



Fort Smith Police Department

Nathaniel Clark, Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

To: Carl Geffken, City Administrator

From: Nathaniel Clark, Chief of Police 

Subject: Notice of Resignation

Date: March 24, 2019

It is with great regret that I tender this formal notice of my intent to resign as Chief of Police of the Fort Smith Department effective April 8, 2019 (*request lump sum payment for all other accrued time*). January 2017, I answered the call for a reform-minded chief; a visible leader with a focus on community policing, crime reduction, and high professional standards.

The landscape has changed over the past two years with new and different challenges and I am pleased with the fact that we have implemented positive changes, endeavoring to make the City of Fort Smith a safer place, including:

- Two consecutive years (2017 and 2018) reported Part-1 crimes decreased; 5.6% in 2018 (*lower than the preceding 8 years*);
- Improved department relations with the community and initiated enhanced outreach community programs;
- Delivered an annual State of the Police Department address to the Mayor, Board of Directors, City Administrator and the citizens of Fort Smith;
- Instituted and filled the department's (*first*) Lieutenant's Rank;
- Increased the number of sworn officers from 151 to 164;
- January 2018, hired the most diverse recruits in the department's history;
- Promoted the first female to Sergeant in approximately 15 years (*only the third in the department's history*);
- Created an environment referencing community first policing throughout the department;
- Hired the first African American Female Officer in the department's history;
- Secured approximately \$2 million referencing enhanced technology, training, and equipment i.e. body cameras, radios, vehicles, motorcycles, security gate/fencing;
- Reorganized the department referencing greater accountability;
- Created and obtained Board of Director's approval of a 7-year Strategic Plan focusing on 21st Century Policing;
- Held an annual awards ceremony, honoring excellence of the men/women of the department;
- Re-instituted the Motorcycle Unit;

I hope and pray that my successor will use the funds appropriated referencing the 7-year Strategic Plan to complete a state of the arts firing range, continue to acquire additional vehicles and enhanced technology and training, and open a precinct on the east and/or south side of the city.

I am honored and forever grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve with you, departmental staff, and the citizens and guests of Fort Smith as Chief of Police.

Best Regards,

Cc: Mayor George McGill