



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

October 4, 2024

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall

Re: Appointment of Chief of Police, Los Angeles Police Department: James P. McDonnell

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Charter §575(a), I hereby appoint Mr. James P. McDonnell as Chief of Police of the Los Angeles Police Department, effective as of the date of your confirmation of this appointment.

Attached please find a copy of Mr. McDonnell's resume, which provides greater detail about his experience. I certify that in my opinion Mr. McDonnell is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:ta

Attachment

cc:

The Honorable Monica Rodriguez, Chair, Public Safety Committee	
Holly Wolcott, City Clerk	Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer	Grayce Liu, Personnel Department
Heather Holt, Ethics Commission	Nicole Enriquez, Ethics Commission
General Managers' Association	Police Command Officers Association
Los Angeles Police Protective League	

James P. McDonnell

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
Master's Degree in Public Administration, 1989

Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH
Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, 1981

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

University of Southern California, Los Angeles County, CA 2023 to Present

- Serves as Director of the Safe Communities Institute, Sol Price School of Public Policy.

McDonnell Strategies Group, Los Angeles County, CA 2019 to Present

- Provides expert consultation on a wide variety of leadership, policing, and public safety issues such as community policing, transformational leadership, command accountability, risk management, interoperability, crime analysis, prevention and suppression of crime, counter-terrorism, jail management, among others;
- Advises public safety agencies across the nation on issues including management accountability frameworks, implementing counter-terrorism best practices and intelligence sharing capabilities, training in de-escalation of volatile situations and reducing use of force, as well as rebuilding public trust in the aftermath of a critical incident;
- Serves on a variety of boards of directors and advisory boards. Advises corporate clients, from start-up companies to Fortune 500 multi-national corporations. Provides counsel to government entities on a variety of topics.
- Leverages community partnerships to inform client services and sits on several non-profit boards including the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles; the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County; the Chancellors of the City of Hope; and the Don Bosco Technical Institute, Board of Trustees.

Sheriff, Los Angeles County, CA 2014 to 2018

Please see the Special Edition of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) 2018 Year in Review for a more complete analysis of reforms and accomplishments: <http://lasd.org/pdf/2018-YIR-VIEW2.pdf>

- Led the nation's largest sheriff's department with 20,000 authorized personnel in a county of 4,083 square miles with almost 11 million residents and managed an over \$3.4 billion budget;
- Policed 140 unincorporated communities, protected 38 Superior Courts, and managed the nation's largest local jail system with a housing capacity of nearly 20,000 inmates;
- Served as Director of Homeland Security-Mutual Aid for California Region I (serving over 13 million people);
- Created institutional mechanisms for accountability and oversight in the wake of the convictions of the previous Sheriff and Undersheriff in a corruption scandal, including:
 - **Audit and Accountability Bureau:** conducts comprehensive audits on the effectiveness of the Department's risk management, internal controls, and governing processes;
 - **Shooting Analysis Committee:** reviews incidents necessitating immediate review or when an employee is involved in 3+ shootings to analyze risk management, tactical, and training concerns;
 - **Constitutional Policing Advisors:** Deploys attorneys who review and assess the quality of misconduct allegations, provides counsel on disciplinary matters, and enhance internal auditing and inspection functions;
 - **Public Data Sharing Project:** provides data regarding deputy-involved shootings, discipline, and complaints;
 - **Civilian Oversight Commission:** supported providing complete access to the LASD for accountability, transparency, and collaboration;
- Led efforts which made the L.A. County jail system a model for reform by implementing best practices and de-escalation techniques, increasing the use and visibility of surveillance cameras, improving mental health services, among others;
- Founded the LASD Human Trafficking Bureau and L.A. Regional Task Force on Human Trafficking, who rescued 300+ victims (209 minors) and arrested 1,463 traffickers, sex buyers, and perpetrators of internet crimes against children; and
- Hired 2,200 Deputy Sheriff Trainees (2015-2018), while increasing standards to hire only the most qualified candidates.

