



NEWS RELEASE

GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

For Immediate Release

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Contact: JANICE L. MAURIZI
Chief Assistant District Attorney
Telephone: (805) 654-5082

CHIEF MICHAEL BARAY
Telephone: (951) 453-0129

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Chief of Police Michael Baray has been appointed to serve as Ventura County’s next Chief District Attorney Investigator. Chief Baray is a 31-year veteran of law enforcement and currently serves as Chief of Police of the Murrieta Police Department in Murrieta, California. Chief Baray has been with the Murrieta Police Department since its inception in 1992 and was the first police chief appointed from within the department’s ranks. Prior to joining the Murrieta Police Department, he was a detective and police officer with the Long Beach Police Department for ten years.

Chief Baray has more than a decade of law enforcement management experience, having held the rank of captain, lieutenant, and sergeant before becoming chief of police. Chief Baray also brings extensive investigative experience to his new position, having been assigned to the Career Criminal Violent Offender Surveillance Unit and the Homicide Bureau in Long Beach, California, where he investigated numerous homicides, gang crimes, and narcotics offenses. In addition, Chief Baray has investigated crimes against persons, property crimes, officer involved shooting incidents, and sex offender registration compliance. He was a member of the S.W.A.T. Team in both Long Beach and Murrieta.

Additionally, Chief Baray is an executive board member of numerous task forces in Riverside County, including the Riverside County Chiefs of Police, the Murrieta/Temecula Regional Gang Task Force, and others dedicated to the prevention and prosecution of auto theft, narcotics trafficking, and domestic violence.

In announcing the appointment, District Attorney Totten said, “I look forward to working with Mike, who will bring his expertise, enthusiasm, and a proven record of effective leadership to Ventura County.

I am confident he will build upon the fine traditions of the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation. I commend the job that Interim Chief Investigator Ken Valentini has done since the retirement of former Chief Investigator Robert Briner.”

Chief Baray is expected to begin in this new role during the first week of September.

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