

## **Robert E. Ross Jr.**



Robert Ross is a member of the City Council of San Mateo, California. He previously had a distinguished career with the San Mateo Police Department, retiring in 2008 as a lieutenant. Honors during his policing career included the Department's highest award, the Medal of Honor, for heroism in rescuing a resident from a burning house before the Fire Department could arrive; a "Lieutenant's Commendation for Outstanding Proactive Policing;" divisional commendations for his investigative skills in solving a brutal robbery; the Trail Lawyer's Association "Police Officer of the Year" award for combating the cocaine epidemic that gripped San Mateo County; the Gordon Joinville Special Merit Award for day to day excellence in policing; and several nominations for awards as officer of the year.

Throughout his career, Ross spearheaded many Departmental initiatives, including the formation of the Special Investigations Division consolidating all special operational proactive units to aggressively address crime fighting under the "cops on dots" SMPD CompStat deployment model. When East Palo was deemed the murder capital of the United States, Ross and his Special Operations Team were deployed to assist in restoring order. After the Terrorist attacks of 911, he was called on to complete formal detailed vulnerability analysis reports of critical local buildings, offices and infrastructure including City Hall, Waste Water Treatment Plant, Police Department, and Congressman Lantos's office. He also conducted informal surveys of Franklin Templeton International Investment Campus and Gavin Newsome's San Francisco Mayoral Campaign Office.

During Ross's law enforcement career he emphasized his desire to build durable collaborative relationships and strategic alliances rather than just friendships. His police and district attorney colleagues described him as energetic, articulate, genuine, and impactful in improving the quality of life in the communities he served. As he assumed leadership roles in the department he was a mentor and coach; and his dedication, energy, vision and skills inspired others to achieve great successes in protecting, serving, and building communities. Ross is remembered in the Police Department for crafting a leadership style and environment that resulted in imbuing positive morale and commitment in his officers to seek long-term solutions to community issues and concerns, leveraging the resources of all stakeholders.

During Ross's tenure with the SMPD, he served as a City of San Mateo Community and Neighborhood Liaison, District Area Neighborhood Safety Partnerships coordinator, City Affordable Housing Representative, and Critical Incident Management Instructor. When he retired from the Police Department in 2008, the City Council passed a resolution conferring its highest commendation for his exemplary career of service, dedication, and compassion for his officers and his community.

He was elected to the City Council this past year, which has enabled him to advance his focus on community service by serving as a policy maker and City Councilmember. His community policing philosophy of bringing allied resources together in partnership to solve problems has helped to fashion his approach to citywide issues. As a San Mateo Council Member, Ross serves as the city's delegate to the California League of Cities, the Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance,

the County Community Health Reform Advocacy Committee, and the San Mateo/Foster City Unified School District. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the San Mateo Police Activities League, continuing his dedication to prevention of juvenile crime and delinquency.

Ross's approach to life and leadership was also informed by his successful business ventures, and he enjoys ongoing analysis of economic, business and global trends. For 22 years he has worked as Broker/Owner of three Real Estate Companies, and assisted many colleagues and friends with their financial real estate investment strategies. He has served on the board of directors of two real estate development corporations and on the Board of Directors of The City of San Mateo Employees Federal Credit Union where ultimately served as Vice President.

He received a BS/BA from the University of Phoenix. He attended the Sherman Block Leadership Institute, (SLI) and numerous training and development classes in hard and soft skills relative to policing management and leadership. Ross is a member and past Vice-president of the San Mateo LIONS Club. He is a dedicated fitness enthusiast and enjoys weightlifting, biking, skiing, and hiking.