



News from: **Office of the Mayor Libby Schaaf**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 15, 2016

### **MAYOR LIBBY SCHAAF ANNOUNCES REMOVAL OF INTERIM POLICE CHIEF BEN FAIROW**

*Oakland, CA* — Mayor Libby Schaaf today announced the immediate removal of Interim Police Chief Ben Fairow.

“With the abrupt resignation of Sean Whent last week, we sought to have seamless leadership of the Oakland Police Department and selected an individual who understood the dynamics in Oakland and who, based on his previous employment with OPD, could hit the ground running.

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However, I have just received information that has caused me to lose confidence in Ben Fairow’s ability to lead the Oakland Police Department at this particular moment in time. OPD staff, members of our community and City leadership deserve to have complete trust and confidence in our Chief, especially during this critical transition.

State law prohibits me from further elaborating on the specific factors that led to this decision.

I made the decision to appoint Ben Fairow, I also own the decision to remove him. I firmly believe that when you make a mistake, you need to own it, and act quickly to correct it.

I appreciate Ben’s willingness to come to the aid of our city, and regret that his appointment was not the right decision.

In the short term, Assistant Chief Paul Figueroa will temporarily serve as Acting Police Chief effective immediately while we identify an Interim Chief and conduct a national search to fill the role of Chief permanently.

I know that the vast majority of the men and women of the Oakland Police Department are dedicated public servants whose efforts have moved this department forward and made Oakland safer.

I recognize the impact that this chain of events may have on the Department and how it may shake the public trust, but I am committed to ensuring the long-term health, stability and effectiveness of the Oakland Police Department. This is what must be done to achieve that goal.”

**Mayor Libby Schaaf will be available to answer questions from the media at 2 pm today in City Hall, Mayor’s conference room.**

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