



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

September 16, 2016

Darrel Stephens, Executive Director
Major Cities Chiefs Police Association

Dear Mr. Stephens,

I am writing to nominate Chief Charlie Beck for the Major Cities Chiefs Association Leadership Award. Charlie Beck was appointed Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in November 2009. As Chief of Police, he oversees the third-largest police department in the United States. He leads 10,000 sworn officers and 2,700 civilians who serve an area of 473 square miles, a population of 3.8 million people, and operate on an annual budget that exceeds \$1.5 billion.

Throughout Chief Beck's career, and particularly as the General Manager of the LAPD, he has demonstrated a leadership style characterized by innovation, a commitment to forging lasting relationships, and a focus on Los Angeles' most vulnerable communities. He has asserted that the ideals of crime reduction and community engagement must not exist in silos, but as co-dependent public safety priorities. Finally, at a time when police are experiencing a breakdown of trust from within traditionally underserved communities, Chief Beck has been a champion of honest dialogue, meaningful action, and Department accountability.

In the last few years, our nation has witnessed several controversial and unfortunate police shootings and in-custody deaths — each serving as a poignant reminder that nothing in the police profession is more consequential than an officer's application of deadly force. In the wake of incidents in Ferguson, Missouri, Chief Beck implemented a mandatory Department training day called the "National Discussion on Public Trust." For the first time in LAPD history, a Department "stand down" occurred, so that every sworn officer could attend the training within the month. Instructors facilitated discussions on topics such as preservation of life, embracing the humanity of community policing, the value of constitutional policing, and addressing the needs of individuals with mental illnesses.

Chief Beck also continued the nation's largest and most ambitious Digital In-Car Video and Body-Worn Video program, aimed at outfitting all of the Department's cars and

officers with cameras, to help build public trust and improve officer accountability. He created a Community Relationship Division (CRD) to place trained officers in neighborhoods where additional focus on building public trust is needed. Further, recognizing that nothing is more important in policing than the preservation of life, Chief Beck initiated the Preservation of Life Medal, a first for the LAPD. This medal — as esteemed as the Medal of Valor — recognizes officers who respond to situations where lethal force may have been appropriate, but who were able to deescalate the situation and save lives. Finally, last October, Chief Beck was invited to Washington D.C. where he joined President Obama on a panel to address criminal justice reform — emphasizing that in order to meaningfully address criminal justice reform we must continuously treat people fairly, remain effective, and “walk through that door together.”

In the business of policing, the first priority is always the safety of our neighborhoods. During Chief Beck’s tenure, L.A. has experienced its lowest Part I Crime numbers since 1957 — despite challenging financial times and budget cuts. The LAPD’s recent successes is owed in large part to the environment Chief Beck has created, where a high value is placed on thinking, trying and testing. The result has been a collaborative and innovative approach to crime reduction under the umbrella of smart policing. Partnering with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Chief Beck has guided the Department’s use of Predictive Policing for property crime and LASER zones to target the City’s most violent corridors and suspects involved in gun-related crimes. Mathematical algorithms now guide patrol officers to focus on smaller areas where the probability of criminal activity is highest. Likewise, computerized link and social network analysis, through a partnership with Palantir, is helping to disrupt criminal gang networks by creating near-instant connections between people, vehicles and locations.

Although L.A. is now experiencing an upswing in violent crime — a pattern echoed in most major U.S. cities — Chief Beck has emphatically maintained that policing must continually innovate. In March 2016, he created a Community Safety Operations Center that placed highly specialized field officers and CRD officers in the City’s four busiest divisions. Recognizing that only nine percent of the City’s land mass accounted for 50 percent of its murders, Chief Beck pushed commands to develop chronic offender lists, identify crime reduction corridors, and roll out Safety in Public Spaces campaigns that place uniformed officers in the most gang-ridden parks and recreation centers. His efforts reduced the rate of violent crime increase, and homicides and victims shot have fallen below last year’s numbers.

Although I have referenced Charlie Beck’s skills as an innovator, a collaborator, and a crime fighter, nothing defines his tenure as chief or his nearly forty years in the LAPD so much as his commitment to the City’s most vulnerable.

He has worked tirelessly to improve the sometimes strained relationships between police and residents of South Los Angeles through his development of Community Safety Partnerships (CSP), a program that assigns to housing developments specific groups of officers who spearhead non-traditional, community-based policing efforts. Now serving over 7,000 Los Angelenos, CSP officers, coach football teams, run tutoring

labs, facilitate support groups for parents who lost children to gang violence, and take young girls without fathers in the home to daddy/daughter dances. Every summer, Chief Beck places hundreds of officers across dozens of parks in the City to thwart gang violence through community engagement. Further, the LAPD's youth program enrollment has reached unprecedented numbers. Approximately 7,000 young adults have become Police Cadets during Chief Beck's tenure, in a program that teaches leadership, ethical decision-making, and life skills. Ninety-five percent of LAPD Cadets graduate high school and many are provided LAPD scholarships to attend college.

In response to a swell of tragic police incidents involving contacts with people who are mentally ill, Chief Beck doubled the response capacity of the Mental Evaluation Unit and ensured that a supervisor is dispatched to every radio call involving a mentally ill individual. Chief Beck also created the Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Teams to engage before a crisis occurs, connecting homeless individuals to appropriate services and housing. He created a new *Policy Regarding Police Contacts with Persons Experiencing Homelessness* and identified a staff officer to be the Homeless Coordinator for the Department to apply consistent oversight and direction as police officers navigate political, social, and tactical issues related to homeless contacts. Finally, recognizing that incarceration must be defined by decency, dignity, and respect, Chief Beck created the nation's first Type I Jail Transgender Housing Unit.

Chief Beck has demonstrated a strong commitment to making L.A. the safest big city in America. While Chief Beck's sense of urgency and rapid deployment to daily crime spikes are critical, his commitment to long-term community engagement strategies is equally important. It is for these reasons that I nominate Chief Charlie Beck for the Major Cities Chiefs Association Leadership Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti", with a horizontal line extending to the right and a small mark at the end.

Eric Garcetti
Mayor