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FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Chief Mirtha Ramos to Step Down As DeKalb County Police Chief

Homicides in DeKalb decreased by 77.3% year to date

Chief Mirtha Ramos, DeKalb's first female and longest serving police chief in over 20 years, is stepping down. Former DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond hired Ramos in 2019 after she had served in the Miami-Dade Police Department for 22 years. Since joining DeKalb County in 2019, Ramos led the implementation of Thurmond's public safety plan, leading DeKalb police to be among the best trained, equipped, and paid in Georgia.

"It has been an honor to serve DeKalb County for the last 5 years. We have made amazing progress in securing competitive pay for officers, reducing the violent crime and homicide rates, and regaining the trust of our citizen," said Ramos.

In her five years as chief, Ramos drove double digit declines in property and violent crimes totaling 13% since 2024. In January 2025, DeKalb reported an 85% decrease in homicides and year to date is reporting a 77.3% reduction.

Since 2019 Chief Ramos has:

- Successfully lobbied for frontline hazard pay and triple overtime pay for police officers

- Launched a Awarded the U.S. Department of Justice's Attorney General Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing for DeKalb's Police Athletic League Plus
- Community Policing Unit that partners with local schools on crime prevention strategies, teaches children how to swim, empowers women and girls
- Created civilian-held, Community Service Aide position to tackle non-violent police calls
- Directly applied for and received over \$8.1 million in local, state and federal grants
- Expanded crisis intervention training for officers
- Hosted the first virtual mental health fair
- Designed plans for a Real-Time Crime Center decreasing investigation time by connecting suspects to crime scenes quicker
- Developed technology to allow citizens to file police reports online, eliminating travel to a precinct.
- Selected as first department in Georgia to participate in the Department of Justice's National Public Safety Program to provide intensive training and technical assistance to address violent crime

"DeKalb Police are the best and brightest our nation has to offer and I have unwavering respect for each of them. Thank you to every member of our public safety team for giving their all everyday and to our community for trusting us to keep them safe."added Ramos.

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