

Abdul Pridgen is Chief of the Seaside Police Department, sworn-in on March 1st, 2018. In Seaside, he has made accountability, transparency, and winning the community's trust a department priority. In his two-and-a-half-years in Seaside, a working-class majority-minority community next to Monterey, Abdul has put systems in place to increase the public's confidence in police and assure that policing for safety, not incarceration is each officer's focus. Even in a time when the country is gaining greater awareness of policing's role in perpetuating historical inequities through the Movement for Black Lives, Abdul's tenure in Seaside has seen Black community members' trust in their police increase by 18% (according to surveys conducted by Elucid). The department has worked with, not against, residents as they demand greater change through first amendment protected activities.

Before coming to Seaside, Abdul served as the first Black Assistant Chief of the Fort Worth Police Department, rising through the ranks to command all three bureaus (Patrol, Finance & Personnel, Support) of the department responsible for policing the country's 13th largest city. Commanding Patrol, Abdul led 1,145 personnel in their respectful delivery of community policing services to approximately 815,000 residents spread across 350 square miles. Overall, crime decreased in both years he led Patrol. In charge of Finance and Personnel, Abdul managed a \$301M budget and increased diversity in class 134 by 80%. While leading Support Bureau, Abdul revamped the vacancy selection process to increase diversity in special assignments.

In Fort Worth, Abdul—who joined the police department as a new recruit, becoming a detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and deputy chief before being appointed as Assistant Chief in 2009—was known for his effectiveness at employing evidence to drive organizational change and his principled approach to policing, willing to stand up to police leaders to promote ethical policing and fight for a culture of accountability.

Before becoming a police officer, Abdul was as a Sailor in the armed forces, serving in Desert Storm. He was honorably discharged after his six-year active duty commitment and retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Chief Petty Officer.

Abdul is passionate about police accountability and transparency. He founded and is CEO of the Institute for Transparent and Accountable Policing (ITAP), a nonprofit consortium of current and former law enforcement officers, community leaders, recruiting firms, attorneys, and academics who are dedicated to improving police-community relations by infusing greater transparency and accountability into policing through a LAT™ score. As a police chief, Abdul works every day to earn the trust of those his officers serve and find new ways to transform his department into an ethical and transparent organization.

Abdul is also a collaborative, creative community leader, and has long insisted that communities can solve problems in ways that include but also reach well beyond police services. Abdul created Project Cool Breeze in Fort Worth, a program where residents-including officers-repair or replace inoperable air conditioning units for persons and families who cannot afford a new unit. It's part of his commitment to addressing problems with both a practical eye and through the lens of social justice. In Fort Worth, Abdul also created a Secret Santa program where, for several weeks leading up to Christmas, patrol officers across the city gave out over \$25,000 in gift cards to children whose families were having trouble affording holiday gift buying.

Abdul holds a Master of Arts in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. He is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute, FBI National Academy, FBI National Executive Institute, and Harvard Kennedy School, where he received an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership. Abdul is also a Senior Advisor for Measures for Justice, the 1st Vice President of the California Police Chiefs Association, President of the Monterey County Chief Law Enforcement Officers Association, President of the Institute for Transparent and Accountable Policing, President of the Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Team, Chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Reduction of Youth Violence, and Chair of the California Police Chiefs Association Finance Committee.

Abdul, who grew up in The Bronx, New York, is a proud husband and father. He has always had a servant's heart and, from an early age, served all comers on the streets of The Bronx who wanted an electric boogie showdown. Though today he's put his dancing shoes aside, in what little spare time he has, Abdul enjoys volunteering and spending quality time with his family.