

Effective Aug. 1, Gov. Andy Beshear has appointed Robert Ratliff as executive director of the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. His background in law enforcement and highway safety will bring a continued commitment to enhancing public safety through law enforcement education and training.

Ratliff has 34 years of local law enforcement experience with 10 of those years spent managing, directing and supervising the 55 members of the Ashland Police Department as their Chief of Police.

As executive director, Ratliff will support law enforcement training and certification needs that are submitted to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council for review and approval. All law enforcement and dispatcher training must be pre-approved by the council. The council must also approve new hires, officer decertification, instructor certifications and training academies.

“Kentucky’s officers and dispatchers must have quality and reliable access to training. When our heroes are trained with the latest technology and community resources, they are better protected in their jobs and our communities are safer,” **Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Keith Jackson** said. “Director Ratliff is ready to continue moving law enforcement forward and provide them with new resources while also ensuring the best of the best are serving our commonwealth.”

In 2008, Ratliff was appointed by former Gov. Steve Beshear to serve on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council, where he served for eight years and chaired the Peace Officer Professional Standards Committee. Immediately prior to being appointed as executive director, he was a law enforcement liaison for the Kentucky Association of Chiefs and Police and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Highway Safety. During his career, he served with the Ashland Police Department beginning in 1982. Before retiring in August 2016, Director Ratliff served in various leadership roles within the department before serving as Chief of Police. Ratliff has also served as president, vice president, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms for the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, and a member of the Department of Criminal Justice Training’s police executive command council. He graduated from Ashland Community and Technology College with a degree in criminal justice.

“The law enforcement profession is rapidly changing, and Kentucky is on the cutting edge of law enforcement and dispatch training, certification and decertification,” said **Executive Director Ratliff**. “It is because of the administration’s commitment to supporting our law enforcement agencies that we have seen progress made in reducing overdose deaths and decreasing serious crimes rates – including a decline in homicide rates over the past three years. And Kentucky is just getting started. Through the council’s continued improvements and support, our commonwealth will become a national leader in public safety.”