

MICHAEL A. ADKINSON, JR.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Developing a currency of trust from stakeholders

Application of Systems Thinking Concepts

LEAN/TQM Principles

Emotional Intelligence

Keen understanding of Legislative process

Proficient in preparing and managing multi-million-dollar budgets

CAREER STATEMENT

“Working with a futurist mindset while insuring adherence to standards of excellence in core competencies.”

- M. Adkinson

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Accomplished career as Chief Law Enforcement Officer and Emergency Management professional. Leading members across multiple disciplines including law enforcement, detention and professional fire rescue operations.
- Consistently recognized as leading one of Florida’s premier law enforcement agencies.
- Seasoned in developing organizational and community engagement that manifests as trust equity from stakeholders.
- Extensive background in developing and implementing innovative approaches to organizational problems. Proven history of forward-thinking evidence-based practices.
- Adherent to organizational philosophies based on the principles of continuous improvement and engagement.
- Possess current security clearance.

NATIONAL & STATE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- Commissioner, Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, 2020-2024
- Selected to testify for the Presidential Commission on Law Enforcement and Administrative Justice – 2020
- Board of Directors, National Sheriff’s Association, 2018-present
- Congressional Affairs Committee National Sheriff’s Association, 2019
- Radford University Police Fellows, 2019

- Governor’s Law Enforcement Response to Marjory Stoneman Douglass Massacre
Chaired joint meeting of law enforcement professionals from across the state to develop school security measures to protect Florida’s children, 2018
- Board Member, Project on Accountable Justice, Florida State University, criminal justice policy think tank with a mission to advance public safety through research and evidence, 2016-present
- President/Chairman/Board Member of Florida Sheriff’s Association, 2014-2018
- Board Member for Florida Department of Law Enforcement Executive Institute Policy, 2012-present
- Commissioner Florida Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation 2010-2016 (term limited)
- Member of Domestic Security Oversight Council for the State of Florida, 2009-2014
- Co-Chair of Florida Region 1 Regional Domestic Security Task Force, 2009-2014

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

First Responder Network Authority Board Member – FirstNet 2024 - present

The FirstNet Authority is an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce that oversees the First Responder Network. Created after 9/11, FirstNet Authority was established to build, operate, and maintain a nationwide public safety broadband network. This network is designed specifically for first responders, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services, and all other public safety personnel. FirstNet provides users with dedicated, secure, and priority access to mobile communications, particularly during emergencies and disasters.

The board is responsible for the governance and strategic oversight, budget approvals, policy development, collaboration with stakeholders, and adoption of standards and technologies. Board members are selected and appointed based upon a broad range of expertise in public safety, telecommunications, technology and governance. This is the largest public/private partnership in the world.

Sheriff, Walton County Sheriff’s Office, Walton County, Florida, 2009 - present

The Walton County Sheriff’s Office is a dynamic organization providing a wide range of services to the citizens of Walton County. In addition to the traditional law enforcement and correctional duties, we have accepted and excelled at other public safety professions. In 2009, we accepted transition of Emergency Management and 911 communications. In 2017, we assumed control of Walton County Fire Rescue, a full service medical and fire service. We have set benchmarking best practice models across the organization that proved a measurable outcome. During my tenure we have met numerous challenges from natural disasters such as flooding and hurricanes, manmade disasters such as the BP oil spill, and the tragedy of a mass shooting in 2009. We have held ourselves

to a higher standard of both professional and personal conduct through adherence to best practice requirements. Examples of these are a no tobacco policy (randomly tested), mandatory physical fitness tests (bi-annual), and mandatory physicals. These types of practices not only improve the health and well-being of staff but also reduce the potential burden to the taxpayer through workers compensation and loss of productivity.

We believe in leveraging technology to increase efficacy and improve customer service. We use our social media to engage the community we serve by embracing various platforms (Snapchat, Instagram, Periscope, Facebook etc.) Our engagement is such that we have one of the largest Facebook followings of any governmental entity in the State of Florida. We have been consistently brought in by other organizations to help them improve their media relations and social media engagement. This follows the principle of developing a trust equity with the public we serve.

The Walton County jail has been consistently recognized for taking an innovative approach to reducing recidivism by adopting a best-practices approach to programs. By partnering with Escambia County, we have been able to reduce their average daily cost of housing hundreds of their inmates. This savings has been used to fund programs such as welding classes, heavy equipment operator, Safe Food handling certifications, and the inmate farm that not only reduces cost to the taxpayer but teaches the inmates valuable skills and life lesson. We understand that there are many issues that bring inmates to the jail that have to do with substance abuse, as such we have become one of the few agencies statewide that provide Viviatrol shots (an opioid inhibitor) to inmates prior to release.

