

STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF REINSTATEMENT

Chief of Police Search Comments



From: Karen T Putz <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 2:25:50 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>

Subject: Chief of Police Search Comments

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

Please reinstate Leronne Armstrong as Chief of Police. I believe the recent report exonerated him from previous charges. Also, the search for a new police chief is wasting time and money when we need to prioritize a solution to Oakland's growing crime problem. Businesses are leaving Oakland and going on strike, due to retail and car theft. Don't miss another opportunity, like with the retail grant, to get Oakland back on track. Even the Mayor admits that the process is taking too long!

The mayor created this crisis and liability by dismissing the former police chief after an outside investigation report by a San Francisco firm that had questionable quality, sufficiency, and credibility in its analysis and findings. The mayor dismissed the former chief without a plan and pre-empted the Commission's ability to review the investigation report.

"I'm frustrated. I'm frustrated that the process is taking very long. If this doesn't actually come to fruition, so that we can get our chief, then I will be forced to activate my executive powers around a state of emergency to ensure that we do get a chief in a timely manner, if the police commission cannot do its job," said Mayor Thao, speaking to KRON4's Justine Waldman.

Thank you!

From: Shelley Albar [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 11:01:28 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

To: OPC General Mailbox

Subject: The Chief of Police, LeRonne Armstrong!

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification](https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification)]

The best Chief of police we've had in recent memory, most certainly should be reinstated.

He was unjustly, maliciously, and falsely fired.

Do the right thing! For our City, citizens, police officers, and yourselves.

REINSTATE CHIEF LERONNE ARMSTRONG IMMEDIATELY!

Shelley Albar,
Native Oaklander

From: Pratiti Beldner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 6:41:11 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Office of the Mayor <OfficeoftheMayor@oaklandca.gov>; OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Reinstate Chief LeRonne Armstrong

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Thao,

You fired Chief Armstrong without an independent review of your charges against him and this city has been in a chaotic crime spree ever since then. You should have waited for an independent review of the facts before removing him from his job.

Chief Armstrong needs to be reinstated immediately. It doesn't matter that you don't personally like him. He was doing a great job and the majority of the citizens of Oakland had a lot of faith in him. He was doing a great job.

You need to resign. Even if this were a city of 4000 people instead of over 400,000 people you just don't have the credentials for the job you have. You have no idea how to run a city effectively.

Really? Missing out on the \$\$ from the state for combating crime? Come on. Get with it, or get out. Don't try to blame someone else for that - that's on you and no one else.

Sincerely,

Pratiti Beldner
Oakland, CA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 2:37:26 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Chief Armstrong - 9/29 meeting

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Police Commission,

Unfortunately, I fear driving anywhere in Oakland, especially at night, so am unable to deliver my voice in person regarding the Police Chief selection.

I want you to know that I am completely in favor of Chief Armstrong being re-appointed to "his" position. This man absolutely cares about Oakland and its residents. I believe his vindication will impact the court's oversight as well and we can get back to nearing the conclusion of that process.

I am also hoping that Mayor Thao can be persuaded to gracefully accept the vindication and show her support as it will have a dual impact of following the community support for him but also showing the entire force that she and the Commission support OPD through all ranks.

With his re-appointment, he can immediately determine strategy necessary to start reversing the flow of crime that has us all paralyzed and that cannot happen soon enough. Please be a role model for the nation in putting aside politics and standing tall for the citizens!

Sincerely,
Nancy Safford

[REDACTED]
Oakland, CA 94619

From: Steven Heimoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 5:45:18 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox
Subject: New Chief

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

On behalf of the people of Oakland, I urge you to rehire Chief LeRonne Armstrong, who was immorally fired by Thao at the direction of Warshaw.

Surely you know that Oaklanders love and respect Chief Armstrong, especially in our communities of color. If you do not reinstate him, the Police Commission will lose all credibility.

