

Message for Press Conference

Good morning. I'm pleased to see members of all three selection panels here—especially since they won't be asking me questions this time!

This morning I have a number of people to thank and a few remarks to make about the future of our police department. I'll begin with thank-you's. First and foremost, I want to thank the members of the Greensboro Police Department for their professionalism and achievements over the past 15 months. There are few situations harder than having the integrity of your organization questioned. When you add the disruptions caused by multiple investigations, you have a situation that would break a weak department but only makes a strong department stronger. With the support of our officers and our civilian staff, we used the challenges of this time to build a more cohesive and accountable department.

I'd also like to thank the City Manager for giving me the opportunity to take on the role of Interim Chief and for the trust he placed in me. I was able to experience the job at its toughest (I hope!) before deciding to apply. And I'd like to thank my wife Angela for supporting my decision. She may be sacrificing more than she knows.

I also want to recognize and thank the members of the community, the City Council, and the City workforce who recognized that a Police Department is not defined by one difficult moment in time— but by its **long** tradition of integrity, service, and honor. By offering words of encouragement and support you, too, helped us grow stronger.

There are still loose ends to tie up, but we are now moving forward and building on the core values of this department and this City government: honesty, integrity, stewardship, and respect. I intend

to focus our work heavily on “Policing for Greensboro’s Communities.” To do this, our department will have to rebuild trust, demonstrate accountability, form and strengthen partnerships, and be inclusive in our decision-making—not only inclusive of residents but inclusive of every level of our own department.

All of this must be combined with the best practices of law enforcement. This morning I presented to our command staff a new organizational chart, which you will find in your press packets. I have also announced a process for filling the vacancies in the top echelon of the department and those which will be created through the resulting promotional process. And we continue to look for innovative ways of dealing with limited resources.

The Greensboro Police Department strives to deserve the community’s trust and respect, and we will do all we can to prove

that to you by ethical behavior; compliance with laws and directives; and compassion and professionalism in addressing the needs of diverse communities.

We can't do this alone. No police department can. We need the assistance of every resident, every law enforcement agency, and every group that influences crime and its prevention. Creating a safe community truly requires cooperation from everyone. That is why I commit to you to do my utmost to maintain the safety, dignity, and well-being of all residents of Greensboro. I ask for your cooperation in this and your support of our work. I have always believed in doing the right thing for the right reason, and that's what this department will do under my leadership.

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