



Oakland Police Department

Richard L. Word
Chief of Police

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OAKLAND POLICE CHIEF ACCEPTS VACAVILLE POSITION

OAKLAND, October 14--"Last night, I accepted an offer of employment from Mr. David Van Kirk, the Vacaville City Manager, to serve as Vacaville's next Chief of Police. I will start my new position on November 22, 2004.

While I have loved serving Oakland for the past 20 years, I took the Vacaville position for both personal and professional reasons. On a personal level, my time in Oakland has been very rewarding but also time consuming and hard on my family.

Professionally, Vacaville is a good, progressive city. Its police department has embraced a balanced and comprehensive approach to public safety. I am confident with my experience and skills that I will be a good match for this outstanding police department.

I am forever thankful to Mayor Jerry Brown for the opportunity to serve as Oakland's Chief of Police and will greatly miss the men and women of OPD, the City Administrator, Ms. Deborah Edgerly, and thousands of others who have worked diligently to make Oakland a safer community. I will always consider myself a member of the Oakland Police Department family.

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Despite significant challenges and some setbacks, I believe we have made significant progress during the last five years. Serious crime has dropped 23 percent. Homicides in the past year are down nearly 30 percent. We've established a very effective school policing unit and partnered with the California Department of Corrections and County Probation to form a parolee intervention unit (the Police and Corrections Team), which has since been replicated across the state. Claims and lawsuits against the police department have dropped every fiscal year for the past four years.

During the next month, I will work closely with the City in order to help identify my replacement at OPD.”

-Chief Richard L. Word

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