

Mark Barnard

Chief Mark Barnard is a 30 year veteran of the Lexington Police Department. He was appointed to serve as chief by Mayor Jim Gray, and was sworn in as the Chief of Police on January 12, 2015. Throughout his three decade career he has distinguished himself as a respected leader, skilled problem solver, and compassionate public servant.

Prior to becoming chief, Chief Barnard served in nearly every major section of the Lexington Police Department. Each assignment enhanced his professional knowledge and administrative experience, and officers in each section benefitted from his sound guidance and significant expertise. In addition to his varied management and leadership roles within the Lexington Police Department, Chief Barnard also had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of civic organizations and on several major community projects.

Chief Barnard is dedicated to enhancing the Police Department's ongoing commitment to quality of life community policing and will work tirelessly to ensure that the citizens of Lexington, as well as visitors to Fayette County, continue to enjoy a safe community in which to live, work and play. Chief Barnard realizes that citizens expect and deserve their police officers to possess the utmost integrity, to be adaptable to evolving challenges, and to be committed to delivering exemplary public service to all members of the community. Chief Barnard will strive to consistently meet these expectations, as well as to advance the development of formal and informal leadership skills and heighten professionalism throughout the organization.

Chief Barnard is a proud alumnus of Eastern Kentucky University. He earned a Master's degree in 2008 and a Bachelor's degree in 1986. Chief Barnard has maintained a professional affiliation with ECU, sharing his knowledge with future members of the criminal justice profession as an adjunct professor at ECU's College of Justice and Safety. Chief Barnard was honored by his alma mater in 2014 by being presented with the Eastern Kentucky University College of Justice and Safety Distinguished Alumnus award. Chief Barnard has been married to his wife, Gaye, for 28 years. Gaye and he are also the proud parents of two talented daughters, both of whom are currently attending college. Chief Barnard enjoys volunteering with various youth programs throughout the community.