



City of Palo Alto City Council Staff Report

(ID # 7687)

Report Type: Consent Calendar

Meeting Date: 1/23/2017

Summary Title: Retirement Resolution for Dennis Burns

**Title: Adoption of a Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto
Expressing Appreciation to Dennis Burns Upon His Retirement**

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Police

Due to this resolution being formally presented to Dennis Burns on January 25, 2017 at the celebration of his retirement, it is placed on the Consent Calendar rather than under Special Orders.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Dennis Burns



Resolution

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE TO DENNIS BURNS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Police Chief Dennis Burns has conscientiously and professionally served the City of Palo Alto and the Community for 35 years. Chief Burns rose through the ranks of Agent, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief of Police and Police Chief. Throughout his career, Chief Burns has held various specialty assignments, such as Patrol Watch Commander, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team Member, Investigations Sergeant, Personnel and Training Coordinator, and Field Training Officer (FTO) Sergeant. Chief Burns was also appointed Interim Fire Chief while continuing to lead the Police Department serving as Public Safety Director; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burns has investigated and supervised several notable cases, such as the Liu, Galbraith, and Niebauer homicides, the Romel Reid serial rapist case, and participated in the search for the suspect in the homicide of East Palo Alto Police Officer Richard May; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burns is an active member in various professional organizations, such as the FBI National Academy Alumnae, California Police Chiefs' Association, California Peace Officers' Association, and the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs' Association. Chief Burns has participated in countless regional training exercises, which include Urban Shield and Active Shooter; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burns has received nearly 100 commendations from citizens and other agencies for his professionalism in assisting with and responding to calls for service. Chief Burns has been the recipient of the Department's Outstanding Public Service Award and, in 2014, was selected for the "Outstanding Professional/Business Person" Tall Tree Award; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burns implemented the Department's Community Advisory Group (CAG), which included Human Relations Commission representatives. Chief Burns developed and implemented the Police Department's Employee Wellness Program and was instrumental in obtaining grant funding for the Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) vehicle. Chief Burns has been a proponent of supporting mental health concerns in the community and county. Chief Burns has collaborated with other County law enforcement and fire departments in developing a multi-discipline active shooter incident protocol; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burns was appointed Chief of Police in 2009 at a challenging point in time for the department and led the department exceptionally, with quiet strength and kindness, earning the trust and respect of our community and deepening the bonds between public safety and our community; and

WHEREAS, Chief Burns will be greatly missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Palo Alto, hereby gratefully records and extends its sincere appreciation and acknowledges the community's appreciation to Police Chief Dennis Burns for 35 years of faithful and excellent service rendered to the City.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: January 23, 2017

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Manager

City Attorney