

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island



Office of the Town Manager  
100 Fairway Drive  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
Phone: (401) 268-1501  
[www.northkingstownri.gov](http://www.northkingstownri.gov)

For Immediate Release  
December 22, 2023

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Chief of Police Retires After 35-Year Career with North Kingstown Police Department**

**North Kingstown, RI** — After seven years championing historic progress as the Chief of Police for the Town of North Kingstown, and a total of 35 dedicated years with the Department, Chief Patrick Flanagan recently announced his retirement amid health challenges he is working to overcome.

Flanagan was first hired as a Patrolman in 1988, and worked every position within every shift, prior to being selected as the Chief in 2016. He formed the department's first drug detecting K9 Division after getting certified on his own time with an adopted German Shephard named Heidi. Flanagan was elected Union President as Patrol Supervisor and served in that capacity as a Sergeant and Lieutenant. While a Sergeant in 2003, Flanagan courageously helped prevent a suicide on the Jamestown Bridge by grabbing and pulling a man back to safety after he had climbed over the railing and indicated his desire to jump. Previously, Flanagan received Police Officer of the Year from the Rotary Club in 1999, and has received multiple commendations and letters of recognition for his exemplary police work over the years.

As Chief, Flanagan has led the department to increase 'manning' reaching full complement on each shift. He has upgraded the automotive fleet, upgraded protection and training for officers, and worked to implement a body camera program which goes into effect in 2024. Furthermore, Chief Flanagan set into motion a ride-along program making a licensed clinician available on some calls requiring mental health services, and championed the department's inclusion of Law Enforcement Advocates for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Furthermore, Chief Flanagan mandated every officer be issued Narcan to improve outcomes of overdose survival in the community.

"Chief Flanagan has been absolutely vital to the fabric of this community for decades. His experience and compassion will be sorely missed, but he leaves our Police Department in very capable hands with a Command Staff that has benefitted from his steadfast leadership. I have come to admire and respect Chief Flanagan over these past seven years and know this was a difficult decision for him but I hope it gives him the best opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved retirement," states A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager.

Flanagan was born in France to a military family, and lived in Germany, Hawaii, Kansas, Florida, Virginia, and Massachusetts before coming to Rhode Island. He is a graduate of Salve Regina University and worked on a lobster boat and in private security – including moonlighting as a private security guard for Arnold Schwarzenegger while filming at his alma matter. Flanagan has been married to his wife, Donna, for 32 years. Together, they have two sons.

Please contact Kate Glass, Executive Assistant, at [kglass@northkingstownri.gov](mailto:kglass@northkingstownri.gov) with any questions.

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