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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE CHIEF, MAYOR, AND CITY MANAGER RESPOND TO COMMENTS FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – At the meeting of the Mayor and Common Council yesterday, a former president of the San Bernardino Police Officer's Association delivered some unfortunate comments regarding leadership of the San Bernardino Police Department. In response to these comments, Police Chief Michael Billdt stated:

"In serving the residents and businesses of San Bernardino, the men and women of our Police Department are guided by the Department's adopted core values: commitment to public service and safety, integrity, loyalty, respect for the law, and accountability. I am fully committed to these values in my management and leadership of the Department. Unfortunately, adherence to these values can occasionally cause an officer or employee to disagree or become angry for personal reasons. While this reaction is understandable, it is unfortunate to see it spill over into baseless allegations and inflammatory statements that are destructive to the Department's morale. In my fourteen years as Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, Captain, and Lieutenant, my door has always been open to discuss with the POA, or any officer or employee, concerns or issues regarding the Police Department. I take the input from my officers and employees seriously, and I address their concerns with professionalism, integrity, and fairness for all parties involved."

Mayor Pat Morris and City Manager Fred Wilson reiterated their support and confidence in Chief Billdt's management and leadership of the Police Department. "Chief Billdt has done an outstanding job managing one of the most critical and challenging functions in San Bernardino – public safety," said Mayor Morris. "Crime is at its lowest per capita level in twenty years, and we continue to see double digit reductions in crime this year. Officer and employee morale is critical to continuing our success in public safety, but accountability and transparency in police functions must be maintained, and I believe Chief Billdt is doing a good job in managing these interests."

City Manager Fred Wilson added, "I continue to have complete confidence in the management of our Police Department by Chief Billdt. He continues to improve performance and results in his department, even with recent budget cuts and consistently high expectations for crime reduction."

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