

THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

Anthony Batts

Anthony W. Batts has served as Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department since September of 2012. He brings more than three decades of law enforcement experience to the eighth largest police agency in the United States.

Batts previously served as Chief of Police for two of California's largest police agencies – the Long Beach and Oakland Police Departments. During his tenure at these agencies, he presided over significant reductions in crime and violence and increases in public trust. He is credited with reforming the City of Oakland's police agency to focus on data-driven policing, and in Long Beach, he established an Office of Community Policing and reduced excessive force complaints, while simultaneously reducing crime.

Batts began his career in 1982 in Long Beach working street patrol and narcotics. He rose through the ranks holding command positions in patrol, field support, community relations, and investigations before being named chief of the 1,600-employee department in October of 2002. Batts briefly served as city manager for Long Beach, overseeing twelve city agencies during a transitional period before resuming command of the department full-time until October of 2009.

He was then recruited to lead the Oakland Police Department in northern California, where challenges lie in violent crime numbers and community trust. He developed a long-range strategic plan for the agency, making great strides to improve community relations.

Batts holds a doctorate in public administration from the University of La Verne, a master's in business management from the University of Redlands, and a BA in law enforcement administration from California State University, Long Beach. Batts has also served as a professor for California State University, Long Beach.

Batts has received numerous awards, citations, and honors including the Governor's Award for the most effective crime fighting program in California, the NAACP Community Service Award, and the Long Beach Police Department Meritorious Award for Heroism. Batts has also participated in countless training programs, including Harvard's Executive Session on Policing, the FBI National Executive Institute, and National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives Executive Training.

Batts is the proud father of three adult children, is an avid motorcyclist, and enjoys jazz and sporting events.