

SUBJECT: APD

The Atlanta Voice

APD Chief George Turner Retires after 3 Decades of Service

By: Stan Washington

After 35 years, Atlanta Police Chief George N. Turner has decided it is time to hang up his badge. Turner Wednesday announced his retirement effective Dec. 28. Turner was appointed the 23rd Chief of Police by Mayor Kasim Reed in 2010.

In his place, Reed appointed deputy chief Erika Shields, a 21-year veteran of the force.

Reed made the announcements official during an emotional news conference Thursday morning where he thanked Turner for his friendship and leadership.

“Since his appointment as Police Chief six years ago, George Turner has served as a vital member of my cabinet,” Reed said in a statement released the day before. “Under his leadership, we have made significant progress toward our goal of making Atlanta one of the safest large cities in America. As he prepares to embark on the next chapter of his career, I want to extend my best wishes and deep appreciation for his unwavering commitment to the residents of Atlanta.”

Under Turner the police force increased to more than 2,000 sworn officers. He has instituted several crime fighting programs to help reduce crime and also targeted gangs. The city’s statement claims under Turner’s watch the city has experienced a 27 percent reduction in crime since 2009, the lowest level in over four decades.

“It has been a pleasure working under Mayor Kasim Reed’s administration. Mayor Reed has played a major role in the success of the Atlanta Police Department and none of this would have been possible without his leadership,” said Turner.

According to the city’s news release, under Turner’s leadership, APD also created eight new units and programs to tackle violent crime including the Atlanta Proactive Enforcement

Interaction (APEX) unit, domestic violence unit, code enforcement section, community liaison unit, path force unit, graffiti taskforce and juvenile offender program. With the support of the Atlanta Police Foundation, APD is now utilizing new technology to fight crime, including PredPol software, the Video Integration Center (VIC), and the Atlanta Police Intelligence Network (APIN), which allows officers to target criminal and gang activity. APD has also invested in over 70 new patrol cars and three new precincts that provide additional police presence in Atlanta neighborhoods.

It is not known at press time if Turner's replacement will serve beyond next year as 2017 is an election year for mayor and the city council. Usually, the new mayor appoints his/her own police chief.

Shields will become the second woman to head the department, following Beverly Harvard who was appointed in 1994. Shields joined the force in 1995 and came up through the ranks serving as patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant and major before being appointed as deputy chief.

http://www.theatlantavoice.com/news/apd-chief-george-turner-retires-after-decades-of-service/article_a168f1ca-baf0-11e6-bed3-9b8e2cf8237e.html

SUBJECT: APD

Marietta Daily Journal

New police chief named for Atlanta

By: Staff Writer

ATLANTA — Erika Shields is the new police chief for the city of Atlanta.

Shields has become the city's 24th police chief, mayor Kasim Reed announced during a news conference Thursday. She is replacing George Turner, who is retiring.

Shields will start Dec. 28. She is a 21-year veteran of the Atlanta Police Department serving as patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, major and deputy chief of the Field Operations Division.

"I am truly honored and humbled to have the opportunity to lead such a prominent police department in a city as dynamic as Atlanta, and I look forward to building on the progress we have made under the Reed Administration," she said.

In her current role, Shields supervises around 1,000 officers in Atlanta and was instrumental in the city's effort to strengthen community policing efforts. The mayor believes Shields can uphold the standard of keeping the city progressively safe.

"With 21 years on the force, Ms. Shields has the experience and respect of her fellow officers to lead the department," Reed said in a statement. "I am confident that she will help create an even safer Atlanta while strengthening our reputation as one of the safest, large cities in America."

http://www.mdjonline.com/news/new-police-chief-named-for-atlanta/article_489153ac-b83a-11e6-8900-53172cf0c53c.html