

Michelle LaJoye-Young

Sheriff of Kent County



Michelle was appointed Sheriff of Kent County on November 1, 2018. She worked diligently during her career to implement processes which make the administration of the Mission of the Sheriff more efficient. Michelle has worked for the Kent County Sheriff's Office since 1989 in various roles within the Corrections, Patrol, Communications, and Support Services Divisions. She represented the Office of the Sheriff starting in 2010 as the Chief Deputy and, as of June 2015, the Undersheriff of Kent County. Some of those projects include a jail expansion project, jail management software implementation, electronic fingerprint and mug shot software implementation, law enforcement mobile computing initiatives and record management upgrades.

Throughout her career Michelle represented the department in several broader initiatives to further the mission of public safety, including Criminal Justice Information Policy Board, Kent County Dispatch Authority TAC, dispatch consolidation, Computer Aided Dispatch and 911 phone system implementation, FBI Criminal Justice Information Center Task Force on Mobile Computing and Identification Services Subcommittee, and Friend of the Court Citizens Advisory Committee (2017). She has also been appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to the State of Michigan's Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board.

Michelle served in the Michigan Army National Guard and Army Reserves from 1985 through 1998 where she left as a Captain. She obtained her Bachelors in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University, a Masters in Public Administration from Western Michigan University, MCOLES certification from Grand Rapids Community College, and graduated from Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

Michelle is the proud mother of two sons; the oldest lives and works in Michigan and the youngest is serving in the United States Air Force.