


Asheville introduces 3 finalists for police chief's job

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ASHEVILLE, N.C. (WLOS) — Asheville leaders on Tuesday introduced the three men who are finalists to be the city's next police chief.

Asheville police chief finalists

WLOS

Asheville has been without a chief since Chris Bailey resigned in September for personal reasons. He lasted just 60 days on the job. 

ADVERTISING

James Nolette is the assistant chief of police in Fayetteville, a department that employs 608 (474 sworn officers). He is the assistant chief over the Field Operations Bureau and is responsible for 400 employees. Nolette has a masters in public administration from the university of North Carolina at Pembroke and a bachelors of science from Campbell University. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division's 782nd Main Support Battalion.

He spoke a lot on his passion for his family. He also called himself a proven leader, who's still learning everyday.

"Ultimately, I'm not a politician. I'm just a cop who really loves what he does, and is passionate about what he does and is passionate about the people he works with and is passionate about the people he works for," said Nolette to the community Tuesday night.

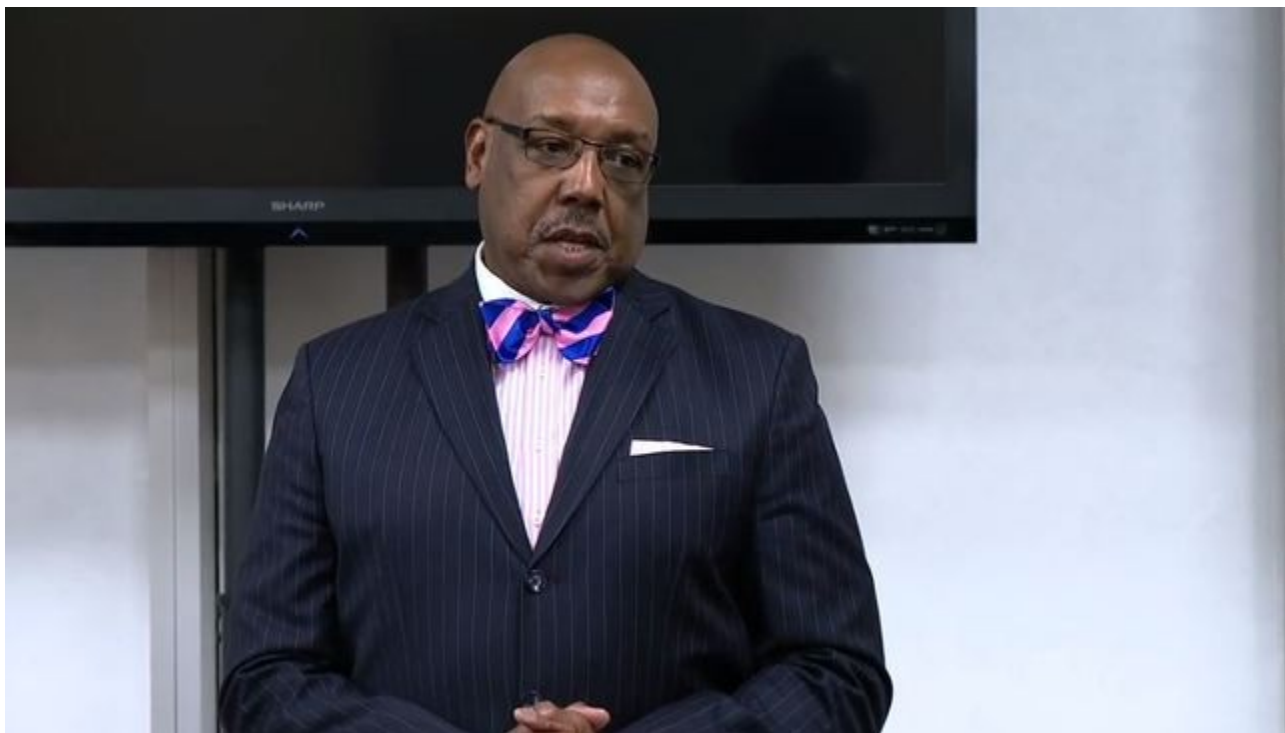


James Nolette (Photo: WLOS Staff)

Maurice Robinson is a captain in the Cincinnati Police Department, which employs 1,154 (1,021 sworn officers). He is commander of the Criminal Investigation Division and is responsible for 88 employees. Robinson has a master of science degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati and a bachelors of arts degree from Northern Kentucky University.

He focused mostly on his accomplishments Tuesday night, and the policies and procedures he's implemented in his department.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is, during my time as commander of the planning section, we had to do a major overhaul of our use of force policy because unfortunately change happens when something doesn't go well," said Robinson.



Maurice Robinson (Photo: WLOS Staff)

David Zack is police chief in Cheektowaga, New York, which employs 250 (130 sworn officers). Prior to being chief, Zack was a captain in the department, overseeing the Investigative Division. He has a bachelors of science degree in criminal justice from Hilbert College, where is also an instructor. He is also an instructor for the University of Tennessee National Forensic Academy.

Zack told the community the three things he'll bring to Asheville are stability, experience and proven success.

"We (Cheektowaga PD) are a hidden secret of law enforcement in the United States. What we've been able to accomplish there, we're very proud of it. Work goes on every single day and it's a good story, and I'd like to tell it here," added Zack.



David Zack (Photo: WLOS Staff)

Tuesday night, each candidate introduced himself to the community and discussed his leadership vision. That was followed by a chance for the candidates to mingle with community members.

This is what we should happen all the time when you gonna have somebody that's gonna be in the community," said resident Evelyn Herron.

"I think it's absolutely critical for the City of Asheville to have community involvement in the selection of their next Chief of Police," added community member, John Haas.

The pool of candidates was narrowed down after a nationwide search done in partnership with Police Executive Research Forum Consultants.

Asheville City Manager Debra Campbell plans to name a chief by the beginning of January.

