



## Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

**REVISED**

**City of Newton**  
**In City Council**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

**7:00 PM**  
**Room 205**

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 7:00 pm. The public may access in-person or virtually via Zoom. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/82874950093> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: **828 7495 0093**

### **Item Scheduled for Discussion:**

**#63-26**      **Appointment of Timothy V. Cohoon as Chief of Newton Police Department**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Timothy V. Cohoon as Chief of  
Newton Police Department. (30 days: 03/04/2026)

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Tarik Lucas, Chair**

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The location of this meeting is accessible, and reasonable accommodation will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [ADACoordinator@newtonma.gov](mailto:ADACoordinator@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.



Marc C. Laredo  
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor

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January 26, 2026

Honorable City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

Honorable City Council,

I respectfully submit a request to this Honorable Council for the approval of the appointment of Timothy V. Cohoon as Chief of the Newton Police Department.

Chief Cohoon will come to Newton after spending the last three years as Chief of the Braintree Police Department. He is an innovative leader in Braintree having contributed to the creation and provided direction for the Braintree Police Crisis Intervention Team, was a founding member of the South Shore Peer Support/CISM Team (later Metrolec CISM), expanded the Drug Control Unit to establish an award-winning team, and formed and led the department's first formal training division.

Former Mayor Ruthanne Fuller and I jointly made the selection of Chief Cohoon after a recommendation by Newton's Police Chief Selection Committee. I am incredibly thankful for the work of all individuals who participated in this process.

Chief Cohoon will take over leadership of an excellent police department with exceptional, well-trained and dedicated police officers committed to protecting our community.

An accomplished and experienced leader, Chief Cohoon believes being an effective leader requires vision, high standards, and a strong team. Importantly, he knows that community trust is essential and that police departments, stakeholders and residents co-produce public safety. As he wrote in his cover letter when applying for the position in Newton, "Without our partners in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, the BPD (Braintree Police Department) would not be nearly as successful as it is now."

During his time as Chief in Braintree, the police department focused on strengthening community trust, modernizing operations, leveraging new technology, supporting department personnel, and working collaboratively with city leadership, residents, and community stakeholders.

Chief Cohoon earned a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice from the University of Virginia, a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Western New England University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. He also

completed several executive leadership training programs, including the FBI National Academy - #285, and P.E.R.F.'s Senior Management Institute for Police.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc C. Laredo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" being the most prominent.

Mayor Marc C. Laredo



# NEWTON, MA EXECUTIVE SEARCH

## Chief of Police

### Timothy Cohoon

Dear Mayor, City Council President, and distinguished members of the Selection Committee:

It is an honor to submit my application materials signaling my interest in becoming the Newton Police Department's next Chief of Police. Currently serving as Braintree Police Department's Chief of Police, I have had the privilege of working alongside many significant leaders and outstanding officers. I am confident in my ability to direct similar advancement toward excellence in responsive, community-centric policing at the Newton Police Department.

In each of my leadership roles at BPD, I have aimed to serve as a change agent and trusted resource both within the department and beyond. My belief that effective leadership requires a strong sense of direction (vision), intentionality, strong teams, and high standards has guided my career in law enforcement and underpins my approach to engaging with community members and stakeholders.

*Representative highlights of my time with BPD:*

- Transformed executive rank structure to expand capacity for addressing current and future challenges and operationalized new model to align with 21st-century policing priorities and heightened compliance requirements.
- Made key contributions to messaging and advocacy that led to the historic override of Braintree's Proposition 2.5, averting potentially damaging budget reductions.
- Implemented key technology enhancements with minimal budget impact, including a gunshot detection system funded through a public-private partnership, upgraded tasers integrated with virtual reality training, and advanced license plate reader cameras to improve operational effectiveness.
- Contributed to the creation of and provided direction for the Braintree Police Crisis Intervention Team's co-response and jail diversion model and oversaw the South Shore Crisis Intervention Team Training and Technical Assistance Center to facilitate a new approach to addressing complex factors influencing criminal behavior.
- Expanded the drug control unit to establish an award-winning team that refocused its efforts toward strategic narcotics investigations versus street-level enforcement.
- Formed and led the department's first formal training division, introducing offerings such as force-on-force simulations and technology-enabled training for working with people experiencing mental health issues.

