

Mr. John J. Romero (Chief of Police, Retired)



#### Technical Compliance Advisor's Core Team

Mr. John Romero is a retired Police Chief serving almost thirty (30) years with the NYPD, rising to the rank of Deputy Inspector. Upon his retirement from the NYPD, he was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Lawrence Massachusetts and served as the city's chief for fifteen (15) years. He attended Saint Francis College in Brooklyn New York where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Studies (Police Administration). He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, 170<sup>th</sup> Session. During his police career he held the positions of Police Trainee, Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Special Assignment Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Inspector and Chief of Police.

Mr. Romero's professional accomplishments include serving as the departments Commanding Officer of the Anti-Graffiti Unit in New York where he oversaw dramatic reductions in graffiti in New York City's Transit System. He also served as the Commanding Officer of the Homeless Outreach Unit where he was responsible for addressing the serious issue of homeless individuals living in the NYC subway system. During his assignment as Captain in the NYPD Manhattan Borough Command he was designated "Shooting Team Leader" where he headed Investigations regarding firearms discharges by members of the NYPD. As Commanding Officer of the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct in NYC (Washington Heights) he was instrumental in reducing serious crime and improving the quality of life for the

residents. During his tenure, the precinct experienced one of the largest reductions of crime of any precinct in the City of New York.

In 1999 Mr. Romero was recruited by the City of Lawrence Massachusetts to head its police department. Upon his appointment he immediately reorganized the department, including expanding Community Policing, implementing Crime Analysis, and creating new divisions such as Internal Affairs, Domestic Violence, Special Operations, Information Technology, Burglary Apprehension Team, Gang Unit, and a Homeland Defense Unit to prepare the city for emerging threats. Within five (5) years crime in Lawrence was reduced by 60%, the lowest crime rate in the City of Lawrence in forty (40) years and in 2008 the number of stolen cars reached a thirty-eight (38) year low.

In 2003 he established the Insurance Fraud Task Force which resulted in the following: the arrest of over four hundred (400) individuals charged with fraud related crimes; a total of 15.5 million dollar reduction in premiums to Lawrence policyholders from 2004 to 2007, saving holders an average of \$620 a year; reduced the number of reported injuries per accident from one hundred-thirty injuries per one hundred accidents in 2000 to forty injuries per one hundred accidents in 2003. With the success of Chief Romero's Task Force, thirteen cities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts copied his model which resulted in a 500 million dollar savings to Massachusetts residents.

Chief Romero during his career has worked as a consultant for the Police Executive Research Forum, US Department of Justice, Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights Division and the Bratton Group LLC.

Chief Romero has received the following notable honors:

2003 – Community Service Award – Cambridge College

2005- Honored for innovative programs in reducing auto theft by International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

2005- Honored as "Chief of the Year" by the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs

2005- Honored for the department's proactive approach in curbing insurance fraud, by the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts.

2006- Received "Leadership Excellence Award"- Latin Pride National Award

2009- Top 16 winner (of 800 applicants) Innovations in Government Award

For the Ash Institute, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.