

TONY CHAPLIN NAMED DEPUTY CHIEF TO LEAD NEW BUREAU WITHIN SFPD

In the wake of Ferguson, San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) racist texting, the death of Mario Woods, and the recent announcement of the Department of Justice's two-year comprehensive review of SFPD's policies and procedures, on February 13, 2016, BASF Criminal Justice Task Force member Commander Toney Chaplin was promoted to deputy chief and will lead Professional Standards and Principled Policing, a new bureau in SFPD. This historical development is significant, because since the formation of the Department of Homeland Security after September 11, 2001, no bureaus have been created. Chaplin's bureau will work directly with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in an effort to be proactive, rather than reactive to the DOJ's recommendations. Chaplin and Chief Greg Suhr believe changes should be initiated immediately and on an ongoing basis; waiting for final DOJ recommendations is not an option. The bureau will include the following units: behavioral science, hostage negotiation, bulletins and directives, and community youth and engagement.

Deputy Chief Chaplin is a twenty-six-year veteran of SFPD. Community engagement is not new to Chaplin; he explains he's always served communities of color and was one of the originators of TNT (Taraval Neighborhood Team), a group of police officers who developed a program to engage youth in the Oceanview neighborhood. The officers found that mentoring, along with fishing and camping trips, did more to curtail violent crime than prior police efforts that focused exclusively on law enforcement. Chaplin has since served in narcotics, gangs, and as a lieutenant with Northern Station and the homicide division. He was named commander of investigations one year ago, and part of his work included a very active role



Deputy Chief Toney Chaplin

on BASF's Criminal Justice Task Force. His commitment to and involvement with the data collection and analysis work has been essential to the work of the task force as a whole. He explains that his work with the task force "has been life altering and career defining. This task force comprises a wide array of talent; in one room and over a short time period the forward-thinking and fast-moving work has made for a fantastic experience." He will continue and expand on his work with the task force, knowing that the thoughtful and thorough work of this diverse group will play a very important role in criminal justice reform and the direction of the new bureau.