With a strong background in critical incident response and command, I am a champion for holistic officer wellness and strive to create opportunities to address not only tactical training needs but emotional and

physical well-being. I've seen firsthand how these efforts cascade through the ranks to positively impact interactions with the public as well as help officers effectively navigate the demands of the role.

Police departments need community trust to succeed. Credibility is key. I've worked to embed procedural justice throughout our organization. When constituents feel fairly treated, they're more likely to respect laws, comply with officers, and help prevent crime. This approach must also apply internally. Officers and staff who feel heard, see fair decisions, and receive respect will be more motivated in the mission. This healthy workplace culture naturally leads to better treatment of citizens and constituents.

Outside of BPD, I have also held multiple leadership roles with the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (MetroLEC), where I implemented and strengthened programs that impacted law enforcement effectiveness and promoted change across 46+ communities.

*Contributions included:*

- Founded, along with a group of colleagues, the organization's first formal critical incident stress management team/peer support, which provides resources and debriefings across the metro area and beyond.
- Oversaw SWAT teams deployed to major incidents, including the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing and subsequent manhunt in Watertown.
- Partnered with Daigle Law Group to develop models for SWAT teams responding to incidents involving noncriminal barricaded subjects experiencing mental health issues.

Building partnerships is a cornerstone of my executive leadership approach. I have received formal recognition from partners including the Norfolk District Attorney's Office for contributions to the investigation that led to Lucas Walters' conviction; both the U.S. Department of the Navy and Joint Special Operations Command for training assistance; Cardinal Sean O'Malley of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston for service to the community; and the FBI for my work on the Innocence Lost Task Force.

While recognition is appreciated, these awards mainly highlight the vital importance of responsive alliances in upholding public safety. Without our partners in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, the BPD would not be nearly as successful as it is now. It is imperative that police departments align with stakeholders and citizens to co-produce public safety. This is particularly crucial in a community like Newton, with its 13 distinct villages, several post-secondary schools, and a diverse and varied economic base and population.

A passionate advocate for training to advance the skills of law enforcement professionals as well as community partners, I began delivering active shooter response training to officers in 2001 and quickly branched out to provide preparedness training to school departments and private organizations. As training commander, I led the BPD to be an early adopter of training on compassionate interventions involving people with mental health issues. Gaining expert advice from the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and other police departments, I led the design and implementation of a four-hour immersive course that utilized virtual reality technologies.

A lifelong learner myself, I actively seek out executive-level training to bolster my years of hands-on people management and operational leadership acumen. I completed the FBI National Academy (1% of all LE) in the 2023 cohort, Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police in 2022 (three weeks away at Boston University), and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association's leadership trilogy in 2019. In addition to formal leadership training, I am a passionate reader and student of effective leadership principles, always striving for continuous improvement and growth.

I am proud to have played a role in shaping the Braintree Police Department and derive great satisfaction from my contributions to its guiding ethos of transparency, accountability, and responsive policing. I believe I am well equipped to leverage my steadfast, compassionate leadership approach to guide the Newton Police Department toward similar success.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with the search committee and share my vision for the department.

Regards,

Tim Cohoon



# NEWTON, MA EXECUTIVE SEARCH

## Chief of Police

### Timothy Cohoon

#### SUMMARY

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##### Years of Command-Level Experience

14 years of command-level experience.

##### Education

Master of Science, Criminal Justice, Western New England University

##### Professional Summary

29+ years of experience driving law enforcement and public safety excellence. Executive leader skilled at advancing accountable, transparent organizational cultures and building national, regional, and local alliances to catalyze a multidimensional approach to crime prevention and police reform.