Chief of Police, City of Long Beach, CA 2010 to 2014

- Led a department of 1,500 employees with a \$200 million annual budget in one of the nation's most diverse cities with roughly half a million residents and one of the world's largest ports and the second busiest seaport in the United States;
- Achieved recognition for best practices in counter-terrorism efforts, gang intervention and enforcement, human trafficking investigations, and community policing;
- Reduced violent crime by 41% and property crime significantly, despite the reduction of both sworn and professional staff (due to budget constraints) by 20% and 25% respectively, in an almost 5-year tenure; and
- Decreased murders by 34% (lowest number of murders in 45 years), violent crimes by 42%, and traffic fatalities by 44%.

First Assistant Chief of Police, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles, CA
(Highest Rank Held)

1981 to 2010

- In the absence of the Chief of Police, led the day-to-day operation of the LAPD—which provided police service to nearly 4 million residents, in a city of 467 square miles and had an authorized strength of 10,300 sworn and 3,500 professional staff;
- Represented the LAPD to media, community, governmental and other entities on issues concerning public safety and provided input, guidance, and oversight of the complex fiscal and political issues involving the LAPD and City of L.A.;
- Served as Chair of the Use of Force Review Board and was responsible for assessing officers' use of force in the line of duty for compliance with department policy and state law as well as determining whether additional training and/or discipline was appropriate;
- As **Chief of Staff** and **Director of the Office of Human Resources**: oversaw all employee relations, personnel, training, education, risk management and psychological services, and crafted and implemented department-wide policies as part of the Merit Pay Review Board, Fleet Management Committee, and Human Resources Development Committee, among others;
- As **Chief of Operations**: oversaw all Department operational functions which encompassed 85% of the Department; directed management responsibility for four geographic bureaus: Central, South, West and Valley; and oversaw the reduction of homicides by 25% in the City of Los Angeles;
- As **Chief of Detectives**: led the investigative efforts of the LAPD and oversaw Detective Support Division, Gang and Narcotics Division, Investigative Analysis Unit, Juvenile Division, Property Division, and Robbery-Homicide Division;

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **Top Secret / SCI National Security Clearance**, Sponsor: FBI (2003 to 2018)
- **Cross Designation as Special Deputy-U.S. Marshal, FBI Task Force** (2005-2018)
- **Congressional Testimony**, Washington, D.C., May 17, 2017
 - Testified before the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on the topic of "Challenges Facing Law Enforcement in the 21st Century."
- **President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing**, Washington D.C., 2015
 - Testified as the sole policing practitioner invited before the Task Force on "The Future of Community Policing."
- **National Executive Session on Law Enforcement & Public Health: Inter-Disciplinary Strategies**, Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, Los Angeles, CA, & Washington, D.C., 2012

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

Major County Sheriffs of America,
Elected Vice President, 2017

International Association of Chiefs of Police,
Board of Directors, 2016

California Peace Officers' Association,
President, 2010–2011

Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association, *President,*
2013

Commission on Peace Officer Standards & Training,
Appointed Commissioner by Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown, Confirmed by the California State Senate, 2010-2016

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence,
Appointed Commissioner by the Board of Supervisors, 2012

California Attorney General's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee,
Committee Member, 2007

Pacific Council on International Policy, Los Angeles,
Council Member, 2016 to Present

USC Price School of Public Policy, Board of Councilors
2019 – 2023

NOTABLE AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Medal of Valor, Los Angeles Police Department, 1986

2024 Bud Hawkins Award
Presented by the CA Peace Officers' Association, CA Police Chiefs Association, CA District Attorneys Association, CA State Sheriffs' Association, and the CA Narcotic Officer's Association. (March 2024)

2024 Twice a Citizen Award
LAPD Reserve Officer Foundation

Anti-Defamation League's Award for Service to the Community for Combating Hate, Bigotry & Bias

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) Distinguished Leadership Award

Los Angeles Business Journal's "500 Most Influential People in Los Angeles for 2017"

Los Angeles City Council's "Visionary Leadership Award"

Mexican American Bar Association PAC's Courageous Leadership Award

Black Peace Officers' Association's Leadership Award

National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives and the Los Angeles Women Police Officers & Associates Special Recognition Award

Hispanic American Police Command Officers' Association Leadership Award

NAACP Award for Community Outreach & Safety