

By [Sarah Burghardt](#)  
[Community & People](#) • [Public Safety](#)

# Lenny Austin appointed to Columbia Heights interim police chief

Published August 1, 2017 at 5:04 pm

**Capt. Austin became acting chief of police on July 27**



*(Photo provided by the Columbia Heights Police Department)*

Columbia Heights Capt. Lenny Austin has been chosen as interim police chief and has begun the temporary position on July 27.

Capt. Lenny Austin began serving as Columbia Heights interim police chief on July 27. Austin has been with the department for over 20 years and has served as Captain for the past nine years. As Captain, Austin is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Columbia Heights Police Department. He has also been heavily involved in many community policing initiatives including Big Brothers Big Sisters, the CHPD anti-bullying reading program and the Multicultural Advisory Committee.

Columbia Heights Police Chief Scott Nadeau said, “I know that Captain Austin, who is well respected in the department and agency and in the community, will do an excellent job as the acting chief of police.”

Austin has served as acting police chief in the past, including a 12-week period when Nadeau attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in summer 2014.

“In that time, he did more than just keep things going,” Nadeau said. “He worked with department and community members to accomplish our mission and has certainly proved that he is a skilled and experienced law enforcement leader.”

In a statement, Austin said, “The Columbia Heights Police Department has been a leader in community policing and I look forward to serving as the interim police chief in order to continue the great work that’s been accomplished under Chief Nadeau’s leadership. I would also like to take the opportunity to personally thank Chief Scott Nadeau for his service and mentoring over the last nine years. The CHPD will continue our dedication to the citizens we serve and move forward with our mission of active partnerships in order to enhance the safety and quality of life in the community we serve.”

The City of Columbia Heights will go forward with the process of selecting a permanent police chief. At a July 11 work session, the mayor and council decided to first consider internal candidates then consider an external process if need be.

Filed Under: [Columbia Heights](#), [Public Safety](#)