

Attn: City Clerk

Please share this letter with Mayor Bailey, City Council Members, City Manager, et al.

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

I want to start off by thanking you, law enforcement, city workers, and anyone and everyone involved in the recent clean-up of Hole Lake. Thank you! 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 "pretty good place", I was very disconcerted to hear about the murder at the corner of Orange and Mission, two people shot at a party north of Victoria, another individual found shot dead in his car (all of this in just one night) on the same weekend, as well as our brave CHP officer being killed in a shoot-out and another two officers injured. Coupled with the homeless situation and early release, I am very, very concerned about the health of our city.

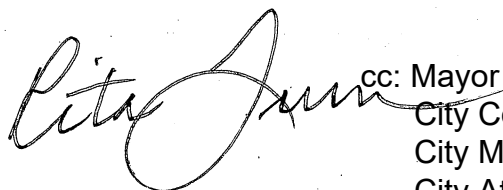
As the City Council goes about the hiring and decision-making process involved in choosing a new Chief of Police, I would like you to carefully consider the following things:

1. Choose someone who has a record of success with crime and homelessness in their own city.
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. This is not okay!
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 not fair to assume that your tax-paying citizenry should take care of other cities' problems.

Please, take the hiring of a new Police Chief very seriously – 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.

Sincerely,

Rita Turner, Riverside, CA 92506



cc: Mayor

City Council

City Manager

City Attorney

ACMs

DCMs

HR Director

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City of Riverside
City Clerk's Office



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