

December 5, 2022

The Honorable Mayor Jane Castor *jc 12/5/22*
City of Tampa
306 E. Jackson Street
Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Mayor Castor,

It is with great sadness that I submit my resignation from the position of Chief of Police effective immediately, December 5, 2022.

Nearly one year ago, against all odds, I became the Chief of Police for the City of Tampa, and I am eternally grateful to you and the residents of Tampa for having faith in me to lead this department. I promised that I would serve the community I love to the best of my abilities, as I did for 22 years prior to retirement, and I feel that I've done just that.

I prioritized community engagement by hosting violent crime forums and front porch roll calls throughout the last year in neighborhoods most affected by gun violence, giving community members a platform to be heard and ultimately decreasing the amount of violent crime throughout our city. Under my leadership, the department successfully secured more than \$1 million in grant funding from the Department of Justice that will be used for crime prevention initiatives in the near future. My focus on the wellness of both officers and the community will continue through my expansion of the police chaplaincy program, the creation of victim advocate and behavioral health clinician positions, the introduction of a certified therapy dog to the department, and many other endeavors that are still in the works.

I would never want my personal mistake to stand in the way of the progress I have made in mending relationships between the police department and the community, so for that reason, I am resigning.

I have full confidence that the nearly 1,000 officers who serve the city of Tampa every day with dedication and integrity will continue on with our mission. Whether I am wearing a badge or not, my commitment to service and oath of office will remain a part of my everyday life. I plan to use this time to reflect and spend time with my family and children before moving on to any future endeavors.

It has been an honor to serve as your Chief of Police, and I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity.

Respectfully,



Mary E. O'Connor