The synergy between public safety entities has produced articulable results in efficiency and quality of service. In 2018, after a year of preparation, we assumed control of Child Protective Investigations from the Department of Children and Families. My philosophy is to engage staff and to demand excellence, by creating an environment that highlights innovation.

- 2nd agency in the nation to implement Continuous Improvement methodology through a formalized program
- 3rd agency in the nation to implement Educational based Discipline program emphasizing a principle of “Better not Bitter”
- 2nd agency in the nation to implement a Pro-active Domestic Violence reduction program
- 1 of only 2 agencies in Florida to operate a combined law enforcement and professional fire rescue
- 2nd Agency in the nation to implement the Stratified Policing Model
- 2nd Agency in the state to implement mandatory physical fitness test to maintain employment as a law enforcement officer on a continuing basis during a career
- 1st Agency in the state to Implement the mandatory physical fitness test to maintain employment for correctional officers on a continuing basis during a career

- 1st County law enforcement Agency to transition to the state law enforcement radio system
- 1st agency head in the nation to hold live town hall meetings on multiple social media platforms

Chief of Police/City Marshal-DeFuniak Springs Police Department, Defuniak Springs, Florida, 2005-2008

Brought in to reform and modernize the department after the arrest of the former chief. Developed policies and procedures to insure compliance with best practice examples and compliance with accreditation standards. Responsible to the City Council for the professionals and discipline of the organization.

Served as the Chief law enforcement officer for the city of DeFuniak Springs. And as such maintained daily operation oversight of all areas of the agency's operation. Managed and prepared budget for presentation to the City Council and City Manager. Selected to serve on the Florida Police Chiefs Associations Ethics Committee.

Police Officer, Tallahassee Police Department, Tallahassee Florida, 2000-2005

Conducted law enforcement and community-oriented policing for the city of Tallahassee. Duties included performing patrol, conducting investigations across various disciplines from neighborhood mediation up to working forcible violent felonies. Recognized for my competency and thoroughness in the conduct of my investigations. Worked as a field training officer providing supervision, guidance and evaluation to new police officers. Certified Defensive tactics Instructor. Served as adjunct instructor for the Florida Public Safety Institute (Pat Thomas).

Probation & Parole Officer promoted through Office Coordinator, Florida Department of Corrections, Tallahassee, Florida, 1993-2000

Started career as a probation officer conducting investigations and supervising probationers. Over the course of my tenure there I rose through the ranks to supervise an 2nd Judicial circuit office in Monticello office. Duties included supervising officers, approving investigations and warrants for the court and Parole Commission's review. Making arrests and testifying before the court as necessary. Assisted in the first arrest of an offender for the violation of Florida Sexual predator Law. Oversaw the first GPS monitoring of offenders and provided presentation on its efficiency to other law enforcement entities and the Florida Senate.

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

- Excellence in Policing Award - Radford University Center for Police Practice, Policy and Research, 2021
- Co-chaired Committee for the successful Amendment 10 Campaign, 2018

- Served on the Parole Commissioner Selection Board, 2018
- Florida State University Distinguished Alumni Award, 2017
- Lectured on law enforcement issues at the collegiate and national level including but not limited to Florida A&M University, Florida State University, National Sheriff's Association and the Florida Public Safety Institute, and the FDLE Chief Executive Seminar and the Florida Leadership Academy, 2013-present
- Van Ness Butler Jr. Award, 2011
- Florida Public Relations Association Man of the Year, 2010
- Testified before the Florida Legislature on issues of public safety policy, 2009-present
- Testified before Constitutional Revision Commission, 2010-present
- Lead Agency to Achieve FCA Accreditation, 2010
- Tallahassee Police Department Humanitarian Award for response to Hurricane Katrina, 2005
- CPA Officer of the Year Nominee, 2004
- Tallahassee Police Department Commendation for the Arrest of Armed Carjackers, 2004
- Tallahassee Police Department, worked with select group to develop agency strategic plan, providing guidance and direction for the organization, 2004
- Tallahassee Police Department Commendation for work in a homicide investigation, 2003

EDUCATION

- **MS, Criminal Justice**, St. Leo University, Saint Leo, FL, 2013
- **BS, Criminology**, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, 1992
- **REMI Executive Management Inst. #26** San Antonio, TX, 2011
- **FDLE Chief Executive Seminar #40**, 2010
- **National Sheriff Institute**, Fort Collins, CO 2009
- Over 2000 hours in career classes and certifications (Available upon request)