



Matthew Lige, a 28-year public safety veteran in Washtenaw County, became executive director of public safety and chief of police in September 2021. Lige, 51, previously served as Deputy Chief of Police/Assistant Director of Emergency Management at Washtenaw Community College. From 1997 to 2018 he was a member of the Ann Arbor Police Department, starting as patrol officer and rising to Commander of the Investigative Division and Administrative Division as Lieutenant. From 1994 to 1997 he was a patrol officer with the Ypsilanti Police Department.

"We are excited to welcome Chief Lige to the Eastern Michigan University community," said University President James Smith. "Chief Lige's commitment to a community-oriented approach to policing and to serving our students, faculty and staff is evident. At the same time, he understands the deep challenges in trust and accountability that face police officers and departments locally and nationwide, and the importance of building positive collaborations and relationships across campus.

"His work at Washtenaw Community College, combined with his 22 years as an officer, sergeant and detective for the Ann Arbor Police Department, and his three years as an officer in the Ypsilanti Police Department, provide an outstanding base of knowledge about our campus and the greater Ypsilanti/Washtenaw community."

"I'm humbled to have been selected to lead the public safety team at EMU," said Lige. "I'm aware of the challenging relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve across our nation. I have a strong commitment to the principles of accountability, transparency and legitimacy in the delivery of safety services to all students, faculty, staff and visitors."

Lige will lead a department of public safety with a staff of more than 50, including 30 sworn officers, that focuses on community policing with regular and direct interaction with students, faculty and staff by foot patrols, bike and motor vehicle. University investments in the department include a new police headquarters building that opened in September 2009, body-worn cameras for all of its officers, de-escalation training and a special victims unit with trained officers.

He is an Eastern alumnus, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration. He also attended Police Chief Executive School at Michigan State University and participated in Eastern Michigan University's Staff and Command Program.