

## **Kerr Putney**



Deputy Chief Kerr Putney of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is currently assigned to the Field Services Group–North (Patrol–North) that covers the northern half of Mecklenburg County. He oversees 600 patrol personnel (including two majors and six captains) in six of the department’s 13 divisions. Chief Putney also supervises the sworn law enforcement operations at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport.

Chief Putney was hired by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in August of 1992. He served as a patrol officer, a community police coordinator, a member of a division-level Street Crimes Unit, and a recruit training instructor at the police training academy before being promoted to sergeant in 1999.

As a sergeant, over time his duties included supervising radio-response patrol officers, supervising the Central Division’s Street Crimes Unit and Uptown Bicycle Patrol. In that role, he shared responsibilities for organizing and managing special events in the Center City area throughout the year. He developed and implemented operational plans for events to provide security and traffic safety at events like Carolina Panthers games, protests and demonstrations, festivals, conventions and other social functions that were based in the city’s primary entertainment area.

After four years as a sergeant, he was promoted to the rank of captain in 2003 and assigned to Hickory Grove as that division’s commander. In that role, he managed the day-to-day operations and was responsible for 85 sworn personnel. While serving as a patrol commander, he also became one of three SWAT Team commanders. He served as a patrol division commander for two and a half years before he was selected to lead the newly-formed Street Crimes Task Force (SCTF). Under his command, the SCTF was tasked with reducing the number of armed robberies that were affecting the jurisdiction. Because the unit was a new division within the police department, Captain Putney was responsible for establishing the unit’s operating procedures, training program, and new member recruitment functions. He managed the SCTF until his appointment to major in 2006.

As a patrol major for the West Service Area he managed three patrol divisions with approximately 250 sworn personnel. In that role, Major Putney established and managed the West Service Area Crime Reduction Unit (West-CRU), a crime fighting team primarily responsible for combating crime on Charlotte’s westside. The unit arrested more than 600 criminal offenders during his tenure. About half of the arrests made by the unit were for felony offenses. He was appointed to his current rank of deputy chief in 2007.

Before assuming his current responsibilities, Chief Putney served as the deputy chief over the Support Services Group. Support Services consisted of the Special Operations and Community Services Bureaus which included units such as SWAT, Canine, Aviation, Bomb Squad, Forensics Lab, Crime Scene Investigations, Records Division, Communications, and the Police Athletic League. During his tenure, the crime lab established and consistently achieved its goal of a two-week processing turn-around time for all priority cases. He also established and managed the priority offender project that received the Chief’s Award for Excellence in Policing in 2010. The project more than doubled the number of habitual felon charges on criminal offenders over an 18 month period for a total of 416 habitual felon charges.

Chief Putney is the executive sponsor of the Police Training Officer program at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. As a PTO instructor, he helped implement the post-academy

training program in a number of cities along the east coast. He requested and received pilot authority for the police department to implement realistic, practical training and problem-based learning methodologies to train police candidates during basic law enforcement training. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department was the first department in the state of North Carolina to implement the new training concepts. He also serves on a number of civic boards within the city of Charlotte. Chief Putney attended the 217<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy in 2004. He attended the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Senior Management Institute for Police in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Master's degree in criminology from East Carolina University.