



Dr. Joel Fitzgerald, Sr., was born in Philadelphia, PA, in 1971, and was educated at the historic Overbrook High School. He is a graduate of Villanova University (B.A.) in Liberal Arts, Eastern University (M.B.A.), and Northcentral University, where he earned a Ph.D. in Business Administration.

Joel joined the City of Philadelphia Police Department in 1992 and served in various leadership ranks before his 2009 selection to serve as Chief of Police in Missouri City, TX. In 2013, he became Chief of Police in Allentown, PA, where he served until 2015. From 2015-2019, he served as a major city Chief of Police in Fort Worth, TX. Fitzgerald returned to Philadelphia in January 2020, and joined the City of Philadelphia Sheriff's Office as Chief Deputy, until his appointment as Chief of Police in Waterloo, IA in June 2020. In August 2022, he became Chief of Police and Emergency Management for the Regional Transportation District in the Denver Metro Area serving a population of 3.08 million across eight counties and 40 cities.

In each of the five positions where he served as police chief, Dr. Fitzgerald's selection was the result of a competitive national search process, and every appointment as chief made him the first African American to serve in that rank in the history of the organization. As a result, his career reflects a commitment to conceptual and reflective leadership that promotes procedural justice, evidence-based strategies to abate crime, and integrity. Joel intentionally invests in an organizational direction grounded in the sanctity of life and other tenets of 21st Century Policing to shift police culture to models that address the diverse needs of all stakeholders while concurrently enhancing public safety.

Dr. Fitzgerald has been a member of numerous professional associations: the Major Cities Chiefs' Association, NOBLE, PERF, the NAACP, and IACP. He is a graduate of the Harvard University Senior Executives in State and Local Government, the FBI National Academy-National Executive Institute, Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, and the PERF - Senior Management in Policing program.

In 2011, Dr. Fitzgerald earned the FBI LEEDA Trilogy, and in 2019 was elected as member of the FBI LEEDA Executive Board, where he now serves President.

Joel and his wife Pauline, a retired Special Crimes - Homicide Detective, have three children, one of whom, Sgt. Christopher Fitzgerald, father to their five beautiful grandchildren, heroically lost his life in the line of duty.