



Chief Tony Pustizzi

Chief Pustizzi began his career with the Coral Springs Police Department in 1988. Over his 30-year tenure, he supervised every unit within the agency with a strong emphasis on investigations, including homicide and special investigations. Additionally, he served on the SWAT team for 15 years, the last eight of which as team commander. Chief Pustizzi rose through the ranks to ultimately become chief of police in 2012. He also served as the city's interim city manager and retired in March 2018 as the chief of police/deputy city manager.

In January of this year, the governor of the state of Florida removed the sitting sheriff of Broward County. Chief Pustizzi came out of retirement to serve as the special counsel to the new sheriff upon his appointment by the governor.

Chief Pustizzi graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in criminology and law and received a master's degree in public administration from Florida Atlantic University. He is a graduate of the FBINA, the Southern Police Institute Command Officer's course, FBI's LEEDA course and the Center of Creative Leadership Program.

He has served as State President for the Florida Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates, the chair for the National Benchmark Cities Chief's Association, an executive board member of the South Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, and an executive board member of the Broward County Chiefs of Police Association.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting Through a Police Chief's Eyes

Tony Pustizzi

Coral Springs Police Department - Chief of Police (Retired)

Abstract:

On February 14, 2018, a former student entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida, killed 17 innocent people and injured another 17 students.

Chief Tony Pustizzi (Ret.), a 30-year veteran with the Coral Springs Police Department, along with members of his agency, arrived at the school within minutes. A complex law enforcement approach, including stopping the shooter and extracting victims from within the school, was initiated. He will discuss many of the issues that ensued in communication and leadership that he observed that day and the unique challenges he experienced from his perspective

Learning Objectives:

Attendees will gain an understanding of the events that occurred that day as well as in the year following this tragic event from Chief Pustizzi's unique perspective as one of the on-scene commanders.

He will review his department's response to the shooting and provide an analysis of the lessons learned.

Attendees will leave with an understanding of the unique circumstances that contributed to the overall response and communication issues.

Some points: dispatch and multi-jurisdictional issues (federal, state and local), active killer training and officer preparedness, coordination with family members (during and after the event), tactical considerations, media and political trap doors.