Forwardthinking change agent embracing innovation, modernizing operations, and championing holistic health and wellness initiatives for officers. Collaborative partner who identifies sustainable solutions to budgetary challenges and fosters ongoing dialogue with diverse stakeholders.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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##### BRAINTREE POLICE DEPARTMENT, MASSACHUSETTS

##### Chief of Police

2023 – Present

Selected to succeed outgoing Chief Mark Dubois overseeing 125 staff, including 89 sworn officers. Craft and lead execution of strategic, long-term plans to drive sustainable operations and technology optimization. Build and direct a 4-member executive leadership team. Partner with Mayor Erin Joyce to co-create lasting public safety solutions and reinforce citywide commitment to transparency, ethics, and accountability. Engage with community and diverse stakeholders.

- Reengineered executive rank structure to expand capacity for addressing current and future challenges, creating new Bureau of Investigative Services leadership position and division and operationalizing new model aligned with 21st century policing priorities.
- Supported city government through historic leadership transition to new mayor and municipal executive team amid backdrop of impending budget shortfalls, department attrition, and increased compliance requirements.
- Steered department through potentially catastrophic budget reductions, gaining buy-in from organized labor stakeholders for cost-cutting measures and successfully advocating for city's 1st-ever override of Proposition 2.5, which enabled restoration of critical funding.

- Augmented department's award-winning co-response jail diversion model by partnering with legislators to restore state-level funding and increasing licensed clinician coverage.
- Scaled South Shore Crisis Intervention Team Training and Technical Assistance Center (CIT-TTAC) to position regional hub as highly prolific statewide leader equipping law enforcement with community policing tools.
- Introduced new technologies with minimal budget impact, including gunshot detection system funded via publicprivate partnership, upgraded tasers accompanied by virtual reality training, and improved license plate reader cameras.
- Forged statewide alliances as active member of Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MCOPA) and Massachusetts Major City Police Chiefs Association (MMCC), collaborating with judicial and legislative stakeholders and advocating for balanced implementation of new mandates and increased stakeholder training.

**Deputy Chief of Operations****2020 – 2023**

Earned promotion to oversee Patrol Division, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and Family Services Unit. As a member of 3person executive leadership team, developed department strategy, led 70-member team, and directed seamless operations. Drove state, regional, and local partnerships. Served as public information officer. Optimized 8-figure budgets.

- Promoted environment of whole officer health and wellness with tools and programs designed to enhance well-being and provide teams with cutting-edge tactical training, modern equipment, and timely peer support.
- Championed culture of accountability and transparency, introducing and formalizing policies and practices aligned with department's Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) accreditation earned in 2021 and Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission mandates.
- Made key contributions to organizational redesign proposal that helped win an \$8.1M grant to develop a regional public safety dispatch center to improve resource utilization, upgrade technologies, and enhance collaboration. Coordinated responses with the town of Randolph.
- Led incident command of officer-involved shooting during which 2 officers were shot and K9 Kitt was killed. Organized and commanded K9 Kitt's funeral at Gillette Stadium, attended by thousands of police officers and dignitaries.

**Commanding Officer - Patrol Division****2015 – 2020**

Promoted to lieutenant rank to direct operations and logistics for shifts of up to 25 supervisors, officers, and staff.

- Shepherded team through organizational turmoil and department-wide policy changes to improve and sustain staff engagement and morale following high-profile evidence scandal.
- Fortified alliances with neighboring departments as first-ranking officer on scene in Weymouth following Sergeant Michael Chesna's murder and as peer support facilitator and logistics director for officer's wake and funeral.

- Assumed incident command role during the South Shore Plaza shooting and evacuation and served as tactical commander in a barricaded subject incident following shooting of Braintree Officer Donald Delaney in 2017.

#### **Commanding Officer – Drug Control Unit**

**2014 – 2015**

Chosen to command drug-control unit. Added detectives to expand department's scope and impact. Shaped department strategy and oversaw cases, warrants, and operational planning.

- Formalized and led high-performing unit capable of addressing bigger-picture issues and playing key role in federal cases, multijurisdictional investigations, and high-profile search warrant executions.
- Led unit that won awards from New England Narcotics Officers Association for 2 consecutive years.

#### **Training Division Commander**

**2011 – 2014**

Advocated for, formed, and led department's first training division.

