



THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

February 9, 2021

2020- 2021 Board Members

President Jerald Coughter

Pres Elect Carol Hardison

Past Pres John Lassiter

Secretary Bill Bradley

Treasurer Edwin Peacock

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

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Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

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Patrick Baker

Bill Bartee

Suzanne Bledsoe

Kim McMillan

Rex Reynolds

Ranjay Sarda

John zumBrunnen

Membership Clyde

Robinson

Foundation John Tabor

Programs Elly Clary

Jeff Atkinson

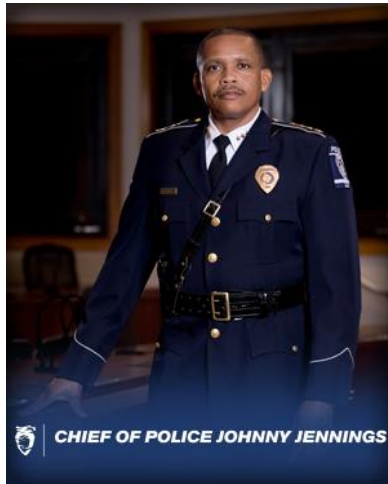
Cheryl Banks

Bill Bartee

Bill Bradley

Kim Brattain

David Tobin



CMPD Chief Johnny Jennings

By Jim Kelley

[Cheryl Banks](#) introduced CMPD Chief Johnny Jennings. Sworn into office July 1, 2020, Jennings is an innovative and forward-thinking public servant who uses strategic and technological solutions to positively impact operations and produce data-driven results.

Jennings joined the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department as a member of the 108th recruit class in May of 1992.

He has held a variety of positions and ranks throughout the organization including sergeant over criminal intelligence, patrol sergeant and captain over the North Tryon Division, major over intelligence, investigations, special operations, Office of Professional Responsibility and deputy chief over patrol, special services, administrative services and the support services groups including the Community Services Bureau.

Some of Jennings' noteworthy career achievements include the following:

- Developing and implementing the CMPD's paid college internship program to assist with recruitment and retention
- Led planning and operations for major events such as the NBA All-Star game in 2019 and Billy Graham's funeral in 2018
- Led intelligence and coordination efforts with federal, regional, state and local partners for the Democratic National Convention in 2012
- Crime Reduction Award recipient

He has served as the President of the North Carolina Police Executives Association and as the Vice President of the National Organization for Black Law Enforcement Executives.

Jennings obtained a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Appalachian State University and a master's in business administration from Pfeiffer University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police.

Jennings, a native of Jefferson City, Tennessee, played football as an All-American linebacker at Appalachian State University and was inducted into the Appalachian State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 2020, Chief Jennings was close to retirement but decided to put off retirement and take on the responsibility as chief. The death of George Floyd in May of 2020 gave him a different perspective to his work and the work of the entire police force. They changed their mission statement, their vision statement and changed their approach to policing. The previous mission statement had been written in 1994. The new mission statement is "CMPD implements solutions and expands collaborative relationships within our organization and community to enhance trust, fairness and respect, to increase public safety." Their vision statement is "We envision becoming the trusted, respected and sought-after community partner by serving our citizens and taking care of our employees."

Jennings' focus for the work of CMPD is on four core values that guide everything they do – The CORE 4. The CORE 4 is community collaboration, crime management, personnel accountability and employee wellness. In **community collaboration**, the focus is on getting more input on how CMPD does its job and how they can do their job more effectively. Each of their 13 divisions reports to the executive command and Jennings is inviting some community members to sit in on those report meetings and give some feedback to the officers. In **crime management**, you can't arrest yourself out of crime so the focus is on crime management not crime fighting. CMPD wants to help on the front of crime by focusing more on diversion, classes and job opportunities. In **personnel accountability**, CMPD wants to hold all accountable. Rookies can help more experienced officers and vice versa. In the George Floyd situation, the younger officers could have stepped in to stop the more experienced officer from the action he was taking. In **employee wellness**, CMPD wants officers to take care of themselves. Jennings provides an on staff clinical psychologist to help with their mental health. He also wants to reinforce a customer service focus like Chick Fil A does. He has hired the DiJulius Group to help with that effort.

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/510388376>