How to Be Successful Police Chief

Job Description

The main job of the police chief is to supervise or keep an eye on the nature and level of work and duties performed by the police force. The police chief has to perform several administrative, supervisory and technical duties. He has to interact with different social communities and individuals to discuss the safety measures that need to be formulated for the safety of the citizens. The aim of the police chief is to reduce overall crime in the city.

Responsibilities of the Job

The police chief is the person responsible for reducing events of crime like theft, robbery and street crime in the city. Together, the chief with the rest of force is entrusted with maintaining law and order, keeping crime on check and ensuring peace in the region. The police chief has an array of responsibilities. Some of these are listed here:

- Successfully resolving all law-related matters with full confidence
- Resolving the complaints of the citizens as soon as possible
- Meeting other important city officials and citizens and helping them in formulating law enforcement policies
- Working coordination with the team members and provide them assistant in their work activities
- Distributing work, projects and assignments to staff members and then monitoring the progress of the project
- Performing duties as assigned by higher authorities
- Consulting the mayor and the city manager to inform them the needs and requirements of the police department
- Traveling to different locations as ordered by the supervisor.
- Planning out goals and objectives that are to be achieved and participating in development and implementation of policies and procedures.

Educational Qualifications Required

A bachelor's degree is a must for anyone aspiring to a career in the police. Knowledge on subjects such as sociology, economics and mathematics are of additional advantage. Aspirants to the job must have complete knowledge of rules and regulations of the government. A person must possess many years of experience of working with the police department, before he or she gets gradually promoted through excellent service record to the plum position of police chief.

Skills Required

For a successful career as a police chief, a person needs to possess the following skills:

- Good logical ability with excellent decision making skills.
- Knowledge about developing and planning necessary budget
- Excellent analytical skills and ability to take important decisions
- Eagerness to always help people
- Good listening skills to understand people's requirements and ask them questions accordingly
- Very good technical knowledge and the ability to safely handle weapons, computers, the radio and other sophisticated equipment
- Good presence of mind and ability to gauge people's reaction and thought
- Good interpersonal skills to continuously interact with people from various backgrounds
- High degree of physical fitness
- Ability to prepare top-level reports and maintain an extended database of information
- Ability to work under stressful conditions
Expected Salary

The average compensation offered to the police chief is around $50,000 which, however, varies from region to region. Apart from the salary, there are numerous other benefits that come with this job.

Career Outlook

Apart from a good salary and varied benefits, the job of a police chief also comes with tremendous power and high prestige. After certain years of experience, the police chief may be promoted to the post of the commissioner. One must, however, go through numerous, rigorous mental as well as physical tests apart from having decades of proven track record before being selected for this highly coveted and challenging job.