

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Chief of Police
Oakland Police Department

Dear Oakland Residents:

It is with great regret that I tender this official notice of my intent to resign as Chief of Police for the City of Oakland.

In 2009, I answered the call for a reform-minded chief; a leader with a focus on community policing and high professional standards. I was told Oakland residents were looking for a strong, visible leader to engage the community and reduce violent crime. My goal was to help rebuild a once proud, professional department, geared toward crime reduction and community services.

With this goal in mind, rather than a chief managing a diverse department of law enforcement professionals making the streets of Oakland safe, I found myself with limited control, but full accountability. The landscape has changed radically over the past two years with new and different challenges.

I am pleased with the fact that over the past two years, we have implemented positive changes, endeavoring to make Oakland a safer place, including:

- Reducing violent crime by 27% in 2010;
- Ending the 25-year public safety problem of street racing and cruising (sideshow);
- Securing a 25 officer grant to enhance community policing, school safety and to offset officer layoffs;
- Establishing a lapel camera program to impact compliance with consent decree requirements;
- Improving department relations with our diverse community;
- Securing a \$1 million grant from The Kaiser Foundation for the OK police mentoring program;
- Completing a major reorganization of the police department to reflect reduced staffing levels and better meet the policing needs of the Oakland community;
- Creating a five-year strategic plan;
- Re-establishing the Police Foundation and;
- Reducing some level of compliance on all 51 tasks of the NSA, with only 12 remaining to move into full compliance.

I have great respect for the citizens of Oakland and the good men and women of the Oakland Police Department. However, with a heavy heart, I have recognized that the conditions, under which I was hired as Chief, have changed and do not allow me to fulfill the primary mission – to provide an environment where one can live, work, play, and thrive free from crime and the fear of crime. To the men and women of the Oakland Police Department, and the residents of this city, it has been an honor and privilege to serve with you.

Sincerely,
Anthony W. Batts
Chief of Police