

**Long Beach Press Telegram**

**Letters to the Editor**

**February 2, 2007**

**Chief of Police Issues Apology**

It is with great sadness and a sense of professional embarrassment that I read the article detailing the \$1 million statement paid to the woman who said she was raped and sexually abused by former Signal Hill Police officers in the early 1980s. I can only hope that the woman will receive the professional help needed to overcome the effects of the unfortunate incidents.

I do feel compelled to reassure our citizens and those who visit or work in our community that the members of the Signal Hill Police Department work diligently every day to provide the highest level of professional law enforcement services.

As stated in the article, the time period in which the incidents took place was a "sad period" in the history of the police department. It is important to note that since that period of time, the members of the Signal Hill Police Department have worked hard to change the culture of the organization.

As the chief of police, I believe that it is my duty to ensure that the signal Hill Police Department maintains the high level of professionalism that it has worked so hard to attain. It is important for our current and future employees to acknowledge the unfortunate incidents that have occurred in the past and commit to never allowing such incidents to occur in the future.

Thomas W. Sonoff, Chief of Police

Signal Hill