

Today I informed Mayor Greg Fischer of my intention to retire and he is making that announcement as I send this email. I want you all to hear it directly from me.

Being your Chief has been the highlight of my 40-year career in law enforcement. This job allowed me to come back to Louisville in 2012, after a stint as the police chief in Glendale, AZ. It was the opportunity I'd wanted to return to the department where I started as a patrol officer in 1980, with the former city department.

There have been a lot of ups and downs in this job – there always are in police work. But nothing was harder for us than the loss of three of our sworn officers with LMPD – Peter Grignon, Nick Rodman, and Deirdre Mengedoht. Those are the hardest moments for a chief and we weathered them together as a family. Those three officers were the best of us and we should all approach this job every day to make them proud.

You all are weathering a lot right now and I know how challenging this is. Approach this as we approach all our struggles – as a team. Look out for each other. Show compassion to the community, even when it might not be shown to you. And remember what a privilege this job is.

I will be working through June 30 in order to see us through this budget cycle and ensure a smooth transition. Col. Rob Schroeder will be interim Chief as of July 1. You are in capable hands with him.

All my best to you and until the moment I walk out the door of my office for the last time, I will be working with your best interest in mind, as well as this community's interests.