

# **TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO**

Town Manager's Office 230 Main Street Brattleboro, VT 05301  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**TO:** Local Media

**Date:** September 11, 2020

**From:** Town Manager's Office

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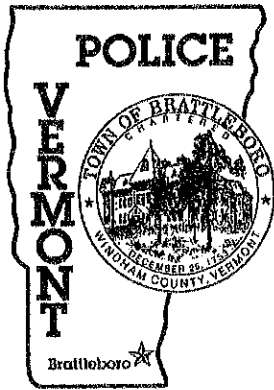
### **For Immediate Release:**

Brattleboro Police Chief Michael Fitzgerald has announced his intention to retire, effective January 1, 2021. Chief Fitzgerald was born and raised in Brattleboro. After 20 years of service in the United States Marine Corps, he returned to this area in 2000 and joined the Brattleboro Police Department as an entry-level police officer. He performed well and rapidly rose through the ranks, being promoted to Lieutenant in 2005, Captain in 2008, and Chief in 2014. His tenure as Chief has been noteworthy for his commitment to building relationships between the Police Department and the community, consistent with the department's mission statement that differentiates between "people who need our help, people who have made a bad decision, and people who are intentionally causing harm to others."

Town Manager Peter Elwell said that Fitzgerald's leadership will be missed far beyond the Police Department. "He has provided steady, progressive leadership inside the department," said Elwell, "but he also has made a positive impact as a teammate to other Town employees and as a community leader involved in a wide variety of projects that extend beyond traditional police work into matters of equity and community well being."

Fitzgerald also highlighted his broader community engagement, saying that "working together in partnership on community policing initiatives we forged the way forward through collaboration to address not only crime but many quality of life issues as well." He thanked the BPD officers who have been his most immediate colleagues, stating that it is "impossible to quantify the many acts of bravery, kindness, and concern that our officers perform each day" and that "I am deeply grateful for their acts and for the privilege of working beside them for the past 21 years."

Chief Fitzgerald's retirement letter to Town Manager Elwell is attached to this news release.



**BRATTLEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**62 BLACK MOUNTAIN ROAD**  
**BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT 05301**  
**(802) 257-7950**



*Michael R. Fitzgerald*  
*Chief of Police*  
*FBI NA Session #256*

September 8, 2020

Dear Peter,

I submit this letter in anticipation of my retirement which becomes effective at midnight on Friday January 1, 2021.

Serving as police chief under your leadership has been one of the great honors of my professional life and as I tender this resignation, I also tender my thanks. During my 21 years of service as a police officer for Brattleboro, I have never been better resourced or more fully supported by any Town Manager. From equipment, to training, to technology, to policy, you have stood by the department and made much of what we have accomplished possible.

Thanks are also due to the officers and citizens of Brattleboro. Working together in partnership on community based policing initiatives we forged the way forward through collaboration to address not only crime but many quality of life issues as well. None of this would have been possible without your support and leadership.

Public safety is a shared responsibility, however, law enforcement will always carry the larger burden. It is impossible for me to quantify the many acts of bravery, kindness and concern that our officers perform each day but I am deeply grateful for their acts and for the privilege of working beside them for the past 21 years.

Thank you again for the extraordinary privilege and opportunity to serve you and the citizens of Brattleboro.

Respectfully,

Michael R. Fitzgerald