

Speaker Bios



Police Chief John Crowell has served with the Montgomery Police Department for 26 years in various capacities, including time as the Assistant Police Chief, a Patrol Sergeant, firearms instructor, and Patrol Officer, and as an Assistant Commander of the Hamilton County Police Association Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

Chief Crowell has graduated from numerous leadership programs including the Leading, Educating and Development Program from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and University of Virginia, the U.S. Army Primary Leadership Development Course, the F.B.I. National Academy. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati and is a U.S. Army veteran.

Chief Crowell has held a Board Member's position in the Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police since 2018.



Fire Chief Paul Wright has been involved in the fire service since 1978 when he became employed by the Montgomery Community Fire Company. He progressed through the ranks to Captain with this organization before accepting a Shift Captain's position with the Mason Volunteer Fire Company in Warren County, Ohio in 1992. He progressed to the rank of Assistant Chief before returning to the City of Montgomery Fire Department where he has been Chief since 1998.

Chief Wright holds many certifications, some of which include Firefighter II, Paramedic, Fire Instructor, HazMat Operations, and Basic Emergency Rescue Technician (BERT). He has attended numerous leadership programs such as the National Fire Service Staff and Command School.

Chief Wright has held a Board Member's position in the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Organization from 1999 through 2012. He has served on the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association (OFCA) Board of Directors since 2001 and held the position of President of the OFCA during the years of 2014 and 2015. He currently is the chair of the Ohio Fire and Emergency Service Foundation which oversees the training programs for the OFCA.

Additionally, he represents the OFCA as their representative to the Great Lakes Division of the International Fire Chiefs' Association.



Assistant Fire Chief Benjamin Shapiro began his fire and EMS career in 1985 with the Sycamore-Montgomery Life Squad and the Montgomery Community Fire Department. He started as a volunteer while going to the University of Cincinnati studying business management. He worked part-time with the private companies until they split in 1993. He continued to work part-time for the City of Montgomery while employed full-time with the City of Monroe from 1996-1998. In 1998, Ben took a full-time position with the City of Montgomery. In 2001, he was promoted to the position of Lieutenant, and in 2014 was promoted to the position of Assistant Chief.

Assistant Chief Shapiro holds many certifications, some of which include Firefighter II, Paramedic, Fire Instructor, BLS Instructor, CPS Instructor, and Advanced Fire Investigator. Asst. Chief Shapiro has completed many leadership programs including the Leading, Educating and Development Program from the University of Virginia, and is the Commander for the Hamilton County Fire Investigation Unit.



Assistant Police Chief Greg Vonden Benken has been a police officer for 31 years. Prior to coming to the City of Montgomery in 1997, Vonden Benken served with the Warren County Sheriff's Office as road patrol in Deerfield Township. As a police officer with the City of Montgomery, Vonden Benken was the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer in Sycamore Community Schools from 2000 to 2003 and was promoted to sergeant in 2003.

Having earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from The Union Institute, Vonden Benken is also a certified National Incident Management Systems instructor. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Leadership College, the FBI National Academy Session #263 and the Leading, Educating and Developing Program at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. Vonden Benken is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force as a crash/rescue firefighter and served at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.