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Boston's top cop William Evans on Monday announced that he would be stepping down as the commissioner of the Boston Police Department to take over security at Boston College, and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh moved quickly to name his successor, the department's second in command.

Walsh, at a press conference at City Hall, named William Gross as Evan's replacement. Gross, who serves as Evans's superintendent-in-chief, will become the first person of color to lead the 2,200-person police department.

"Chief Gross is a proven leader who is trusted and respected in the community. He is an expert in modern law enforcement. He is the right person for the job," Walsh said during the press conference.

Gross began working for the department in September 1985 as a patrol officer and worked his way up to the highest-ranking police officer in the department. He was promoted to superintendent-in-chief in 2014, making him the first black police chief in the department's history.

Evans still has a week on the job. Following his retirement in August, he will take over as executive director of public safety at Boston College.

Addressing his plans as commissioner, Gross highlighted an approach towards community policing, saying that, "Under training, reviewing policy, procedures and practices, we are going to continue to move our department forward. The strategy is to work collaboratively with our village. The strategy is to go forward together." - Chris Triunfo/SHNS



Boston Police Superintendent William Gross spoke at the Sept. 11 memorial service in the House Chamber in 2017. Gross was named Monday as the city's new police commissioner. [Photo: Sam Doran/SHNS]

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