

A Message from Interim Chief Sean Whent:

Oakland is a city of possibilities. Our diversity, progressive thinking, and geographic location put us in a unique position to become a model city. Recent levels of violence are unacceptable and hinder everyone's ability to truly enjoy all that our City has to offer. A small percentage of people committing crimes in our City affect us all. I am confident that through community partnerships and intelligence-based policing, we can reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Since becoming your Chief four months ago, I have met with individuals representing geographic areas throughout the City; elected officials; expert police consultants; and Oakland Police Department staff. I have listened intently to the needs and concerns of individuals representing a broad cross section of the City. As a result, I have identified the Police Department's current strategic priorities:

- 1- Reduce Crime and the Fear of Crime
- 2- Increase Community Responsiveness and Partnerships
- 3- Institutionalize Accountability and Organizational Excellence

The following organizational changes have been implemented in the past 90 days:

- Implemented the Five Geographic Policing Areas for increased accountability
- Established Community Advisory Committees for each District Commander
- Reenergized existing Cease Fire Partnerships and Enforcement, Oakland's primary violent crime reduction strategy, by adding a dedicated enforcement team and a Ceasefire Program Manager
- Assigned additional staff to East Oakland to address the high level of violence in this area of the City

- Successfully engaged community to identify persons of interest and wanted suspects
- Accelerated the hiring process for key civilian positions to free up police officers for additional violence reduction efforts
- Made positive strides towards full compliance with the Negotiated Settlement Agreement
- Extended the contract with the California Highway Patrol for supplemental enforcement in areas most affected by violence

The following organizational changes will be implemented within the next 30 - 60 days:

- Assigning an additional Deputy Chief to the Bureau of Field Operations for increased accountability in the Patrol Division
- Aligning Crime Reduction Teams with areas of violence
- Restructuring the Criminal Investigation Division for efficiency
- Implementing an aggressive training schedule within the Criminal Investigation Division
- Increasing Criminal Investigation Division staffing in key areas
- Inviting community involvement in CompStat crime strategy meetings
- Beginning field training for the new police recruits
- Beginning the third recruit class of 2013
- Assigning new police cars to the Patrol Division

I am inspired by the recent collaborative efforts between the Police and the Community and believe that together we will move Oakland forward.

Interim Chief Sean Whent
September 10, 2013