



Contact: Ruby Picon
City Manager's Office
Phone: 562-904-7284
rpicon@downeyca.org

City of Downey
1111 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, CA 90241
www.downeyca.org

PRESS RELEASE

Police Chief Leslie Murray Announces Retirement

Downey, CA, August 31, 2023: After more than 32 years of dedicated service to the City of Downey, Police Chief Leslie Murray has announced her plan to retire at the end of this year.

"I've enjoyed a very rewarding career serving alongside many wonderful people over the years and for a community that I have grown up with and have so much gratitude for. I am excited and look forward to what's ahead in the next chapter for me and my family," said Chief Murray.

Raised in Norwalk and Downey, and a Downey High School alumnus, Chief Murray began her law enforcement career in 1990 as a Downey Police Officer. Following graduation from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy, she was assigned to Field Operations as a Patrol Officer. Over the next three decades, she rose through the ranks from Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain before being promoted to Police Chief – the first female Police Chief in Downey's history – in December 2021.

Under her leadership, the Downey PD has expanded the Mental Health Team, implemented a new customer service software, launched a drone program that increased public and officer safety, enhanced community outreach, and established new city ordinances to address crime and quality of life concerns, such as catalytic converter theft, street racing and the parking of recreational vehicles.

"It has been an honor to work with Chief Murray over the last several years as our City's first female Chief, and as a Captain of our Downey PD," said Mayor Claudia M. Frometa. "She leaves a legacy of strength, resilience, exceptional dedication and commitment to our City's residents and Police Department. My hope is to continue to see female leaders rise through the ranks within our Downey PD just as Chief Murray did. I wish her only the best in her upcoming retirement."

"Chief Murray has put in many years of dedication to the Downey community. Her work here in the City has made Downey a better place. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank her for her leadership, dedication, and example. We will miss her but wish her well as she sets out for new adventures," said City Manager Roger Bradley.

Currently, the Downey Police Department has 181 personnel, comprised of 113 Sworn and 68 non-sworn. A nationwide search to find a new Chief will be underway to ensure a seamless transition at the end of the year.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE