

Diego Zanella

June 23, 2026

Area of Expertise

Over twenty years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience. Extensive training and experience in patrol procedures, complex investigations, tactical operations, projects and personnel supervision, emergency management, leadership, community relationship and outreach, policies and procedures, upper-level and executive management, and educational services.

Over twenty-two years of involvement with the academic field in criminal justice, law, and public policy.

Experience

Lake Forest Park Police Department (WA)

October 2019 to current

Division Commander/Interim Police Chief: Oversaw both the Support Services Division (records, evidence, detectives, training, hiring & retaining, accreditation, policies, internal investigations, social media, outreach & events, budget, etc.), and the Operations Division (Uniformed Patrol). Acted as Interim Chief when needed and assisted the Chief with the agency's overall planning, operation, and budget.

University of Washington Police Department (WA)

November 2017 to October 2019

Interim Patrol Commander (April 2019 to October 2019) and **Patrol Officer/Detective** (November 2017 to March 2019): Oversaw patrol operations and investigations. Acted as Interim Deputy Chief when needed.

King County Small Police Agencies-Major Crime Task Force (WA)

April 2016 to November 2017

Incident Commander and Task Force Commander (April 2016 to September 2019): Oversaw multi-agency task force operation, administration, and budget. Supervised thirteen investigators, one crime scene photographer, and three supervisors.

Issaquah Police Department (WA)

April 2007 to November 2017

Patrol Officer, Patrol Supervisor (Corporal), SWAT Operator, School Resource Officer, Detective, Detective Supervisor, and Patrol Operations Acting Sergeant: Patrol duties and Investigation duties.

Kent Police Department (WA)

April 2006 to April 2007

Patrol Officer (April 2019 to October 2019): Patrol duties.

IBEW International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Union Local 46 (WA)

September 1998 to April 2006

Apprentice, Journeyman, and Foreman: Commercial and industrial electrical installations.

Education

American Military University – Charles Town (WV)

Master's degree in criminal justice (2014)

The Evergreen State College – Olympia (WA)

Bachelor's degree in law, Justice & Public Policies (2006)

North Seattle Community College – Seattle (WA)

Associate degree in Control Technology (2005)

South Seattle Community College – Seattle (WA)

Associate Degree in Applied Science (2003)

Training and Affiliations

- WASPC, International Academy of Public Safety, and National Command & Staff College – Credible Leadership Program ICLD
- 21st Century Police Leadership
- FBI-LEEDA Executive Certification
- FBI-LEEDA Command Certification
- FBI-LEEDA Supervisor Certification
- CJTC Middle Level Management Certification
- CJTC First Line Supervisor
- FEMA-ICS Supervisor/Administrator
- ABLE (Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement) Instructor – Georgetown University Law Center,

- Investigation training (search warrants, crime scenes, child abuse, interview and interrogation, homicide investigations, DNA, latent fingerprints, street crimes, undercover, marijuana indoor grow, etc.).
- Tactical (SWAT, executive protection, active shooter response instructor, distraction devices, tactical combat casualty care, and defensive tactics).
- Diversity training, implicit bias, communication, de-escalation, multicultural society, trust & transparency, sensitivity training, community engagement, collaborative policing, embracing change, data-driven crime reduction solutions, etc.
- Member of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA).
- Member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).
- Member of the Washington State Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

Military

185 Gruppo Artiglieria Paracadutisti Folgore. Unita' Speciale "Stinger" (185 Paratrooper Artillery Group Folgore. Special Unit "Stinger"). Livorno, Italy.

Corporal Major Paratrooper (1987-1989). Worked with NATO forces. Discharged with honor.

Volunteer Experiences

Shoreline Community College (WA) and Seattle University (WA)

Member of both Criminal Justice Advisory Boards.

Law Enforcement Mentorship – Seattle (WA)

Students and officers' mentor (2010 to current)

Seattle Humane Society – Seattle (WA)

Dog trainer (2011)

King County Superior Court – Seattle (WA)

Community Accountability Board Member – Youth Diversion Program (2004-2005)

Children's Hospital – Seattle (WA)

Volunteered in the Child Life Support Dept. (2003)