



The City of Pacifica contributes a monthly column to the *Pacifica Tribune* to connect with local residents and keep Pacificans informed on issues that are of current interest in the City of Pacifica. Below is the submission for the November 2, 2016 edition of the *Pacifica Tribune*, in which Chief of Police Daniel Steidle reflects the goals and areas of focus during his first year holding this position.

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Pacifica Tribune  
November 2, 2016  
Chief of Police Daniel Steidle

### **The First Year – Looking Back**

With 23 years of experience at the Pacifica Police Department, I felt I had a good handle on what I was getting into when I was appointed Chief of Police in October, 2015. I knew the staff at the Pacifica Police Department to be hard working, dedicated professionals. I also knew the community members of Pacifica to be supportive of the police department, as well as dedicated and passionate about the community. This combination of dedicated staff and community members has made my transition into this position a very pleasant one.

One of my primary goals when appointed was to assure the department engaged the community at every level. Specifically, it is not only the Chief's job to be engaged, but every member of the department. This past year, the department has worked to engage the community in a variety of ways. We have increased our presence on social media to keep the community informed of important crime and traffic issues. Users of the Next Door social media platform have reported law enforcement and quality of life related issues to us that are being discussed, allowing us to be responsive to these issues. Social media has also been utilized to inform the community of significant occurrences, or emergency situations that have occurred. The department has engaged local schools in out loud reading programs, and drug abuse prevention programs such as Red Ribbon Week. The Pacifica Police Department hosted Cops and Kids day at Sea Bowl for the very first time; an event which proved to be a big hit with the community. Twice in the past year, the Pacifica Police Officers Association, on their own accord, hosted Red Cross blood drives at the Community Center as a way of giving to the community. The community's response and feedback to these efforts has been positive.

As a coastal community located near a fault line, our community must be committed to emergency preparedness. In the past year, the Police Department has increased its CERT membership, and has continued to build on the medical branch of the program. This program will be instrumental to providing first responder services to Pacifica in the event of a major disaster where outside help may be several days away.

Over the last year, the department has continued to work to be a leader in the area of mental health. Specifically, working with mental health professionals and other law enforcement agencies to assist those who suffer from mental illness before they reach a crisis stage.

The safety of our community is of the highest priority to the Police Department. This year, officers and detectives brought to closure several high profile cases. One of the most notable was the apprehension of an attempted homicide suspect that was captured by a Pacifica officer, only after shooting at the officer in effort to evade capture. The relationships we enjoy with community members have served to assist us in solving criminal cases, and address traffic issues.

Several high profile police incidents across the country have called into question law enforcement trust and relationships with communities. As tensions in some communities rose during this past year, the Pacifica Police Department has experienced an outpouring of support in the form of phone calls, letters, emails, and small tokens of appreciation being delivered to the department. I believe this is indicative of a positive relationship between the Pacifica community and the Police Department. I use these occasions as an opportunity to remind our staff how fortunate we are that the community at large appreciates our work and wants to remain engaged with us.

While my first year as Chief has been enjoyable and successful thanks to the staff of the Police Department and the community, it cannot be taken for granted. Community trust, engagement, and public safety are things that must be continually built upon. Innovative thinking and collaborative problem solving are important to continue on a path of progress. In the coming year, we will continue on path of progress and look for new ways to make our community a better place to work, play and live. I thank the members of the Pacifica Police Department, who do the work every day to make the community safe, as well as our community, who continue to be receptive to collaboration and engagement.

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