



Councilmember McElhaney, residents, and business owners,

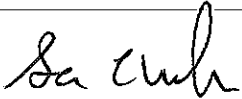
I would like to take a moment to inform you of an important change occurring in your area of the City. On Saturday January 18th, Acting Captain Drennon Lindsey will take over as the Area 1 commander. Captain Lindsey brings with her over 15 years of experience and has served in diverse assignments throughout her career. She has cultivated the skills necessary to lead an effective crime fighting effort including time spent in Patrol, the Crime Prevention Unit, Recruiting, and the Criminal Investigations Division. She most recently served as our Homicide Commander and was the first female in the Department's history to hold that title. I am confident in her abilities to develop community informed crime strategies tailored to the specific needs of your individual neighborhoods. Captain Lindsey has a track record of building community relationships and I am confident she will work diligently and collaboratively in Area 1. Captain Lindsey is best reached via email at DLindsey@oaklandnet.com or office line 510-238-6911.

I'd like to thank Acting Captain Lewis for the time he commanded Area 1. He contributed greatly to the positive momentum we have gained in the past several months. He is being transferred based on the needs of the Department and will be working in the Internal Affairs Division. Captain Lewis initiated several effective strategies including increased foot and bicycle patrols in areas identified as hot spots for robberies, addressed dangerous street racing, and facilitated numerous peaceful protests in the downtown business district. Captain Lindsey will be briefed on Captain Lewis's current projects and the community concerns to ensure a smooth transition.

We ended 2013 with a 28% reduction in homicides and a 16% reduction in shootings. We have focused on decreasing the incidents of robberies and have begun to see significant progress in that regard. We have also made progress in our efforts to reach compliance with the Negotiated Settlement Agreement and increase staffing within the Police Department. We will continue with our progress in 2014. We currently have over 100 police trainees in the academy and have plans to begin two additional academies this year. Once their training is completed, those officers will be sent out to increase police visibility and accessibility. We have also recently begun to increase our civilian support staff including additions to the Crime Lab, Police Services Technicians, and Dispatchers. All of these additions are essential to improving our ability to respond to calls for service and solve crimes by processing evidence and following up on important leads. Making Oakland a safe place where all of you feel free to live, work, and play is our priority.

We still have a great deal of work to do, however; I am confident that with continued and sustained collaborative efforts, we will move Oakland forward. Thank you for your willingness to engage in problem solving and dedication to our City.

Sincerely,



Chief Sean Whent