

1980-1984

# Chief Williams to call it quits

By KEN MCLAUGHLIN

Police Chief Al Williams, whose resignation has been rumored for years, today said he would step down at the end of October.

Williams, who held the position since July 1976, submitted his resignation letter to City Manager John Radin. He said this morning that he had no other job lined up.

The resignation came seven months after the Watsonville Police Officers Association went on record with an overwhelming "no confidence" vote against Williams. The officers alleged that their boss had mismanaged the department and lowered morale to an abysmal level.

In his office this morning, however, the soft-spoken Williams adamantly denied that the "no confidence" vote had affected his decision to quit.

"I just wanted a change. There was no other reason," he said. "It (the police association's vote) had nothing to do with it."

Asked whether there was any other pressure to resign, he paused, then said: "I made a decision to make a change. That's all I want to say about it."

Following the officers' vote last February, Williams appeared to be digging in for a long fight. He conceded in a memo to his officers that his "management style is not effective in this department, and from that standpoint I am guilty of mismanagement."

He added: "Thanks to the action of the police association last week, I have seen the error of my ways. I promise, because I have no intention of resigning, to mend my ways."



AL WILLIAMS

Since that time, Williams' status hung in the balance, with most members of the department saying privately that they thought he would eventually resign.

Barry Sharpe, president of the Watsonville Police Officers Association, this morning declined to comment when asked for reaction to the chief's resignation. "I don't think it would be in good taste (to comment)," he said.

The association had been particularly upset about Williams' proposal to eliminate the officers' four-day, 10-hours-per-day work week. The proposal, which was unilaterally imposed by the City Council more than a year ago, has created ill will within the department to this day.

City Manager Radin, who had promised to decide whether to reinstitute the so-called 4-10 plan, said this morning that he would probably ask the association to "hold off" on pressing the issue until he selects a new chief.

The No. 2 man at the Police Department, Capt. Chuck Carter, will serve as interim chief after Williams leaves on Oct. 23, City Manager Radin said today.

Carter, Radin said, is not eligible to become chief because he doesn't have four years experience in a top administrative post. (Carter was promoted from sergeant to captain in May 1980.)

Carter said this morning that he would prefer not to comment about the resignation. He did say, however, that he had "no reservations" about filling the interim spot, but added, "I have no designs on the chief of police's position. I want to be a police captain, not a police chief."

Radin, asked to comment about the reason for the resignation, said only that "rumors (that Williams would resign) have been floating around here for a long time."

He added that the opening in the Police Department would be advertised as soon as possible.

About two years ago, a few City Council members — most notably Frank Osmer — indicated publicly that they wanted to see Williams resign. Those same council members made it no secret that they wanted the job to go to Deputy Police Chief Roy Ingersoll. But Ingersoll several weeks ago left the department on medical leave, saying he intended to retire later this year.