

Det. Paul DiGiacomo **Biography**

Detective Paul DiGiacomo is the President of the Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc. (DEA), the labor union representing approximately 18,000 active and retired New York Police Department Detectives: the largest Detectives union in the world. He has been a union representative for most of his almost 40 years on the New York City police force.

A native of Brooklyn and the son of a transit cop, DiGiacomo was first appointed to the Housing Police in 1983, and then transferred to the NYPD in 1985. After patrolling in the 70th Precinct in Brooklyn, he was re-assigned in 1987 to the Brooklyn South Task Force, where he was elected the PBA Delegate. He was working in plainclothes with the Borough's Anti-Crime Unit when he transferred to Brooklyn South Narcotics in 1992, and worked as an Investigator and Undercover. He quickly advanced to Brooklyn South's Major Case Unit, all the while continuing to represent his fellow cops with the PBA.

DiGiacomo earned his Detective's gold shield in 1993. When he moved to the Organized Crime Investigation Division (OCID) in 1994, he was elected the DEA's Delegate for that unit. In OCID, he worked in various gun units and narcotics task forces. From 1996 to 1999, he was assigned to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA).

In 1999, DiGiacomo became the DEA's Sergeant-at-Arms, a post he was re-elected to in May of 2000. In December of 2001, DiGiacomo was promoted by the NYPD to the rank of Detective, second grade, for his participation in and performance as an Undercover in a 12-year investigation into the homicide of a Queens Police Officer. In June of 2004, and again in 2008, DiGiacomo was elected to the position of Treasurer on the Executive Board of the DEA. He was elected Vice President of the union in 2012, and again in 2016. In January of 2020, DiGiacomo was elevated to the position of DEA union President.

As President of the DEA, DiGiacomo spearheads all union activity, including collective bargaining, political action, overseeing the health and welfare funds, the Annuity Fund, and the union's not-for-profit charity, the DEA Widows' and Children's Fund. The union also engages in a wide variety of internal and external public relations ventures and fraternal functions.

"We still have many challenges we face daily," DiGiacomo adds, noting that, since he took the union's helm, the recent protests and efforts to defund the police have made this an especially trying time. "The spate of anti-police bills on the City and State level, and possibly the federal level, are making it enormously difficult for us to do our jobs," he says. "We are battling a rise in crime while dealing with financial restraints," he notes, which present more and more challenges for the City and the nation's police. With his union and Board Officers, the DEA is currently fighting against "bail reform" and other ill-conceived legislation and working on new legislation named after Det. Brian Simonsen in order to compel telecommunications companies immediately to

render inactive any cell phone as soon as it is stolen, thus eliminating the incentive for perpetrators to steal cell phones.

He adds, "I took over this union during its most difficult time in modern police history: through an international pandemic, the loss of eight active Detectives to COVID-19, the roll-out of the vaccine, record-breaking hurricanes and floods, and the riots, looting, and protests of 2020.

"Regardless of all these challenges, with our dynamic current Board of Officers, I look forward to continuing to usher the DEA through the coming years with labor solidarity and a strong union spirit. I truly believe the Detectives of the NYPD are, as our motto relates, 'The Greatest Detectives in the *World*.' It is a privilege and honor to represent them."

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