Thank you,

Steve Heimoff, President
Coalition for a Better Oakland

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:41:38 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox
Subject: Please reinstate Chief Armstrong

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hi,

I am a resident and home owner in Oakland and I am voicing my hope that Chief Armstrong will be reinstated as Oakland's Chief of Police.

My husband and I both support him so please count that as 2 votes :).

Thank you!!
Eileen O'Brien
Oakland resident

K [REDACTED]


Tue 9/19/2023 8:06 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Please reinstate him.

From: Cyrece Marie Puccio [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 2:43:59 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Reinstate Armstrong as Chief of Police

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to express my support of reinstating Leronne Armstrong as Chief of Police.

I am unable to attend the Town Hall Meeting tomorrow (9/28/23) but would like my support of his reinstatement recognized by the Police Commission.

Cyrece Marie Puccio
[REDACTED]
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Mary Forte [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 8:52:58 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Reinstate Lerone Armstrong

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Oakland Police Commission.

Please do the right thing and reinstate Leronne Armstrong as Oakland Chief of Police. Mayor Thao fired Armstrong without sitting down with the chief and having a conversation with him as well as with the Police Commission. Mayor Thao fired Armstrong 90 minutes before the Police Commission was to meet to discuss the case, this was a slap in the Police Commission's face. Armstrong was not allowed to defend his dismissal with the Mayor, a Mayor who had been in office a mere 4 weeks.

Since the firing of Armstrong, lawlessness has steadily increased in Oakland, car thefts, burglaries have soared. To turn crime around in Oakland we need more enforcement not less, we need more good police officers who care about the Oakland community, we need a chief that can bring healing to Oakland, and that chief is Leronne Armstrong. Armstrong had nearly brought the department into full compliance with the federal court's mandates, which is what he said he would do when he became chief. He works well with the community because he grew up in Oakland. Attorney John Burriss stated that he was dumbfounded by the conclusions of the investigations and the evidence did not support the termination of the chief.

A search for another chief is not necessary, the community did not fire Leronne, the community had the chief we wanted and although no one is perfect and we all make mistakes, the mistake that Mayor Thao has made is firing Armstrong. The people of Oakland want Leronne Armstrong reinstated now with back pay.
Thank you,

Mary Forte

This is the day the Lord hath made, be glad, give thanks, rejoice!

From: Laakea Laano [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 12:27:43 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Please reinstate Leronne Armstrong

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Police Commission,

It's my personal belief that former Chief Armstrong was buried by the Oakland City Council and Mayor because he dared to speak out nationally about the untenable crime situation in Oakland. So they looked for ways to discredit and remove him.

Now that he's been exonerated from the accusations, I ask you to please, please, please reinstate him. We need strong leadership like him, especially when crime is such a defining issue in the precipitous decline in safety and general quality of life in Oakland. Residents, customers, and businesses are leaving because of crime. Reinstating Mr. Armstrong would give those of us who remain some semblance of hope.

The fact that he's willing to come back after how he's been treated is a testament to his dedication to the people of Oakland.

Sincerely,
Laakea Laano

From: Suzanne Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 12:35:20 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Chief Armstrong

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Oakland Police Commission,

Thank you for taking up the item "Should the Oakland Police Commission recommend Leronne Armstrong be reinstated. As a block level leader in the city's public safety/community policing structure, and also a resident of East Oakland, I am overwhelmingly in support of reinstating Leronne Armstrong as Oakland's police Chief.

My block experienced trauma in 2019 when Misty Smith Walton was murdered in front of us at the corner of Outlook and 65th avenue. She was 6 months pregnant (with a girl) and the PTA President at Carl Munck Elementary School, and the mother of two. Our community met with then Deputy Chief Armstrong and our NCPC Chair. At that meeting I raised several issues, such as poor communication between OPD and the community, and that neighbors use the NextDoor app to stay up to date with what is going on in our community, and that OPD should come where we are and communicate to us via the portals our community uses, instead of discombobulated city website that was often not up to date.

