

CHIEF MICHAEL MAGLIANO, UCS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

By Rena Micklewright, Division of Professional and Court Services



Michael Magliano, Chief of UCS Department of Public Safety • Below: Chief Magliano at his swearing-in with family friend, the actor Dominic Chianese (of “The Sopranos” fame), who sang the National Anthem at the January ceremony at Kings Supreme Court.

The jury room at Kings County Supreme Court was packed with friends, family and colleagues on January 6, for the swearing-in of Michael Magliano as the new Chief of Public Safety for the Unified Court System. The ceremony included administration of the oath by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, and marked the culmination of more than three decades of service to the courts by “Mike.”



In his role as Chief, Magliano will manage the UCS Department of Public Safety (DPS), which oversees the delivery of security services to courts throughout the state. DPS is responsible for developing guidelines, policies, and procedures for ensuring safety throughout the NYS Court System, and oversees the implementation of emergency preparedness planning for each location. DPS also manages judicial threats, assists with security planning for new and existing court facilities, develops standards and policies for the Court Officers Academy and

Court Officers' Rules and Procedures Manual, and serves as a liaison between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

"We do our best to support the 4000+ court officers, and give them the tools to do their jobs effectively and well," said Magliano. "This includes addressing equipment needs in the courts, such as x-ray machines, radios, bulletproof vests, and making sure that everyone's training is kept up-to-date. It also involves maximizing the staffing in each command. There can be gaps, such as when an officer is promoted to clerk, or during times of crisis or emergencies."

With more than 33 years in the courts, Magliano knows what the job requires. He began as a court officer in 1983, and worked his way up to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Commanding Officer of Kings County Supreme Court's Criminal Division, and for the past few years, as Chief of (NYC) Citywide Operations.

"When I was attending college at St. Francis as an economics major, I took a criminal justice class and the professor (an adjunct) was also a court officer," recalls Magliano. "He talked about the job and brought in applications for the upcoming court officer test. At that time in the early 1980s, I had also applied to the NYPD, but turned it down to finish college. When I graduated, I took a job with an international bank, but wasn't loving it. Fortunately for me, the court officer opportunity came through soon after. My first day at the Academy was November 9th and it wasn't the 14-week program that we have now -- I was working in a court nine days later!"

Over the years, Magliano gained experience in various court environments, and he continues to draw on that knowledge in his expanded role.

"There is no typical day, and you have to be ready for whatever comes up. This is a 24/7 role, and I love working with the rank and file," he says. "I understand their

concerns because I've done the job. There's nothing I would ask our officers to do that I haven't done, or that I'm not willing to do. And they know it."

In addition to working closely with officers over the years, Magliano has been part of the courts' response team(s) during some very difficult times.

"September 11th changed everything, including the job as we knew it. I was a new Captain at the time, and suddenly we were called to do round-the-clock operations in various venues and roles, and the MSP (mobile security patrol) became part of our process." Magliano recalled, "We also collaborated with the NYC Office of Emergency Management and other agencies on recovery efforts, and have developed relationships with partners that we rely on in times of crisis, like during Hurricane Sandy. You can't do it alone."

Magliano credits his mother and family for his strong work ethic. He grew up in Brooklyn as the youngest of four boys.

"There was no complaining allowed in our house. We learned to work hard, and to treat people how you want to be treated," he says. "I feel blessed every day, and I hope to contribute in a positive way. And, if something doesn't go well, you try again tomorrow. There's plenty of stress out there, without creating more of your own."



Chief Magliano with Joe Baccellieri, Chief of the Court Officers Academy

Magliano and Joe Baccellieri (Chief of the Court Officers Academy) have worked together for decades, and while coworkers affectionately nicknamed them Bert and Ernie (after the “Sesame Street” characters), the two refer to themselves as “brothers.” They talk on a daily basis, often collaborating on projects both inside and beyond the courts, such as a Police Unity Bike Tour that they’ve done several times, riding from New Jersey to Washington, DC, to support and raise awareness of fallen law enforcement personnel.

When he is not on the job, Magliano enjoys spending time with his wife and children (his son and daughter are in their mid-20s) at the beach, often along the shore near where they live. And, though he now resides in New Jersey, Magliano’s heart is in New York, “the greatest city in the world.” He is also a “big sports fan – let’s go Yankees!”

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