

Letter from Police Chief John Carmichael to the Newton Community

After more than 35 years of a life in public service, I have made the personal decision to embark on the next chapter of my life and career.

Since May, I have been on a personal leave of absence to focus on my health. And after much reflection, I've decided to step down to focus on my health, family and other opportunities.

It has been an incredible honor and privilege to be part of what I consider the noblest profession. Throughout my career, I've led hundreds of officers and ascended the ranks of the profession by embracing the philosophy of 21st Century Policing. From my early days on patrol to becoming a Police Chief, I've solved crimes, dismantled drug organizations, created innovative community engagement programs, managed critical incidents, and worked hard to build trust in the communities I've served.

Since 2014, I've worked to create policy with three Gubernatorial Administrations and served as the Law Enforcement Spokesperson. In 2016, I was selected as an executive board member for the Department of Public Health concerning medical marijuana. In 2017, I was appointed as the Law Enforcement Representative to the Cannabis Advisory Board.

Lastly but most importantly, I've created mental wellness programs for officers and specialized co-response units, built innovative youth programs and community engagement initiatives, created training curriculums and instructed and educated the next generation of officers. In 2021, I was honored to have a high school scholarship dedicated in my name for students interested in a future in public service.

I thank Mayor Fuller along with all of our police personnel for having the faith, trust and confidence in me to lead an extraordinary police department graced with a remarkable group of people.

The City of Newton is extremely fortunate to have such a high caliber of talented, selfless, and compassionate people, ready and willing to serve their community with utmost distinction and professionalism. I consider myself blessed to have had the chance to work alongside some exceptional people and lead the best humanity has to offer.

I am proud of the contributions I've made to the policing profession throughout my career. This unique job has taught me many invaluable lessons, helped me grow, shaped my perspectives on life, and allowed me to experience both failure and success.

I will always remember every individual who helped support me, stand by my side, and shape me into the person and police officer I am today. While I wish I could thank them all personally, I know they know who they are and what they mean to me.

As I transition to the next phase of my life and career, I am truly grateful to every member of the Newton Police Department – Guardians by Choice, Heroes by Chance, they should always be revered.

I will miss leading and advocating for them and will certainly miss the camaraderie of the NPD. I wish Chief George McMains all the best. He is one of the most gifted and extraordinary leaders I have met throughout my career, he has served his department and city well.

In closing, I appreciate and thank members of the community I've come to meet and know over the last few years, fellow city workers, and members of city council. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be your police chief. "

Respectfully,

John F. Carmichael

Chief of Police