



# City of Tampa

*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**Tampa Police Department**

**Lee Bercaw**

**Chief of Police**

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March 4, 2024

To the entire Tampa community,

September 30, 2023, marked my first 100 days as your Chief of Police. In my 100 days, I highlighted the positive momentum we had as a department and community as we launched several new community engagement efforts, continued to focus on the wellness of our officers and residents, and, most importantly, worked together to make Tampa safer. Our partnership resulted in a decline in overall violent crime that was three times lower than the national average for major cities at 8.3%.

In 2023, however, our city also experienced the largest mass-casualty incident in decades, where we lost two young community members and 16 others were injured. Although the work of our dedicated detectives and tips from witnesses provided some closure to the victims and their loved ones, the immediate sense of safety was shattered because of senseless gun violence. Through tragedy came the opportunity to strengthen and launch several new community-orientated policing programs focused on mentoring our youth and creating stronger relationships with you all. Our city remained resilient and dedicated to ensuring that Tampa remains the place that people want to work, live, and visit.

In 2024, I look forward to advancing our mission of working in partnership with our community to reduce crime, improve quality of life, and make Tampa safer, together.

Sincerely,

Lee Bercaw  
Chief of Police