- Pivoted perception of training from compliance-driven to an integral component of officer development and advancement and launched diverse, well-received new offerings, including force-on-force simulations.
- Designed and implemented evidence-based, cutting-edge training for interacting with people experiencing mental health issues, leveraging insights from national and local experts including the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and police departments.
- Enhanced candidate interviewing and selection process as department contact for civil service matters and personnel rules, improving both the candidate and hiring committee experience.

#### **Supervisor – Patrol Division, Bureau of Criminal Investigation**

**2006 – 2011**

Served as detective and detective supervisor within department's Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

- Supervised and investigated high-profile murder of Jeffrey Phillips, which ultimately resulted in a first-degree murder conviction and life sentence without parole for culprit. Recognized by Norfolk County district attorney in 2013 for efforts contributing to successful conviction of Lucas Walters.
- Recognized by FBI for work on Innocence Lost Task Force, a nationwide initiative leveraging resources and intelligence to locate and rescue victims of human trafficking.

#### **Patrol Officer – Canine Handler**

**1996 – 2006**

Excelled in early-career roles. In 2005, initiated 15-year tenure as field training officer (FTO) and specialized tactics instructor. Made key contributions to department's first formal FTO program and authored program's first manual.

#### **METROPOLITAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL**

##### **SWAT and Deputy SWAT Commander, Platoon Leader, Element Leader**

**2005 – 2021**

Held supervisory and command roles for consortium of 46+ local law enforcement departments to deliver mutual aid in support of an 850K-resident population. Culminated tenure overseeing 85 SWAT operators and support staff.

- Formalized event and operations process adopted by MetroLEC's special services unit to facilitate scouting, intelligence gathering, operational planning, and post-critical incident briefing.

- Supervised SWAT teams securing critical infrastructure following the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013 and lent crucial tactical expertise when supervising and deploying with officers during the 17-hour Watertown manhunt.
- Partnered with Daigle Law Group to craft models outlining SWAT teams' role in responding to incidents involving noncriminal barricaded subjects experiencing mental health issues.
- Alongside colleagues, founded and led organization's first formal critical incident stress management team/peer support to deploy evidence-based strategies for supporting officers after exposure to trauma.

## **EDUCATION**

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Master of Science, Criminal Justice, Western New England University

Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Graduate Certificate, Criminal Justice, University of Virginia

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING**

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- FBI National Academy, 2023
- Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP), PERF, 2022
- FBI LEEDA Trilogy, 2019
- Intrenal Affairs Certification, APD Management
- Force Science Analyst Certified, Force Science Institue
- Intentional Leadership, Leaders Helping Leadership Network

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Massachusetts Chief of Police Association (MCOPA)

Massachusetts Major City Police Chiefs Association

Southeastern Massachusetts Chief Association

Norfolk County Chief Association

International Association of Chiefs of Police

## **CAREER & EXPERTISE HIGHLIGHTS**

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- Executive Leadership: Overhauled Braintree Police Department's executive rank structure to better leverage staff and resources, introducing new model aligned with law enforcement and community response best practices.
- Change Management: Shepherded department through challenging financial landscape, implementing cost-saving measures and sustaining officer morale without sacrificing public safety priorities.

- Next-Generation Policing: Built and expanded department's award-winning co-response and jail diversion model pairing licensed clinicians with police officers. Successfully advocated for continued funding of this mission-critical public safety model.

## **SELECT COMMUNITY & ADVISORY LEADERSHIP**

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### **BRAINTREE POLICE WORKING DOG FOUNDATION**

**Executive Director**

**2004 – Present**

Head administration, financial management, and fundraising for nonprofit organization founded to support costs associated with police department's K9 unit. Raised funds for permanent memorial honoring K9 Kitt, killed in the line of duty.

### **SYNERGY SOLUTIONS**

**Trainer & Consultant**

**2003 – 2021**

Provided law enforcement training, critical incident response and mitigation, and emergency planning consultation for public and private institutions. Augmented Municipal Police Training Committee offerings with high-quality tactical instruction.