

BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

February 25th, 2015

**FORMER NYPD CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT PHILIP BANKS III TO SPEAK AT THE
DEPARTMENT ON TOPICS OF RACE, POLICE COMMUNITY-RELATIONS AND PUBLIC**

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SAFETY**

On Friday, February 26th, the leadership and staff of the BPD and chiefs and executives from several county law enforcement agencies will be attending a discussion session with Philip Banks III, the former Chief of Department of the New York City Police Department.

Drawing on his professional and personal experiences, he will discuss the challenges facing modern-day police agencies in terms of community outreach, crime control and diversity, with the goal of accomplishing all three as part of a unified approach to effective community policing. Retired Chief Banks is the second African-American member of the NYPD to have ascended to its highest uniformed position. During his tenure, he was noted for his ability to successfully lead precincts, boroughs and bureaus, where in all cases he had a track record of fighting crime while connecting with local communities of diverse backgrounds.

“I’m honored and pleased that as a county, we’ll have an opportunity to learn from one of the nation’s foremost leaders in community policing,” said Brandon del Pozo, Chief of the Burlington Police Department. “Chief Banks commanded three NYPD Precincts, all of Manhattan North, and the Community Affairs Bureau. Along the way, as both an African-American and a cop, he gained insights into fair and effective policing that we can all learn from as Vermont becomes more diverse and faces the policing challenges that come with it.”

In March 2013, after 27 years of service, Philip Banks III was appointed the Chief of Department of the 35,000-officer NYPD, the highest uniformed rank in the department, where he oversaw its Patrol, Detective, Transit, Transportation, Community Affairs and Organized Crime Control Bureaus, and administered its CompStat program. Banks joined the NYPD in July of 1986, and began his career on patrol in the 81st Precinct. Prior to being appointed to the Chief of Department, Banks served as the Chief of Community Affairs. He also served as the Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Manhattan North, and commanded the 79th, 81st and Central Park Precincts. He retired from the NYPD in October, 2014.

Attendance at the event will be limited to local law enforcement professionals. Chief Banks can be reached for comment at (718) 909-4704. Chief del Pozo can be contacted at BdelPozo@bpdvt.org.