



# NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Ricardo Lopez  
Media Relations Director

October 27, 2020

## Sheriff Bill Gore Statement on Undersheriff Mike Barnett's Retirement

It is with mixed emotions that I announce Undersheriff Mike Barnett has informed me that he plans to retire effective November 20, 2020.

I am happy for Mike and grateful for his more than 29 years of service to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department in four different bureaus (Law Enforcement, Detentions, Human Resources and Office of the Sheriff). I'm also well-aware of what a loss of expertise and leadership his retirement will be for our department.

During his career, Mike has led teams at all levels of this organization which have significantly contributed to making San Diego the safest urban county in the nation.

He played a pivotal role in our department's use of Intelligent-Led Policing (ILP). This modern law enforcement model harnesses data and information from a wide range of sources to identify crime patterns, links and trends. ILP is renowned as one of the best analytical approaches to law enforcement. Thanks to Mike's vision, we have a better understanding of the areas we patrol while strengthening relationships with the communities we serve.

Mike also helped roll out our Body Worn Camera (BWC) program in 2017 after years of research, community input and a successful pilot program. The use of body cameras increases accountability and transparency during law enforcement contacts. It also shows our commitment to shifting demands of technology and providing the best service to our communities.

Thanks to Mike's vision and leadership, the Sheriff's Department became the first law enforcement agency in San Diego County to introduce a formal de-escalation policy and training for our deputies in 2018. De-escalation is a combination of tactical communication with a balanced use of force response to critical situations in order to achieve positive outcomes.

As you all know, this country continues to deal with significant challenges, from a nationwide pandemic and widespread civil unrest regarding racial inequality to highly charged national, state and local elections. Every one of these issues has ramifications for San Diego County.

It is for these reasons I have asked Mike to remain on my team as second in command for the next few months and into next year. I am pleased he has agreed to do so as a temporary employee at a reduced



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salary, which is a win-win for taxpayers and our department. This will provide continuity of leadership and ensure a seamless transition to the next Undersheriff in 2021.

Join me in congratulating Undersheriff Mike Barnett on his nearly three decades of service and his well-deserved retirement. I will personally miss his sage counsel and wish him all the best as he looks ahead to future opportunities.

For more information on Undersheriff Barnett's career, click [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Gore".

Sheriff Bill Gore

San Diego County



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