

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Candice Baron" <ccbaron8@hotmail.com>

To: "Linda Huff"

Linda,

Send to the City Clerk at: CNicol@riversideca.gov

To the City Clerk - Thank you for forwarding my email below to the entire Riverside City Council, the Mayor, City Manager, and any other individuals involved in the search for a new Chief of Police.

Dear Mayor Bailey, Council Members, City Manager, et al,

Thank you to everyone involved in the clean-up of Hole Lake. Over the years, I have watched the homeless population balloon and crime increase in our city. I care very much about Riverside and I was astounded to learn about the situation there. We should not be complacent in these complex situations going forward...which is why I am writing to you.

I read that Chief Diaz is resigning very soon. This is a perfect time for a fresh look and new ideas. Although Chief Diaz believes the police department is in a good place, I was very disconcerted to hear of a series of murders in downtown Riverside, including in the entertainment district across the street from the historic Mission Inn, as well as the recent murder of a CHP officer and two officers injured in a horrific shootout. We have a problem with crime and, coupled with the homeless situation and early release, I am very, very concerned about the health of our city.

As the City Council goes about the hiring and decision-making process involved in choosing a new Chief of Police, I would like you to carefully consider the following things:

1. Choose someone who has a record of success with crime and homelessness in their own city. This is important.
2. Go outside California - do not choose someone from LAPD or San Francisco especially.
3. Take a look at what Sheriff Chad Bianco is doing – we need more of a “tough on crime” mentality/policy.
4. We need a reformer – we need change – and we need it now. Our city is only getting bigger – and so is our population of criminals and homeless.
5. We need a Chief who will demand that his officers engage the homeless population. It is horrific that citizens are having to clean our sidewalks of human defecation. We need to solve this situation now. Bring in people who have ideas/suggestions as this will need to be a multi-pronged effort - there is no one solution.

6. If other cities are sending their homeless population to Riverside because we've got better services, we need to send them back. It's grossly unfair for you to sit idly by and make your tax-paying citizens take care of other cities' problems. We cannot afford this...and it's wrong.

Please, take the hiring of a new Police Chief very seriously - which I'm sure you will. Take your time getting the right person to handle our unique situation. The Chief of Police you choose to take care of our city should have an inclination toward solving the homeless epidemic and toward enforcing our laws and ordinances. This is paramount to a safe and successful Riverside.

Thank you.

Linda Huff

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