

CHIEF JAMES E. CRAIG

(RET.)

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-ABOUT THE AUTHOR- JAMES E. CRAIG (RETIRED CHIEF OF POLICE)

Chief James E. Craig's remarkable journey in law enforcement is a powerful testament to a career defined by resilience, reform, and a profound commitment to community. It is a story that began in his hometown of Detroit, a city he would one day return to lead through its most challenging modern era. In 1977, Chief Craig started as a patrol officer with the Detroit Police Department, but a period of departmental layoffs led him to the other side of the country.

For the next 28 years, Chief Craig honed his skills with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), where he ascended the ranks, holding a series of high-profile patrol and investigative positions. As a Captain III, he was celebrated for his ability to implement innovative strategies that led to tremendous reductions in crime, all while fostering stronger partnerships with the diverse communities he served. This period was crucial; it was here that he developed the foundation of his leadership philosophy—one rooted in accountability, data-driven problem-solving, and the belief that a police department's strength is measured by its relationship with the people.

This philosophy was put to the test when he was appointed Chief of Police for the Portland, Maine, Police Department in 2009. There, he commanded a force of 215, reducing violent crime by 10% through a comprehensive CompStat process that focused on command accountability. He also enhanced community policing efforts by creating a Chief's Community Advisory Board, demonstrating his commitment to collaboration. His success continued in 2011, when he became the 13th Chief of Police for the Cincinnati Police Department—the first African American and person from outside the city to hold the position. Leading a department of 1,500, he revitalized officer morale and productivity, proving that effective leadership from the top can directly improve outcomes on the street.

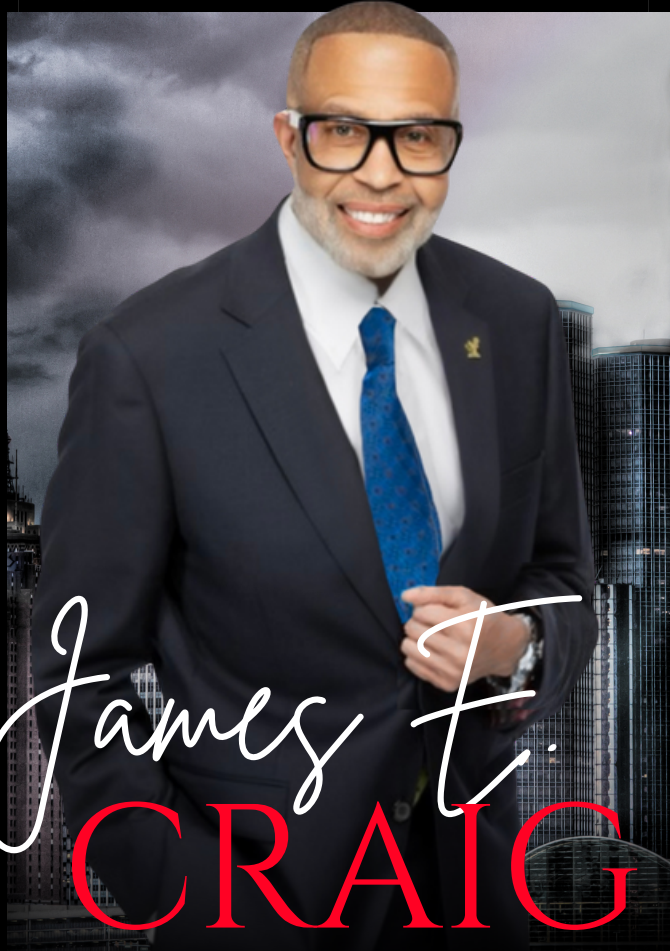
On July 1, 2013, Chief Craig's career came full circle with his appointment as the 42nd Chief of the Detroit Police Department. He arrived at a pivotal moment, as the city was on the brink of the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. As Chief, he not only navigated the complexities of this crisis but was also retained by the incoming mayor, a rare show of bipartisan confidence. His eight-year tenure was marked by significant improvements to the department's organizational structure, a redefinition of community partnership, and a measurable reduction in crime.

His leadership was so highly regarded that he was appointed Deputy Mayor while retaining his duties as Chief, a singular position that underscored his integral role in the city's recovery and stabilization. Upon his retirement in 2021, Chief Craig entered the political arena, launching campaigns for Michigan Governor and U.S. Senate.

Though his campaigns ended due to extenuating circumstances, his presence consistently resonated with voters, and he often led the GOP ticket. Most recently, he again sought to serve the city he loves, launching a campaign for Detroit Mayor. While his candidacy for Mayor ended with the primary election on August 5th, 2025, it further underscored his deep-seated desire to serve his community.

A regular law enforcement expert on local and national news outlets including Fox News, Fox Business, Newsmax, NewsNation and CNN, Chief Craig holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from West Coast University and a Master of Management degree in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix.

He is also a graduate of the esteemed Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy. His journey is a masterclass in modern leadership—a story of integrity, adaptability, and the enduring power of a leader who has dedicated his life to answering the call to serve...!!!!



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This is the compelling story of Chief James E. Craig, whose journey in law enforcement began in Detroit in 1977, only to circle back decades later to lead his hometown police department through one of its most challenging eras. From his formative years with the Los Angeles Police Department, where he honed his skills in crime reduction and community engagement, to his transformative tenure as Chief in Portland and Cincinnati, Craig developed a leadership philosophy centered on accountability, collaboration, and unwavering dedication to the safety of the communities he served...

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BEYOND THE BADGE

The background of the book cover features a portrait of James E. Craig, a man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit and a blue patterned tie. He is smiling and has his hands clasped in front of him. Behind him is a large American flag, with the stars and stripes clearly visible. The overall tone is professional and patriotic.

JAMES E. CRAIG

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