



City of Avon  
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## **Chief Richard Bosley**

### **Richard Bosley Chief of Police**

Avon's Chief of Police brings his vast experience, dedication and, most importantly, his passion for community policing to the job.

Chief Richard Bosley has held the position since October 2011. In 1990 he began his career in Grafton, which is a southern Lorain County rural area. While there he was a member of the Lorain County SWAT Team. Then he moved into a position in Elyria in 1994.

"Elyria is a microcosm of a large urban, inner city assignment," said Bosley in a recent interview. There he worked as a patrolman and a detective and became a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team.

For one and a half years, the Chief served in the narcotics unit and learned how devastating the drug crisis can be and is throughout Lorain County. "I know one thing for sure," he said, "you can't arrest your way out of this problem."

"With drugs and alcohol, you have to take a more proactive approach," Bosley continued. "You have to get down to the neighborhood level, work the streets and teach the community how to avoid the traps that at first are difficult to see when pressured by peers or the stresses related to poverty and unemployment."

The Chief described his experience as a detective as a more reactive approach. "You're always trying to solve a case," he said. "It's especially interesting when you're able to close a case that you didn't think you would be able to."

In 1999, Bosley joined the Avon Police Department. He served as a patrolman, detective, sergeant and captain prior to being named chief in 2011. Asked if his lifelong dream was to become a chief, he would have said no.

"I really liked being a patrolman," said Bosley. "One of my best assignments was my original job in Grafton. I liked being the police officer that responded to a resident's concern whether they have been a victim of a crime or if the problem was more of quality of life issue. I liked helping with preventative initiatives like block watches and community education. I did that in Elyria some as well."



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Bosley's passion is working to prevent crime using a model known Community Policing. Community Policing is defined by the United States Department of Justice as follows:

Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

One initiative the Chief has implemented since taking the position is allocating two part time patrol officers to the school settings. Known as School Resource Officers (SRO), one is primarily assigned to the Middle School and another to the High School. Feedback from parents, teachers and students has been overwhelmingly positive after only one year of the program.

When asked to forecast what other programs may be implemented in the future, Chief Bosley said, "We're thinking about branching out and starting a Citizens Police Academy which would allow residents to learn about the department and the job.

"We have also initiated the "Test my Teen" program in the department and the "Teen Home Alone Program" to help in combating the peer pressure associated with drug use and underage drinking parties," said Bosley. We would like to continue to be more involved in our neighborhoods through community meetings and community events.

"Also, we would like to increase the number of SRO's by at least one. While the elementary schools have some access now, it would be better to have an officer just for that assignment," said the Chief.

Finally, the Chief talked about the increasing crisis around prescription drug abuse, which is known to lead to heroin addiction. "This needs as much attention as we can possibly give it," he said. "Again, you can't arrest your way out of this. It's got to start and it will only end on education."

Chief Bosley lives in Wellington with his wife Brenda and son Andrew.