



News from: **City Administrator's Office**

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Libby Schaaf and City Administrator Sabrina Landreth Announce Major Change in Leadership of the Oakland Police Department

Oakland, CA—Today, Mayor Libby Schaaf and City Administrator Sabrina Landreth announced the resignation of Sean Whent as Oakland Police Chief and the appointment of Ben Fairow as Interim Chief of Police, on loan from BART while the City conducts a national recruitment for a new police chief.

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"I am so proud to have served Oakland over the course of my two decade-long career," said Chief Whent. "When I took this job three years ago as interim chief, I vowed to help move the department forward and make Oakland safer by forging a stronger relationship with members of this diverse community. I am proud to have done that. I know that the vast majority of the men and women who work for the Oakland Police Department share this commitment and will continue to demonstrate it with every call for service."

"Sabrina and I are grateful to Chief Whent for his dedication and service," said Mayor Schaaf. "Chief Whent's decision to resign was a personal choice which we respect. Under his leadership Oakland has gotten safer, experiencing a 39 percent decrease in shootings and murders since 2013, and a 46 percent year-to-date reduction in homicides. Chief Whent has also done the critical work of driving sustainable, principled policing in Oakland."

"Chief Whent has earned Oakland national recognition for its body-worn camera program, instituting procedural justice training with community members, participating in an in-depth implicit bias research project and committing OPD to transparent, open data practices," said City Administrator Sabrina Landreth. "I know that Interim Chief Fairow will be able to build on this firm foundation, and I thank him for stepping into this important role at such a critical time for the department."

Interim Chief Ben Fairow returns to the Oakland Police Department from BART, where he serves as Deputy Chief of BART Police. As Deputy Chief, he has commanded all three divisions of the BART Police Department, including leading the Professional Standards and Training Division, where he was responsible for Internal Affairs, Training, Backgrounds and Recruiting, Use of Force, Compstat, the Police Chaplain program and the Trauma Response Team. Prior to BART, Interim Chief Fairow served as Captain in the Oakland Police Department, previously holding a variety of assignments at OPD, including serving as a community policing officer, commander of the Internal Affairs Division, commander of the Office of Inspector General, commander and acting deputy chief of the Bureau of Services, and commander of the Youth and Family Services Division. Mayor Schaaf appreciates the support from BART during this time of transition.

Mayor Schaaf, City Administrator Sabrina Landreth and Interim Police Chief Ben Fairow will be available to speak to the media tomorrow at 9 am in the Mayor's Conference Room.

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