



Office of the CHIEF OF POLICE

goodbye 2016... Welcome 2017!

As we close out 2016, I reflect on the many different opportunities, challenges and growing points it provided us, individually and professionally. It reaffirmed commitments to our profession, it asked us to better our communications, and it renewed our appreciation in so many relationships we possess. Matters on national and state tables, now more than ever, have direct impacts on our local issues. Preeminent on my professional mind are the horrific impacts that touched the law enforcement community. As I write this, 138 Line-of-Duty losses were suffered nationally, 11 in California, this year. Courageous response by two of our own Hawthorne Officers was shown on November 19th during a gun-battle assault upon them. This touched squarely home, our most recent reality-check of the danger our men and women face daily. Thankfully, each of our own survived, and despite a serious wounding to one, both will be entering the New Year at our sides. Despite those hardships, I cannot tell you how many refreshing and warm encounters our Department staff has experienced throughout the year. Citizens from all corners, saying hello, offering words or even gifts in support. True reminders that our community at-large values our work, and that only a few skew the line.

2017 is staged to be a very encouraging year! Organizationally, we are entering it wearing new branding, a revised Police Department badge. It now places the Department as the focal point. It serves as our newest marker for expansion in services, goals and pride. In '17, we will prioritize sustaining and growing the Department in complement, in internal opportunities and in our neighborhood offerings. Equally, we will eagerly watch critical City growth, via key developments scheduled for groundbreaking. We will advocate new partnerships and long-term vision, our City Hall and PD enjoining to advance the City and all its potential.

Now is also a time that I value in looking back with appreciation as well. I thank each Department employee for continually stepping up and helping to form what is, 'pound for pound', one of the top Police Departments in the United States. Words we now use as an Agency, 'pioneer' - 'innovate' - 'serve', are no longer goals. They are now our resume. Best part is, they are done proactively and willingly by Police employees. That's what sets us apart, and is what is pushing others to emulate.

In closing, I thank our Community. You are the power behind our ability to provide public safety. You understand that the service demands within Hawthorne are among the most demanding found anywhere. Yet through this, you provide for us to meet that challenge, support us when we do right or could have done better, and endorse the many positive outreaches we create and foster. We are fortunate to have you as our Community, and to have our Elected Leaders, our City Manager and City Staff, as our capable leadership and partners in service and betterment.

To all, my wishes for a safe, healthy, and prosperous year ahead. God Bless -

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