



BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Antonio B. Pomerleau Building
1 North Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Michael E. Schirling
Chief of Police

Phone (802) 658-2704
Fax (802) 865-7579

March 17, 2015

Mayor Miro Weinberger
City Hall
149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Mayor Weinberger:

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you, the citizens of Burlington, a host of partners and partner agencies too numerous to name, and the more than 400 employees who have traversed the ranks of the Burlington Police Department over the last 25 years. I have been so fortunate to have had an opportunity to serve the City where I was born and grew up in a variety of roles, beginning in August 1989 as an Auxiliary Officer and culminating with my service as Chief of Police from 2008 until today.

For some time, we had been discussing the timing of the end of my term as Chief of Police to occur in 2015 after the Department and City had reached the milestone of their 150th birthday. As we continue the 150th celebrations, it seems fitting to formalize those plans now with notice of my intent to retire on June 30.

When I reflect on the last 25 years, many moments come to mind. I picture events that will forever be emblematic of the tragedy, importance, and occasional humor of our work policing Burlington. Among the most rewarding experiences were the opportunities to: train police officers and criminal justice professionals; craft innovative programs, initiatives, and strategies to move the Department and City forward; provide some measure of comfort to victims, survivors, and family members affected by tragedy, crime, and violence; and engage so many members of our vibrant community in our efforts to make Burlington the safest, healthiest, and most livable small City in the country.

No contemporary police department can provide the safety, security, and problem-solving capacity that communities need without robust partnerships. We have been fortunate to have

support from so many partners and partner agencies. From community members to local businesses; healthcare providers to social services; educational institutions to youth centers; there are so many who help us accomplish our work every day. To each of our partners and to so many people who have engaged in community initiatives, I extend a heart-felt thank you.

When I was hired, Chief Kevin Scully told me that I had entered the most noble of professions. Some time a few years prior to then, President Theodore Roosevelt said in an address to the New York City Police Department, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." I hope that my efforts have, in some small way, embodied the essence of these statements and the best traditions of the 150-year history of the Burlington Police Department.

Most importantly, those who do the increasingly challenging work of policing that is so essential and so often misunderstood and underappreciated - and the family and friends who support them each day - will always have my unwavering support, gratitude, and admiration. I am honored to have been fortunate enough to serve with them.

As I prepare for the next phase of my career, I am confident that my colleagues at the Burlington Police Department are well-positioned to continue the Department's important work for the community. I look forward to working with you and your team, the community, and the Department during this exciting transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Schirling", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael E. Schirling
Chief of Police

CC: Members of the Burlington Police Department
Burlington Police Commission