

Chief Joel P. Dolan, Biography

Chief Joel P. Dolan is the Chief of Police for the Salem Police Department in Salem, New Hampshire, where he oversees more than 100 sworn and civilian employees. Appointed Chief in July 2020, he has led the department through its first CALEA accreditation, modernized policies, reorganized operations for more effective service, and created a Wellness Team to promote the physical and mental health of staff.

Chief Dolan's career in law enforcement began in 1994 with the Conway, New Hampshire Police Department. He went on to serve with the Portland, Maine Police Department as a patrol officer and K9 handler before joining the Salem Police Department in 2003. Over the years, he has held nearly every leadership position within the agency—sergeant, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief—before being appointed chief. His assignments have included commanding both the Operations and Operations Support Bureaus, supervising patrol and investigations, managing community engagement initiatives, conducting internal affairs, and serving as Public Information Officer.

He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (238th Session), the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police, and a recipient of the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award. He also holds a Master of Arts in Administrative Leadership from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Granite State College, graduating with top honors from both programs.

Chief Dolan is President of the Southern New Hampshire Special Operations Unit Council and actively involved in professional organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the FBI National Academy Associates, where he previously served as president of the New England Chapter.

In addition to his professional commitments, Chief Dolan serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem and the Rotary Club of Greater Salem. Known for his focus on professionalism, accountability, and community trust, he is deeply committed to fostering strong partnerships between law enforcement and the community he serves.