

# THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING

## **Jim McDonnell**

Sheriff Jim McDonnell was sworn in as the 32nd Sheriff of Los Angeles County on December 1, 2014.

Sheriff McDonnell is a Boston native who grew up in a working class neighborhood a stone's throw from Fenway Park. He came to Los Angeles over three decades ago with little more than a dream to be part of protecting and serving the public. He was born to immigrant parents who instilled in him the values that have served as the guideposts throughout his life: hard work, integrity and treating all people with respect. He began his law enforcement career in 1981 as a twenty-two-year-old graduate from the Los Angeles Police Academy.

Sheriff McDonnell served for 29 years at the Los Angeles Police Department, holding every rank from Police Officer to second-in-command. While at the LAPD, he earned that Department's highest honor for bravery, the Medal of Valor, and helped create the blueprint for LAPD's community-based policing efforts that have now become a model for law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

For five years, Sheriff McDonnell served as the Chief of the Long Beach Police Department. In that role, he implemented numerous improvements that resulted in safer communities, increased morale, and enhanced community relations.

From his first day on the job at LASD, Sheriff McDonnell has stressed the importance of treating all members of our community with respect, being transparent with and accountable to the individuals that the LASD serves, and creating an environment that recognizes and rewards character, competence and compassion. He is committed to ensuring that safe neighborhoods enable all residents and businesses in L.A.'s diverse County to thrive. He is also a believer in prevention-oriented strategies and proactively addressing the root causes of crime -- including mental illness, homelessness and the challenges facing youth at risk.

Sheriff McDonnell brings to the LASD decades of experience and strong relationships with law enforcement and government leaders. He is a proven and respected voice in local, state, and national criminal justice organizations, having served as President of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association, President of the California Peace Officers' Association, a member of the California Commission on Peace Officers' Standards & Training (POST), and a board member of the Peace Officers' Association of Los Angeles County.

While Sheriff McDonnell never served inside the LASD, he served alongside it his entire career and has admired its proud traditions throughout his decades of work in Los Angeles. From 2011 to 2012, he served as a member of the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence -- a blue ribbon group created by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission issued a detailed report, including 63 recommendations that have become a roadmap for change within the Department.

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Sheriff McDonnell is also a believer in the importance of education, both in the classroom and on the job. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Executive Institute and has completed executive education programs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

He and his wife Kathy live in Long Beach. He has two daughters -- Kelly who is in law school and Megan pursuing a graduate degree in film school.