I recall months later attending a Community Policing Advisory Board meeting and (then) Deputy Chief Armstrong was there. I was really shocked to hear him giving a presentation that they were actively working on every issue that I had brought up, along with other items from neighbors. It was incredibly motivating to learn that the Deputy Chief of police not only cared about what we wanted changed, but was making those changes within the department.

Because of Armstrong and his belief in listening and acting on behalf of the community, OPD now posts regularly on NextDoor, keeping us up to date with what they are doing and what activities we may engage with. That is only one of the many changes that Leronne Armstrong has made within OPD as a result of his belief in making community policing real in Oakland.

When Armstrong became the Chief of Police for Oakland it was truly a day to celebrate, as the community finally had an advocate in the position of "top cop" for the city. As Chief, and in only a short period of time, Armstrong has made huge inroads at restoring trust in policing, using his position and the police force to work on "root cause" issues, changing police culture and approaches, and making community policing real for Oakland.

Although there are great candidates out there for Police Chief, it is hard to believe that Oakland will be able to find someone as rare, passionate, and skilled as Lerrone Armstrong. We are in a very difficult and sometimes dark time in Oakland and we need a leader who inspires, restores hope, is deeply invested in our community, and has a proven track record for results.

In short, we need Lerrone Armstrong.

I am writing to you to ask that you put forward the strongest recommendation possible to reinstate Lerrone Armstrong as our police chief.

Thank you.

Suz Robinson

East Oakland resident, block leader for 65th ave

From: Kira Pascoe [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 4:29:38 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Oakland Citizen Comment for Chief Armstrong

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Oakland Police Commission,

As a resident of Oakland, I am writing to give my strong support for former Police Chief Armstrong to return as the police chief for OPD. Please either reinstate him or have him in the applicant pool to be chief of OPD. Currently, Oakland is enduring massive crime, and we need strong leaders who know and understand Oakland (and who Oakland knows).

Chief Armstrong is from Oakland, understands Oakland, and is a strong leader. He believes in Oakland. He worked with the Oakland community we saw good, clear and strong results under his leadership. We need him back for the sake of Oakland's community.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Kira Pascoe
Wood Park Resident
Oakland

STATEMENTS NOT IN SUPPORT OF REINSTATEMENT

From: Emily Wheeler [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2023 10:30:12 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Police Chief

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Oakland Police Commission:

I was born and raised in Oakland. I do not think the Police Commission should recommend that Leronne Armstrong be reinstated as Chief of Police. For one, from what I understand, this is not actually possible. Additionally, Chief Armstrong's actions after being put on suspension were, in my opinion, out of line and inappropriate. We need a chief who will work *with* the monitor to get us in compliance — not a chief who will throw a temper tantrum and go on Fox News to complain about our elected officials.

Oakland needs a Chief of Police who will take accountability for reforming the department. I hope that the Police Commission will turn wholeheartedly to the task of finding such a Chief.

--

Emily Wheeler
She/Her/Hers

From: Luz Hernandez [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 2:37:51 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: NO to "reinstating" Armstrong

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Oakland Police Commission,

While you have no actual power to reinstate former OPD Chief LeRonne Armstrong, seeing as y'all are having a pro-Armstrong town hall tomorrow night, I want to express my complete opposition to this proposal.

Armstrong lied about the department being defunded when in reality its budget increased by \$38 million. He lied about his officers using excessive force (including tear-gassing children), even though OPD lost a lawsuit for precisely that. He knew that his officers were sharing racist, sexist memes but did nothing to stop it. He continued to harbor officers on the force who raped Celeste Guap. And while hundreds of homicides occurred on his watch, OPD was wasting a majority of officer time on nonviolent and noncriminal matters.

Focus on your actual duties, like holding OPD accountable, not this political theatre that only serves to support a disgraced chief who accused the federal monitor of corruption.

Thank you for taking my public comment,
Luz Hernandez
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Chris Mason [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 5:20:59 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: OPC General Mailbox <opc@oaklandcommission.org>
Subject: Should the Oakland Police Commission Recommend LeRonne Armstrong Be Reinstated as Chief of Police?

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

No.