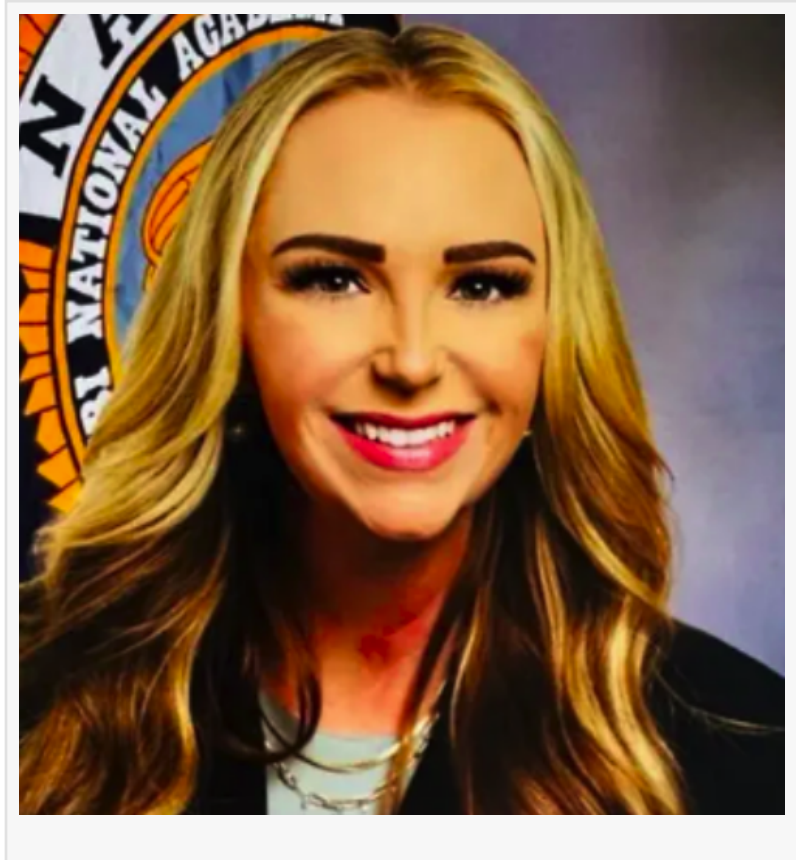


Jillian McCoy, MA, Recognized By Influential Women, Redefining Leadership In Criminal Investigations

WEBSTER GROVES, MO, UNITED STATES, June 17, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- First Female Commander in Webster Groves Police Department History Leads with Integrity, Operational Excellence, and Commitment to Advancing Women in Public Safety

Webster Groves, Missouri — Jillian McCoy, MA, is a highly accomplished law enforcement leader serving as the Commander in Charge of Criminal Investigations and Support Services for the City of Webster Groves Police Department. She is the first female commander in the agency's history, a milestone that reflects her dedication, expertise, and trailblazing leadership in a traditionally male-dominated profession.



With more than 16 years of experience in law enforcement, Jillian has developed extensive expertise in criminal investigations, including sex crimes and child abuse cases, homicide investigations, and crisis response. She has led high-performing investigative teams and coordinated complex, multi-agency operations that require precision, accountability, and strong leadership under pressure.

A graduate of the FBI National Academy and Webster University, where she earned a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership, Jillian is currently pursuing a second Master's Degree in Public Safety from the University of Virginia. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated excellence in investigative oversight, emergency response coordination, and program management.

She has also served as a supervisor for St. Louis's Major Case Squad and acted as a public-facing spokesperson during critical incidents, representing her agency with clarity, professionalism, and composure. Her leadership style is grounded in thoroughness, accountability, and the belief that effective policing requires both operational expertise and compassionate engagement with the community.

Jillian attributes much of her success to her father, who raised her as a single parent after serving in the United States Navy. His military background played a significant role in shaping the discipline, structure, and work ethic that continue to define her professional approach. She credits him with instilling a strong sense of accountability and purpose from an early age.

Her father consistently emphasized the importance of being goal-oriented, driven, and responsible. He served as both a role model and a steady source of motivation, encouraging her to pursue excellence and push beyond perceived limitations. His influence remains central to her leadership philosophy and continues to guide her decision-making today.

Jillian's path into law enforcement was shaped by both inspiration and adversity. While her father, a United States Navy veteran who raised her as a single parent, instilled in her the values of discipline, accountability, and perseverance, her mother and grandfather profoundly influenced her understanding of compassion and service. Growing up, Jillian witnessed firsthand the impact that addiction and mental health struggles can have on individuals and families. She later experienced the devastating loss of both her mother and grandfather to suicide. Those experiences forever changed her perspective and fueled her desire to help others through some of the darkest moments of their lives.

Rather than allowing those hardships to define her, Jillian used them to strengthen her sense of purpose. They taught her that every person has a story and that people in crisis deserve dignity, empathy, and understanding. These lessons continue to shape the way she approaches victims, supports her officers, and serves her community. They have reinforced her belief that effective leadership requires both strength and compassion, and that some of the most meaningful work in law enforcement happens through human connection and service to others.

