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Darrel Stephens to Receive Sir Robert Peel Medal for Evidence-Based Policing



Sir Robert Peel



Darrel W. Stephens

Cambridge, 7th February 2017.....The Cambridge University Institute of Criminology has selected Darrel W. Stephens, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs' Association (MCCA) of North America, to receive the 2017 Sir Robert Peel Medal for Outstanding Leadership in Evidence-Based Policing. The medal is named after the Prime Minister of the UK who founded the first modern metropolitan police service, in London, in 1829, creating the model for most urban US police agencies.

Every July since 2012, the Cambridge Police Executive Programme has awarded the Sir Robert Peel Medal to a police leader of any nation who has led major advances in the application of research to the improvement of police practices. Previous winners include Swedish Police Commissioner Dan Eliasson, the UK National Police Chief's Council Chair Sara Thornton, Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn and former Minneapolis Police Chief Anthony V. Bouza (see http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/news/articles/Sir_Robert_Peel_Medal/index.html).

Darrel W. Stephens, who was police chief in several US cities, began his career as a patrol officer in the Kansas City (Mo). Police, where he worked on some of the ground-breaking experiments in evidence-based policing. He went on to become the first police professional to serve as executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), where he helped to promote research in policing across the US. In his service as Police Chief of Newport News, Virginia in the 1980s, he worked with PERF researchers John Eck and William Spelman to develop the SARA model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) of problem-oriented policing, the adoption of which is credited by many criminologists as a factor in the falling crime rates of the 1990s. As MCCA Executive since 2010, he has led a substantial growth in data collection and analysis across some 70 big-city police departments in the US and Canada. [OVER]

Stephens will be presented with the medal on July 10th, 2017, the opening day of the 10th Cambridge International Conference on Evidence-Based Policing, by Chief Constable Sara Thornton, CBE QPM, who chairs the National Police Chief's Council for England and Wales.

The Cambridge University Peel Medal selection committee, comprised of academics and police leaders, concluded that there was no one more deserving of the Medal than Darrel Stephens. Their statement said that "His outstanding achievements in creating and applying research evidence to police practices date back to the 1970s, when he was a key mover in the Kansas City Police becoming a "research police department," including such studies as the Response Time Analysis project that reduced police emphasis on rapid response in favour of long-term problem-solving. His work as a police chief in Newport News put flesh on the bones of the concept of Problem-Oriented Policing, while his leadership at PERF helped spread that vision around the world."

The July conference is co-sponsored with the Society of Evidence-Based Policing, which has over 2,000 members from 30 countries. Participants include the growing mid-career police leadership student body in the Cambridge part-time master's degree programme in applied criminology and police management, drawing police executive students from the UK, Denmark, Sweden, USA, Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, Trinidad & Tobago and other countries. For information on previous conferences in this series, please see programmes, slides and some videos at <http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/events/conferences/ebp/2014/index.html> .

For further information on the selection of Darrel Stephens for the Sir Robert Peel Medal, contact Professor Lawrence Sherman at director@crim.cam.ac.uk or call Alison Craig at +44 1223-335-369.