



CITY of OAKLAND | POLICE COMMISSION
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***REPORT REJECTS CONCLUSION OF OUTSIDE
INVESTIGATION INTO REFORMER CHIEF, HEARING
OFFICER CALLS REPORT “PROBLEMATIC” AND
“LARGELY UNRELIABLE”***

***COMMISSION TO CONSIDER HIM AS POTENTIAL SHORTLIST
NOMINEE TO BE SENT TO MAYOR***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OAKLAND- SEPT. 18, 2023 – A retired judge serving as an independent fact finder has issued a report recommending that the City of Oakland reverse Oakland Police Chief LeRonne Armstrong’s dismissal and remove it from his personnel record, based upon “problematic” and “unreliable” analysis by an outside firm headquartered in San Francisco, California.

Hearing Officer the Hon. Maria P. Rivera (Ret.) issued her report last Sept. 7th, which was made public today. Judge Rivera has recommended “that the parties meet and confer, together with their counsel to discuss all of the ways in which this dispute might be resolved in negotiations, including the possibility of reinstatement. It would be wise for both parties, and of great benefit to the citizens of Oakland, to avoid the costs and related toll of protracted litigation.”

The decision reaffirms the same points made by Oakland Police Commission Chair Tyfahra Milele, who has publicly disagreed with Mayor Thao over the improper dismissal. “We were aware *at the time* that the charges against the chief lacked credibility and said so publicly” stated Commission Chair Milele. “We were disappointed that the Federal Monitor further burned his credibility by signing off on the largely evidence free report used to fire the Chief.”

Chair Milele further stated that “Since the Chief should not have fired to begin with, I am placing on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the Commission consideration of whether the Commission should recommend to the Mayor that the Chief be reinstated or that he be included as one of the finalists in the list of candidates for her to consider for appointment as chief.

“Although I am heartened by this latest decision,” Dr. Milele said, “the tragedy of Oakland crime afflicting our residents, businesses and visitors must be addressed while we continue to reform the Oakland Police Department.” Meanwhile, crime across Oakland has soared into double digits, attracting national attention. Armstrong was the latest among ten Oakland Police Chiefs to be replaced under a controversial federal court monitorship in the last 10 years.

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