

Dion Campbell is the Chief of Police for the Michigan City Police Department. He is a 22-year veteran and has served in various capacities on the department including School Resource Officer, Detective, Community Liaison Officer and Hostage Negotiator.

Chief Campbell is a lifelong resident of Michigan City who attended Marquette High School. He graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications.

Chief Campbell is the creator and founder of the Michigan City Police Department Youth Leadership Academy. He's received recognition for the creation of the academy from Leadership LaPorte County via the Spirit of Leadership Award.

Currently, Chief Campbell is involved in the Bridge to Manhood (BTM) program as the lead instructor. The BTM program gathers young men from 13-17 years of age and teaches them vital manhood principals.

Over the years, Chief Campbell has received various awards, citations, and recognition for achievements as a member of law enforcement and outside of his career.

Chief Campbell has been married to LaRonda for 30 years. They have three adult children and a 16-year-old.



Leadership During a Turbulent Time

On May 31, 2020, the City of Michigan City experienced something that will be written in the archives. Due to the worldwide outcry sparked by the death of George Floyd, Michigan City estimated a protest of approximately 1000 participants. This protest had a high potential of violence and property damage. However, under the leadership of Michigan City Police Department Chief Dion T. Campbell, the City of Michigan City experienced a different outcome that was unique to most protests in multiple jurisdictions in Indiana, other states, and other countries.

In the evening hours, multiple protesters converged to the Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets. Due to Chief Campbell's pre-planning of having law enforcement personnel already assigned to that area, they called for assistance and soon other personnel arrived to assist with keeping the protestors, who had at this point showed all signs of transitioning from protestors to rioters, out of the shopping area. A human blockade was formed by law enforcement personnel to keep the shopping area secure.

Chief Campbell engaged the crowd through verbal communication. Soon he was surrounded by protestors who were speaking over him, questioning, and asking why he wasn't standing with them, agitating others to join them, etc. As this was happening,

protesters were making derogatory statements, yelling, and throwing objects at law enforcement.

Chief Campbell expressed sensitivity for the cause for the protest while challenging the protesters to be a part of the solution opposed to being a part of the problem. He let them see their value and how what they had to say was important. He made the protestors feel like they were in good hands and that community policing could be accomplished in developing a strong relationship between law enforcement and the citizens.

As Chief Campbell patiently engaged the crowd more meaningfully and thoughtfully, the crowd began to disperse. The protesters, who at one point challenged him were the same ones who asked to converse further and inquired about making an appointment for a future meeting with Chief Campbell.

Chief Campbell's leadership went beyond being the Chief of the police department that day. One of his strong characteristics is his ability to effectively communicate. As a pillar in the faith community, his expression of being on "God's side" showed to be beneficial. He was able to connect with the protestors while confidently leading the men and women of the Michigan City Police Department.