



Chadwick E. Wagner
Chief of Police

CITY of HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

POLICE DEPARTMENT • 3250 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. • HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA 33021-6967

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June 14, 2011

Mayor and Commissioners
City of Hollywood
2600 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, Florida 33020

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

I have expressed my serious concerns over impending Police Officer vacancies for nearly two (2) years to those who would listen to me. This situation has become even more dire based on the decision to lay off thirteen (13) of our most recently hired and finest Police Officers. As recently as yesterday, I urged each of you to avoid any decision which could result in the laying off of any of our personnel. Due to recent and impending retirements of our police personnel coupled with these layoffs, we will be facing the most critical police staffing shortage that this Department has ever seen. Within the next few months, we will have more than forty (40) Police Officer vacancies with many more retirements in the very short horizon. The sheer volume of vacancies occurring over this very short period of time cannot be addressed through an abbreviated hiring process that would compromise the strict hiring standards and training certification standards that we have chosen for our Hollywood Police Officers.

Based on this impending staffing shortage, I am compelled to make some very difficult decisions regarding the deployment of our personnel. As your Chief of Police, it is my ultimate obligation to provide sufficient police personnel to maintain a level of safety in our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, this goal may not be accomplished while confronted by officer safety concerns resulting from critical staffing shortages. These critical staffing shortages leave me no choice other than to eliminate many of the police assignments and services that our community has become accustomed to, and that we must now consider a luxury. Therefore, I am compelled to eliminate certain assignments and services in deference to maintaining a safe compliment of Police Officers on the road.

The thirteen (13) Police Officers that we are losing through layoffs were selected over many others to become a select group of Hollywood Police Officers. I personally interviewed each one of them before they were hired. They each have served the City



Our Mission: We are dedicated to providing municipal services for our diverse community in an atmosphere of cooperation, courtesy and respect.
We do this by ensuring all who live, work and play in the City of Hollywood enjoy a high quality of life.

"An Equal Opportunity and Service Provider Agency"



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well during their brief tenure and should have been the face of our Department for years to come. These thirteen (13) officers were of such quality that they will be quickly hired by other police agencies. Over the last few hours, I have heard from no less than two (2) local police agencies that have already shown interest in reaping the benefits of our short-sighted decision.

Please be assured that I have considered the ramifications of eliminating programs that have an impact on quality of life issues in our City. I must reiterate that the presence and visibility of our uniformed officers will always be a priority and their safety in our community will always be my utmost concern. With that in mind, I simply cannot sit back and accept the fact that we may be further compromising our public safety and the safety of our officers by eliminating the jobs of thirteen (13) of our finest whose exclusive assignment and responsibility has been to protect our community.

Sincerely,



CHADWICK E. WAGNER
Chief of Police

CEW:cs

c: Cameron D. Benson, City Manager
All Hollywood Police Personnel