



JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
Mayor

City of Charleston

GREGORY G. MULLEN
Chief of Police

SOUTH CAROLINA

POLICE DEPARTMENT

June 8, 2017

Honorable John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor, City of Charleston
80 Broad Street
Charleston, SC

Dear Mayor Tecklenburg:

Since October 1, 2006, I have had the distinct privilege of being the Chief of Police for the city of Charleston. Throughout that time, I have served with a group of remarkable men and women who daily demonstrate their dedication and commitment to the residents and visitors of Charleston. Through their devotion to duty and selfless service, the city is recognized as one of the best places to live, work, learn, and play.

Being the police chief in Charleston has also provided me an opportunity to work and partner with exceptional city staff members who strive daily to make Charleston the best it can be.

While serving with outstanding police personnel and city staff, I have also built relationships and partnerships with regional public safety leaders and many outstanding community and business members. Together, we have made a difference in Charleston.

When I arrived in Charleston, I could not have dreamed how much the officers, the city, and its people would change me. Charleston became my city. When it succeeded, I was proud. When it was hurt or challenged, it was my responsibility to guard and protect it. I did not feel this way because it was my job or obligation; it was my home.

Over the past several months as I have reflected on this awesome opportunity and honor, I have determined that it is time for me to transition to a new segment of my life's journey and allow a new chief to lead this wonderful department and city through its next chapter of growth, development, and opportunities.

The city is going through tremendous growth and change and it will need a chief to guide it through the next decade. As I assess the current status of the department, I feel that now is the perfect time for a transition to occur.



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The Dylann Roof and Michael Slager trials that were being prosecuted in both State and Federal courts in Charleston during 2016 and 2017 have been concluded except for the sentencing phase of the Slager trial. Having two trials of this magnitude occurring simultaneously in the same city is unprecedented and placed a significant strain on the organization. Having these trials concluded, without incident, is a milestone in the Department.

Crime in the city is stable even as the population of permanent residents and visitors continues to grow at a significant pace and commercial development is at an all-time high. This speaks volumes of the commitment and dedication of the city's police officers and their determination to prevent crime and the fear that it creates, whenever possible, and respond with a sense of urgency to solve cases when they do occur.

In July, the department will receive its Gold Standard reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. This accomplishment recognizes the professionalism, commitment to continued growth and improvement, community outreach, and innovative initiatives, which are foundational values that guide the Department in all that it does.

The Illumination Project (IP) is moving forward with positive results and is integrated throughout the community and department. Its strategies are making a difference and bringing people together to strengthen relationships between police officers and citizens that are grounded in trust and legitimacy. Many new (IP) initiatives are ongoing that will enhance the Department's operational practices, policies, training, as well as connections with community members and regional partners to address social determinants of health from a holistic perspective. Its impact has also resulted in the Department making a number of internal changes and being included in a video exhibit in the new National Law Enforcement Museum that is scheduled to open in 2018. The Charleston Police Department video will demonstrate the importance of community outreach and trust building to achieving successful law enforcement goals and objectives.

We are collaborating with the National Institute of Justice on important projects surrounding data-driven policing and our technology solutions have never been stronger. Likewise, our Emergency Management System is robust, resilient, and tested. Our personnel, procedures, and response protocols have been challenged by natural and man-made disaster and in each case, performed in an exceptional manner.

Finally, our facility enhancements have a clear path forward. We recently completed construction and transitioned to the new Team 4 and Professional Development and Training facility in West Ashley. This new facility will provide the capacity for Team 4 to grow along with its geographic area of responsibility. The training facility offers a permanent location for basic and advanced training and will allow the Department to host external training and educational opportunities, with cost savings, that will enhance the skills and competencies of police officers, detectives, senior leaders, and support staff. Our newest sub-station located in Carolina Bay will be completed soon and another is under design near Clements Ferry Road. Additionally, conceptual designs are complete for the Forensic Services Building in West Ashley, as well as a new team office to accommodate the growth and development occurring in the Cainho area of the city.

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As I considered this decision and reflected on my career, especially my time in Charleston, many thoughts came to mind. However, three points continued to reveal themselves and serve as key reflections.

I have had the greatest honor of being part of something much larger than any single person – the profession of policing. It is a most noble and honorable profession which is comprised of thousands of ordinary people who do extraordinary things on a daily basis.

I have also served with true heroes and witnessed the raw courage of men and women who have and will put their lives on the line for individuals they do not know and who can do nothing for them. They run toward danger while others run away.

Finally, I have been fortunate to work with two elected leaders who understand the importance of public safety to the community and the value of the remarkable men and women who choose to commit themselves to be the guardians of our city. For your support, I thank you, and pray that you will never lose sight of the critical role these courageous officers serve in guaranteeing the safety, security, economic vitality, quality of life, and reputation of the city, which are all critical elements of its continued success. Without them, our communities would be very different.

For these gifts, I will be forever humbled and grateful.

Therefore, it is with much pride and a sense of achievement that I inform you that I will be retiring from the Charleston Police Department on August 1, 2017. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this community.

Best Regards Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Mullen", written in a cursive style.

Gregory G. Mullen
Chief of Police