Greetings everyone,

After more than four decades of service to this department and the community, I have decided to retire on September 1, 2019.

This decision has not been an easy one. However, I have come to realize that there is never a perfect time to retire - there will always be another project to complete, another event on the calendar and more quality people to bring into the organization.

Leading this police department has been a highlight of my life, but it is time to shift my priorities and focus on my health and my family.

The hardest part for me will be not seeing the people I work with every day. We hire great people that do amazing work. It has truly been an absolute honor to serve among some of the most devoted, courageous and hardworking individuals, who are dedicated to making Santa Clara a safe and welcoming community.

I spoke to the City Manager earlier today and told her that I wanted to notify my staff before going public. It was very important to me that you were notified by me personally and did not hear about my retirement in the news. I will be attending briefings and the different work areas this week. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Many of you may ask what is next for the department. First and foremost, I want this transition to be smooth for the police department and the city. I have confidence that Assistant Chief Winter and the Captains are fully prepared to lead the department into the future when I retire. Ultimately, it is the City Council that has the authority to fill my position for the remainder of my term with a four-fifths (6 out of 7) vote. It is my understanding, if a consensus is not reached, then my position will officially remain vacant and the Assistant Chief will lead the department until the November 2020 election.

Thank you for your continued excellence. I will continue to provide updates as they become available.

Michael J. Sellers
Chief of Police
Santa Clara Police Department
(408) 615-4894
www.scpd.org