

Mayor chooses Michelle Kott as next Police Chief

The Bethlehem Gadfly Police September 24, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts about the Bethlehem Police* 

[press release](#)

Mayor to Submit Captain Michelle Kott to City Council for Approval as Next Chief of Police

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Bethlehem Mayor Bob Donchez announced today that he will submit to City Council the name of Captain Michelle Kott to be the next Police Chief of the City of Bethlehem.

Captain Kott has been with the Bethlehem Police Department since 2004. During her tenure, she has served in a variety of roles: Patrol Officer, Crime Scene Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Detective Lieutenant, Captain, Professional Standards Division and is a team leader for the City's Crisis Negotiation Team.

Captain Kott is a graduate of Marian Catholic High School in 2000, DeSales University, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice, 2004, St. Joseph's University, Master of Science, Criminal Justice, 2010, and recently received her Doctorate in Criminal Justice from California University of Pennsylvania in 2019.

Donchez said that Captain Kott will bring a new energy, and a new perspective to the Department. She is a strong advocate of Community Policing, Community Partnerships, and additional training in the areas of mental health, cultural awareness, de-escalation tactics, implicit bias, and crisis intervention.

Mayor Donchez states that the Bethlehem Police Department has been viewed as a progressive department. It has been certified by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) and

the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

“During these challenging times, I believe the Bethlehem Police Department must be as transparent as possible and provide as much information as possible to the public.” Said Mayor Donchez.

Since the tragedy in Minneapolis, MN, the following information has been made public:

- Report on Citizen and Police Interaction 2015-2019
- A Report on the Use of Force by the Bethlehem Police Department.
- Policing in the City of Bethlehem/Operational Statistics 2019.
- Use of Force Directive Number 3.1.1.

I am looking forward to working with Captain Kott as we continue to move the Department forward and as we continue to serve the citizens of Bethlehem.