

William J. Hayes
Chief of Police
Town of Bedford Police Department – Bedford Hills, NY

William Hayes has been the Chief of Police for the Town of Bedford since 2010. He began his career in 1986 as a police officer with the Carmel Police Department, and transferred to the Westchester County Police before settling in with the Bedford Police Department in 1998.

Chief Hayes holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Mercy College and a Master's Degree in Management from the Johns Hopkins University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, 226th session. He is currently pursuing a second Master's Degree at the Naval Postgraduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security in Monterey, California.

Chief Hayes has a wide range of public safety experience that has enriched his law enforcement career. He was a volunteer firefighter, is an EMT, deployed to the World Trade Center disaster as a member of Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) NY-2, served as a general topics, firearms, an active shooter instructor, Field Training Officer, and has been a contract pilot for the Aviation Unit of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department. Chief Hayes currently serves on the Westchester Regional EMS Council, Westchester County Arson Task Force Executive Committee, the New York State Counterterrorism Zone 3 Executive Committee, and is in the instructor cadre of New York State's Emergency Management Office teaching ICS-300 to homeland security professionals from diverse disciplines.

During his tenure as Chief, the Bedford Police Department has received best-practices recognition for its sex offender management program, and has twice received first-place recognition in the New York State Traffic Safety Challenge.

Chief Hayes views Law Enforcement as a profession to be held in the highest regard, and feels that in order to best serve our communities we must invest in the most qualified personnel. He seeks to instill a sense of responsibility and pride within the ranks for innovative ideas and exceptional performance. With progress as a driving force, he promoted the first Hispanic Lieutenant in the department's history. He has also created the first Spanish speaking officer positions in the department, and has Latinos among civilian positions. The Bedford P.D. quite proudly, has a number of non-Latino Spanish speaking officers as well, and together the entire Bedford Police Department works in partnership with the community in order to meet the community's needs.

The Bedford Police Department is actively involved in several community education and outreach programs including a Police Explorers program, created in 2010, the Youth & Police Initiative to strengthen relationships with at-risk youth, the Westchester Youth Police Academy, a Child Passenger Safety Seat program, a Community Emergency Response Team, and has a full time School Resource Officer assigned to one of the Bedford's two public school districts.

Bill is married to his wife Zulma that shares his vision, herself a retired police officer. They have an 18-year-old daughter, a 12-year-old son, and a 7-year-old daughter. They enjoy traveling throughout the U.S. and abroad, and spend their down time planning their next adventure.