

**ORANGE COUNTY NEWS**

# Anaheim will pay former police chief who stepped down a \$750,000 settlement



Anaheim Police Chief Raul Quezada

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Settling a damage claim filed by former Anaheim police Chief Raul Quezada will cost the city \$750,000, according to a copy of the agreement.

Quezada, 48, [retired Monday](#), Oct. 24 about two months after the Anaheim Police Association overwhelmingly cast a vote of no confidence against him. Around the same time, Quezada filed a claim against the city, citing “intolerable” working conditions.

The claim accused the city of damaging Quezada’s reputation by failing to discipline an officer who made what the chief said were unfounded accusations about him and another department official.

The settlement amount, which the city released Wednesday, stipulates that neither the city nor Quezada is admitting fault, and Quezada gives up any right to further claims or future employment with the city.

Quezada’s attorney, John A. Girardi, could not immediately be reached for comment.

The total payment includes \$250,000 to address the former chief’s claim of economic harm and \$500,000 for other damages and legal fees.

In 2016, Quezada was paid a salary of \$250,950 as part of a total compensation package worth \$417,880.

Quezada joined the Police Department in 1996 and was named chief in early 2014. Although most Anaheim department heads now work under contracts, Quezada didn’t have one, so while he wouldn’t have been entitled to severance pay, he would have been able to contest a decision to fire him, city spokesman Mike Lyster said.

“This settlement is in the best interest of all involved,” Lyster said in a statement. “It sets aside a claim brought by our former chief and reflects compensation he could have seen before becoming eligible for retirement.”

In announcing Quezada’s departure Monday, the city named Deputy Chief Julian Harvey the acting chief while a replacement is found.

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## Alicia Robinson

Alicia Robinson covers Anaheim for The Orange County Register. She previously spent 10 years at The Press-Enterprise writing about Riverside and local government as well as Norco, Corona, homeless issues, Alzheimer's disease, streetcars, butterflies, horses and chickens. She grew up in the Midwest but earned Southern California native status during many hours spent in traffic. Two big questions Alicia tries to answer in stories about government are: how is it supposed to work, and how is it working?

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