

**From:** Candice Baron <ccbaron8@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2019 12:27 PM  
**To:** Nicol, Colleen <CNicol@riversideca.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] New Chief of Police - Community involvement in the process

**To the City Clerk: Please deliver this email to City Manager Zelinka, Mayor Bailey, and the City Council.  
Thank you!**

Dear City Manager Zelinka, as well as Mayor Bailey and the City Council,

Mr. Zelinka, I read recently in the Press Enterprise that you will be involving the community as you go forward in the selection of a new Chief of Police. My husband and I would like very much to be involved in this process.

As a Riverside resident, I want to share my opinion as it relates to Interim Chief Gonzalez. As was mentioned in the Press Enterprise, Interim Chief Gonzalez was arrested in 2013 for a DUI where he had almost twice the legal limit of alcohol in his system. I understand he is very contrite and I appreciate that - we all make mistakes and I'm sure he is a good man. I truly appreciate his service to our city. However, and unfortunately, we are living in different times. Law enforcement is under constant attack. It is imperative that anyone wishing to represent/oversee our police department be unimpeachable and beyond reproach in their respect for the law - otherwise their decisions will always be questioned. When Interim Chief Gonzalez sat behind the wheel of his car that night in 2013 he failed this test. Not only did he put himself at risk, he also put at risk every other person he passed on his way home. This incident didn't happen when Mr. Gonzalez was a teenager or even a young man. It happened in 2013 - only six years ago. Six years ago, Mr. Gonzalez had many opportunities to make a responsible, lawful, adult decision: Uber (founded in 2009), cabs, friends, family...but he still chose to drive.

I write this as a huge supporter of law enforcement. My husband and I have attended the Citizen's Academy with DA Hestrin's office. I have a brother who is an officer with the Sacramento Police Department and a member of their Explosive Ordnance Team. This is not my first time writing to you about the Chief of Police position. The person we choose as Chief of Police is very important to the health of our city. Please, keep this top of mind as you go forward in this process. There have been several recent murders in our city. Homelessness is out of control. And we worry about walking downtown at night. These things are not good for our city's reputation as we embark on an expansion of our convention center and strive to bring new business to Riverside. We need to do something different. We need a new approach. We need new ideas. We need someone who will be tough on crime.

If Allen and I can be of any assistance as you go through this process, please feel free to give us a call. Candice: (602) 694-0200; Allen: (602) 620-5616.

Sincerely,  
  
Candice Baron

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
HR Director