In 2026, Jillian participated in the University of Virginia's "Never Again: Not on Our Watch" program, traveling to Poland and Germany to study the Holocaust and examine the role leadership, ethics, and courage play in preventing injustice and protecting vulnerable populations. Visiting places such as Auschwitz-Birkenau left a profound impact on her and strengthened her commitment to leading with integrity, speaking up in the face of adversity, and never losing sight of the humanity behind the badge.

That same year, Jillian was nominated for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 40 Under 40 Award, recognizing emerging leaders who are making a meaningful impact on the policing profession. While humbled by the recognition, she considers her greatest accomplishments to be the trust she has earned from her community, the opportunity to

mentor and support the next generation of officers, and the privilege of being a role model for her two daughters. Through every professional milestone and personal challenge, Jillian remains committed to leading with integrity, resilience, and a deep sense of purpose.

Among Jillian's most significant accomplishments are becoming the first and only female commander in her agency, serving as the first female president of the Missouri Police Chiefs Association Command College, and graduating from the FBI National Academy. She considers these achievements especially meaningful while also balancing the responsibilities of motherhood.

Despite reaching milestones she once thought unattainable, Jillian remains committed to continuous growth. She has earned one master's degree and is currently pursuing another, reflecting her belief that leadership development is an ongoing process and that excellence requires constant learning and adaptation.

One of the most impactful pieces of career guidance Jillian has received is the importance of self-advocacy. In a profession where women remain significantly underrepresented, she has found that advocating for herself has been essential to advancing into leadership roles, ensuring her voice is heard, and creating space for others to be recognized.

She credits the combination of her father's teachings and her commitment to self-advocacy as foundational to her success. Together, these influences have shaped her ability to lead with confidence, resilience, and purpose in a demanding field.

For young women entering law enforcement, Jillian emphasizes the importance of perseverance, confidence, and self-worth. She encourages them to recognize that their voices matter and that their presence in the profession is both necessary and impactful. She also underscores that leadership roles in law enforcement are not only possible for women but essential to the evolution of the field.

Jillian is candid about the challenges women face in policing. With women comprising only about 10% of the profession—and even fewer in leadership positions—the path can often feel isolating. She notes that advancing in such an environment requires resilience and a strong commitment to self-advocacy, as individuals must often learn to navigate challenges independently.

Jillian believes that learning to advocate for oneself is critical, not only for personal advancement but also for effectively supporting others. Without this foundation, it becomes difficult to fully serve in leadership capacities or to elevate the voices of colleagues.

In addition to navigating gender disparities, Jillian highlights several broader challenges currently facing law enforcement. Staffing shortages remain a significant concern, with agencies struggling to recruit new officers and retain experienced personnel. These shortages contribute to

increased workloads, stress, and burnout among existing staff.

Another major challenge is maintaining public trust in a highly scrutinized environment. Transparency, accountability, and effective communication have become essential components of modern policing. At the same time, law enforcement agencies are managing increasingly complex investigations, particularly those involving digital evidence and advanced technology, requiring ongoing training and adaptation.

Despite these challenges, Jillian also identifies meaningful opportunities for growth within the profession. Agencies are actively working to strengthen relationships with their communities, implement new technologies to improve efficiency, and invest in leadership development programs.

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She also sees growing opportunities for women to advance into leadership roles and bring new perspectives to law enforcement. According to Jillian, diverse leadership strengthens decision-making, enhances organizational culture, and improves community engagement.

At the core of Jillian's leadership philosophy are the values of family, perseverance, self-advocacy, and self-worth. These principles guide her both professionally and personally, shaping how she leads teams, mentors others, and serves her community.

She is deeply committed to maintaining a healthy balance between her professional responsibilities and her home life. Given the nature of law enforcement work, which often involves exposure to traumatic and emotionally challenging situations, Jillian makes a conscious effort to separate her work from her family life to remain present, grounded, and effective in both roles. Maintaining this balance is essential to her long-term success and well-being, allowing her to serve with clarity and resilience while also being fully engaged as a mother and leader.

Beyond her professional responsibilities, Jillian is actively involved in community engagement and mentorship. She participates in initiatives such as Special Olympics events, school PTO programs, and Tip-a-Cop fundraising efforts. Her commitment to service extends beyond her agency, reflecting her belief in giving back to the community she serves.

She is also a strong advocate for women in law enforcement, consistently encouraging persistence, self-belief, and leadership development. Through mentorship and example, Jillian works to support the next generation of female officers entering the field.

Her achievements as a trailblazing commander, combined with her commitment to mentorship and community engagement, demonstrate a steadfast dedication to both her profession and the people she serves. Jillian McCoy's story continues to inspire those within law enforcement and beyond, highlighting the importance of integrity, perseverance, and inclusive leadership in public safety.

Learn More about Jillian McCoy:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/Jillian-McCoy> and [linkedin.com/in/jillian-mccoy-465aa1240](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jillian-mccoy-465aa1240)

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