



News from: Office of the City Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2011

Oakland City Administrator Appoints Howard A. Jordan as Interim Chief of Police

Oakland, CA — This afternoon, City Administrator Deanna J. Santana announced that she has appointed Howard A. Jordan as Interim Chief of Police of the Oakland Police Department, effective immediately. This appointment comes with all authority, responsibility, and accountability of the Chief of Police.

“After a thoughtful evaluation, I have determined that it is in the best interest of the Department and the City to stabilize the Department, provide leadership for the workforce, provide clarity to the community, and ensure that transition time is minimized to focus on the City’s obligations of the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA) under the Federal Court,” Ms. Santana stated. “I am specifically mindful that this organization needs to achieve significant progress towards full compliance with the NSA by January 2012. For these reasons, I have immediately vested Chief Jordan with the full authority he needs to effectively lead the Police Department.”

Santana said Oakland is fortunate to have immense in-house talent and expertise in Chief Jordan, who has served the Oakland Police Department with distinction for more than 23 years. She praised his vision and leadership skills to guide the Oakland Police Department. Chief Jordan is supported by an outstanding management team of results-driven professionals who are making progress on the reform goals of the NSA.

“I’ve been honored to work with Howard Jordan for more than 20 years since he was the School District’s Chief of Police,” said Mayor Jean Quan. “He has a wonderful record of working with the community and young people, is well respected by the rank and file, and knows how to navigate a complex and dynamic organization and achieve results.

“Additionally, we’ve been working together on the comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Plan for months. Please come to the Neighborhood Safety Summit on Saturday to hear about the plan and to welcome Chief Jordan to his new position with the City.”

The City Administrator said that she chose to appoint Chief Jordan because she believes that he understands the complexities of policing a large, urban city. He has demonstrated the ability to navigate large organizations with multiple stakeholders where input is sought after, valued, and considered in the decision-making process. He brings a proven track record of community engagement—specifically in building relationships with young people—as a means to achieve better, more lasting results.

(MORE)

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He values the tremendous talent, contributions and hard work of the employees of the Oakland Police Department. Perhaps most importantly, Chief Jordan recognizes that the success of the Police Department does not hinge on just one person; ultimately, it is the *community's* Police Department, and our efforts to reduce crime and violence in this City depend on a collective commitment to achieve lasting change.

Mayor Quan and Santana both noted that Chief Jordan is respected by police officers, City officials and the community alike for his ethical leadership, ability to motivate others towards better performance, and strong management and organizational skills. Recognized for his consensus-building skills, he is a clear thinker who has dedicated himself to working with the community to reduce violence and implement our vision of true community policing.

In addition to securing the best in-house individual to lead the Department, Santana announced that she is adding capacity to the NSA team by bringing in a highly regarded, nationally recognized Consent Decree expert who has served as an advisor to other large-city police chiefs. Thomas C. Frazier is the former Police Chief of Baltimore, was a Deputy Chief in San Jose, and served as the COPS Grant Director for the US Department of Justice. He was a Consent Decree advisor to the cities of Los Angeles and Detroit.

Frazier's national experience and specific in-depth expertise in managing Consent Decrees will be invaluable to Oakland; Santana said she is delighted to bring an expert of his caliber to the team as a Special Advisor to assist the City during this critical time.

Chief Batts' last day with the City of Oakland will be November 5. During this time, the City will focus on supporting Chief Batts with his departure and ensuring a smooth, seamless transition.

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