



To the Anteater community,

I am pleased to announce that Paul Cooper has been named UC Irvine's next chief of police effective September 1, 2026.

Paul has served as UC Irvine's interim chief of police since June, providing leadership for the UC Irvine Police Department during this transition and demonstrating his commitment to the safety, security, and well-being of our campus community. His appointment reflects his more than 40 years of law enforcement experience and a strong commitment to building relationships across the university.

Chief Cooper previously served as UC Irvine's interim chief of police in 2018. Before joining UC Irvine, he served as chief of police for the City of Claremont for 10 years. His leadership experience, collaborative approach and deep knowledge of the UC Irvine community will help ensure continuity of operations and the continued delivery of exceptional public safety services.

I would also like to thank the search committee and its chair, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Rick Coulon, for their time and thoughtful work throughout the search process.

Please join me in congratulating Chief Cooper on his appointment and welcoming him to this important leadership role.

Sincerely,

**Mary Lou D. Ortiz**

Chief Financial Officer

Vice Chancellor, Finance & Administration