in-Residence at the Roger Williams University Justice System Training and Research Institute and serves as a member of the Board of the Police Executive Research Forum and the Vera Institute of Justice.

Dean Esserman is a graduate of Dartmouth College (B.A.), and New York University School of Law (J.D.), and holds a faculty appointment at the Yale University Child Study Center. He is a member of the New York and Massachusetts Bar. He and his wife Gilda have 3 children: Rolando, Nellie-June and Sam.