

December 16, 2019

Dear Mayor Weinberger,

Thank you for your support over the past several days, and for your enduring support for the Burlington Police Department. Your leadership and bold vision have profoundly shaped the city for the better, and it shows every day. After over four years of faithful service to the city, it is my hope that you will accept my resignation from the position of Chief of Police effective on this date.

I will look back on my time here with intense feelings of pride and accomplishment. We were able to fight the opioid crisis as well or better than any other city in the nation, reducing overdose deaths by half in 2018 and sustaining that into 2019. Our methods have become a national model for saving lives. We closed the gap in racial disparities on our roadways in many ways and came to acutely understand the reasons for others. We brought about needed reform at the Vermont Police Academy. Our innovations in the use of force and de-escalation were literally the nation's pilot, and they will endure.

And we were the police. We lowered violent crime, making the city as safe as ever. Our detectives solved countless difficult cases, from hate crimes to sex assaults, giving justice and hope to our city's victims. Every single suspect who shot or killed another human being under our watch was apprehended. Our work saved lives, helped the profession innovate, and made the city a better place. One of my regrets is that we were never able to arrest the killer of Rita Curran, who was murdered in Burlington in 1971. We still think about her short life, and what we owe her memory.

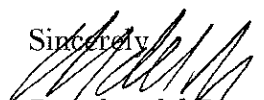
Most of all, I am so proud to have led such a great group of people. The police officers and civilian employees of the Burlington Police Department are among the best anywhere, without a doubt. They managed every type of protest and event in a vibrant city without resorting to arrests. They were out in the city in every type of weather, ready to protect their neighbors with skill and professionalism. There were times when I wondered if the city appreciated them enough, but I was always reassured by the kind words of a grateful resident. Whoever leads them next needs to make sure they are well taken care of, protected, and inspired. They hold Burlington together, and I will miss them so.

I will also miss working with and serving the people of this city. Our city councilors give so much of their time to their neighbors, and our department heads care so deeply for our city in all the big and little ways that keep it livable and prosperous. I will look back so fondly on all of the meetings and events where citizens, civic leaders and public officials came together to make a city great. And then there are the people of the city: I always knew I worked for them, and felt it was a privilege.

When I came to Burlington in 2015, I was writing a book about American policing for a major publisher. I put the draft aside so I could concentrate on policing this great city. My Ph.D. in political philosophy is also imminent, and one of my goals has been to help establish a research center for the study of policing and public health. These challenges and others lie before me, and I feel the best way to advance the state of American policing and find personal fulfillment will now be to pursue them.

Serving a city as its chief is the noblest thing I have ever done. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so in the finest city in New England and one of the best places to live in America.

Sincerely,



Brandon del Pozo
Chief of Police