



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Christopher Vicino Announced as New Assistant Chief of Police**

**Date:** August 12, 2010  
**Contact:** Sergio G. Diaz, Chief of Police  
**Phone:** 951.826.5940

Deputy Chief Christopher O. Vicino, 48, has accepted a position as the Assistant Chief of Police for the Riverside Police Department. Vicino, a 25-year veteran of law enforcement, will resign his position in Pasadena sometime in the next several weeks to begin his new job in Riverside. "I am excited to have been selected for this job. There are many challenges ahead, but I am looking forward to each and every one of them. I will miss the outstanding employees of the Pasadena Police Department, along with the great city they protect, but I feel my job is done here and it is time for me to move on", said Vicino.

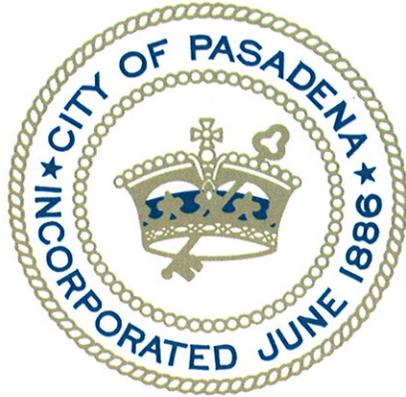
Vicino served as the interim Chief of Police in Pasadena for ten months in 2008 and again for eight months in 2010. He has been Pasadena's Deputy Chief since 2006 and he has over a decade of command level experience. A detailed biography is attached to this press release.

Vicino will join Riverside Chief of Police Sergio G. Diaz to rebuild the executive command staff of the Riverside Police Department "The men and women of the Riverside Police Department are hard working crime fighters. They have a great reputation in the law enforcement community and I will be honored to join their ranks. They deserve committed leadership that will help develop them for the future", explained Vicino. The Riverside Police Department serves over 300,000 residents with approximately 400 sworn police officers and 200 civilian employees in a geographical area that spans 80 square miles.

Chief Diaz said, "I look forward to working with Chris over the next several years and together helping move our police department to higher levels of protection and service on behalf of the people who live, work and visit Riverside. I was particularly impressed with Chris' history of success in Pasadena in the areas of strategic planning, personnel development and advancing a departmental culture of ethical policing."

The Riverside Police Department has one additional vacancy at the staff level. Interviews were recently held for the position of deputy chief. An announcement regarding that selection will be made within the next several weeks pending completion of the selection process.





## **Christopher O. Vicino** **Deputy Chief of Police**

Christopher O. Vicino served as the interim Chief of Police in Pasadena for ten months in 2008 and again for eight months in 2010. He has been Pasadena's Deputy Chief since 2006 and he has over a decade of command level experience.

As interim Chief of Police in 2010, Vicino was applauded for leading the police department through significant reforms in the aftermath of a controversial officer involved shooting. He was credited with changing a number of police policies and procedures in a transparent and professional manner, as he made improvements to the department's training, tactics, and investigations. During the recent fiscal crisis, Vicino reorganized the police department, saving \$1.7 million and \$1.3 million dollars in consecutive years without reducing services. Under his leadership, the police department increased the number of officers on the street which subsequently reduced response times to the lowest levels in a decade. He reinvigorated the police department's community policing efforts through an initiative dubbed "One Cop, One Beat, for One Year", emphasizing accountability and ownership, as he assigned police officers to the same neighborhood beats for a 12 month period. As the interim Chief of Police he was the overall commander for the 2010 Rose Parade, Rose Bowl Game, and Bowl Championship Series game, demonstrating his expertise in properly commanding and managing large scale events.

As the interim Chief of Police in 2008, Vicino led the department to a 22% reduction in violent crime after the city experienced two consecutive years where crimes of violence (homicide, rape, robbery and assault) increased. He implemented "Operation Safe City", a ten-month undercover investigation that targeted violent gang members and drug dealers. This was done in cooperation with federal law enforcement agencies and it led to the arrest and conviction of

89 felony suspects, along with the seizure of numerous weapons and large amounts of drug money. The impact of this operation continues to impact violent crime in Pasadena, as it continues to decrease. In the same time period, Vicino's leadership was instrumental in quelling a significant number of racially motivated crimes between African-American gang members and Latin residents in northwest Pasadena.

Vicino has worked in every division of the Pasadena Police Department.

As a detective in the 1980's and 1990's he worked on several high-profile homicide cases, gaining a reputation as a relentless and tenacious investigator. He was recognized by the police department many times for his excellent work in this area. As a sergeant, he oversaw homicide investigations and was a member of the department's Special Enforcement Section, a team that was highly successful in reducing street crime and illegal narcotic sales. As a detective and sergeant, he was a court recognized expert in gangs and illegal narcotics.

As a lieutenant in 1997, Vicino was one of the primary architects of Service Area Policing, a deployment model that promotes the ideals of community policing based upon a geographical assignment of personnel; he was the first lieutenant to oversee Pasadena's hostage negotiation team and he was instrumental in the creation of its Critical Incident Response Team.

In 1999, Vicino was selected as the Operations Chief of the 1999 California Police Summer Games. His work on this statewide event earned him the Pasadena Police Department's Award of Excellence for his leadership and management of this spectacular event.

As a commander in 2000, Vicino designed a means to support the vision of a regional air support group in the San Gabriel Valley. The Foothill Air Support Team (FAST), as it was later named, gained national recognition for its law enforcement airborne services to 11 Los Angeles County cities, as it was the largest consortium of regional police services of its kind in the United States.

During his career in Pasadena, Vicino authored the police department's first strategic plans: **"Planning for the Future, 1997-2002"** and **"Looking Forward, 2003-2007"**. In addition to these, he wrote and published two important reports for the community during his tenure as interim Chief of Police: **"Pasadena Police Response to the Office of Independent Review Report: Leroy Barnes, Jr. Shooting Incident"** and **"Pasadena Police Response to the**

**Police Assessment Resource Center/Vera Institute of Justice Report: Assessing Police-Community Relations in Pasadena”.**

Vicino was born in Los Angeles and raised in the San Gabriel Valley; he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in economics and political science from Claremont Men’s College, where he played football and baseball. He was one of the first police executives in the nation selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to study at the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security, where he earned his Master of Arts Degree in Security Studies, as he graduated with the highest honors. He also graduated from the California Commission of Peace Officer’s Standards and Training (POST) Command College in 2002, receiving the Hank E. Koehn Award for the Most Inspirational Student of his class.

Since 1999, Vicino has been an adjunct professor at Pasadena City College where he is well known to students for his mentorship and professional guidance. He is a member of the California Police Chiefs Association, Police Executive Research Forum and International Association of Chiefs of Police. He represents the City of Pasadena on the governance board of the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS), a regional police radio communications project. From 1999 to 2006 he served on the executive board of Pasadena-based Villa Esperanza Services, a non-profit organization for developmentally disabled persons, and he was a member of the Pasadena Optimist Club from 2003 to 2009.

Vicino and his wife Carla are residents of Alta Loma and have been married for 25 years. They have two children: Danielle, a sophomore at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles; and Dominic, a senior at Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga.