# UCLA Removes Police Chief Following Campus Security Criticism



The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) has removed Police Chief John Thomas from his position following criticism over the handling of a violent incident at a pro-Palestinian encampment on campus on April 30, 2024. Protesters at the encampment faced attacks from non-student agitators, which included physical assaults and the use of chemicals. Despite the severity of the situation, university security officers failed to intervene promptly.

The university administration, under heavy scrutiny, has reassigned Thomas temporarily, pending a review of the security processes. Gawin Gibson, previously the captain of the university's operations bureau, has been appointed interim police chief.

Rick Braziel, the head of the newly established Office of Campus Safety, will oversee an internal and external investigation into the campus security lapses. Braziel's office aims to improve safety measures and address the well-being of the university community.

The incident has led to significant administrative changes and prompted UCLA Chancellor Gene Block to call for a review of campus security procedures. Despite challenges to his leadership, the UCLA Academic Senate recently rejected a vote of "no confidence" in Block.

The ongoing situation at UCLA has drawn attention from various sectors, including law enforcement agencies and government officials, who are closely monitoring the university's response and preparations for future events, such as the 2028 Summer Olympics.