

Bio for Redondo Beach Police Chief Keith Kauffman

Chief Kauffman started his career with the Hawthorne Police Department in 1994 after completing the Orange County Sheriff's Academy; Class 115. He received the Medal of Valor in 1995 and again in 1996 while assigned as a patrol officer. Keith worked a variety of assignments including gangs, narcotics, training officer and SWAT where he remained for 10 years and made his way up to the team commander. Chief Kauffman promoted to sergeant in 2000 and to Lieutenant in 2005 where he and was responsible for running the Aero Bureau, writing grants and overseeing all of the civilian operations within the police department. In 2008 he was promoted to Captain where rotated commands between Support Services and Operations.

In 2011, the Hawthorne Police Department was looking for better ways to build trust in the community and they started showing up unannounced at local coffee shops, McDonalds, Starbucks, or Donut shops. They would sit and talk with community about whatever came up; no agenda, no barriers, no stress of the town hall type meeting. They used coffee as the vehicle to open up the dialog and start the conversation. Sound familiar? They called it "Coffee with a Cop." When Sgt. Chris Cognac published an article about the concept, interest started to grow. They partnered with the University of Illinois to write a grant and were awarded \$400,000 to take the program across the U.S. 'Coffee with a Cop' is now in all 50 states, 15 different countries, and is arguably the most widely used and effective community policing program in the United States.

After flying all over the country teaching hundreds of agencies how to do Coffee with a Cop, Keith left Hawthorne after 22 years was hired as the police chief in his home town of Redondo Beach. Chief Kauffman has a BA degree from UCLA in Spanish Literature and a MS degree from Cal State University Dominguez Hills in Negotiation and Conflict Management. Keith graduated from Command College in 2014 and received the Dorothy Harris Award for his published article. When he is not promoting community policing, Keith can be found spending time with his wife and two children, or somewhere in the Pacific Ocean.