

Chief Jennifer Tejada (Ret.) Emeryville Police Department, California Emeryville, CA

Chief Jennifer Tejada (Ret.) began her law enforcement career in 1995 as an officer with the Novato Police Department in California. In 1996, she established a sexual-assault prevention program for young women in Novato. A year later, she was appointed to the California Advisory Commission on Sexual Assault Victim Services. Over the next 14 years, she worked her way up the ranks to captain and became the highest ranking female officer in Marin County. In 2011, she was appointed Chief of the Sausalito Police Department, where she served for four years.

In 2015, Tejada was appointed as the first female Chief of the Emeryville Police Department. Her tenure as Chief was notable for a strong focus on community driven policing, juvenile justice reform, and officer wellness. Her other areas of expertise include threat management, emergency and disaster preparedness, workplace violence prevention, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, and hostage negotiation.

In 2020, Chief Tejada retired from policing. She has served on several violence prevention and victim services committees, boards, and commissions in California and served as Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee for the California Police Chiefs Association. She holds a B.S. in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley and an M.S. in Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership from San Diego University.

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