

Robert Jonsen, Chief of Police – Palo Alto Police Department

Chief Bob Jonsen has been in law enforcement since 1986. Prior to his appointment at Palo Alto Police Department (January 2018), he was the Chief of Police for the Menlo Park Police Department for five years. Most of Chief Jonsen's career was with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department where he worked for 27 years.

Bob worked assignments in custody, patrol, gangs, and at the Department's Training Bureau. While assigned to the Training Bureau he was involved in the development and presentation of the 1999 POST Youth Violence telecourse, the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Youth Weapons Prevention and Intervention Program, the national First Responder training offered through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (facilitating block of Institutional Violence), and for writing a recommendation report on school safety policy and procedures for the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department.

Bob promoted to Sergeant in 2000, and after working as a patrol supervisor, was selected as the Assistant Coordinator of the Regional Community Policing Institute – Los Angeles, which provided law enforcement training throughout a six county region in southern California. As a Lieutenant, he oversaw the Antelope Valley Crime Fighting Initiative, a crime reduction and community engagement program which was the recipient of the 'James Q. Wilson Award for Excellence in Community Policing' in 2010. In 2011, Chief Jonsen was promoted to Captain and took command of Lancaster Station, where he worked until being selected as Menlo Park's new Police Chief.

As the Chief of Police for Menlo Park, Bob secured a new Community Service Center, formed a Chief's Advisory Group, and integrated community policing philosophies throughout the organization. The Menlo Park Police Department was the recipient of the James Q. Wilson Award for Excellence in Community Policing and the IACP/Cisco Award for Community Policing.