



## Philcongen LA Joins in Celebrating First Fil-Am LAPD Commander



*(1<sup>st</sup> Photo) Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore delivers his remarks and sets the tone for the public celebration of his appointment of the first-ever Filipino-American LAPD Commander, Donald Mendoza Graham. (2<sup>nd</sup> Photo) Deputy Consul General Ambrosio Brian F. Enciso III with the man of the hour, Cmdr. Graham before the start of the celebration's formal proceedings. (3<sup>rd</sup> Photo) Dep. ConGen Enciso, on behalf of Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz, delivers remarks, congratulating Cmdr. Graham and discussing other activities in celebration of Filipino-American History Month.*

28 October 2019, Los Angeles – As part of the commemoration of Filipino-American History Month in October 2019, the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, represented by Deputy Consul General Ambrosio Brian F. Enciso III, joined in celebrating the appointment of the first Filipino-American Commander of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Donald Mendoza Graham.

The celebration was held in the gardens behind the LAPD Headquarters' Ronald F. Deaton Civic Auditorium downtown L.A. and was attended by more than a hundred guests composed of LAPD officers, Filipino-American employees of Los Angeles City Hall and the city government, as well as leaders from the Filipino-American community.

LAPD Chief Michel Moore, who appointed Graham earlier in the year as Commander of the police force's Homeless Coordinator, was present during the occasion and explained in his remarks that part of Comdr. Graham's mandate is to craft policy relative to LAPD's dealings with LA's homeless crisis. He praised the Filipino-American for being a resourceful and charismatic police officer who is able to come up with creative solutions to unconventional challenges and win the support and cooperation of unlikely allies.

Dep. ConGen Enciso was also invited to deliver a few words on behalf of the Consul General. Consul Enciso congratulated Graham for being the first Fil-Am commander of the 2nd largest police department in the whole United States, adding that his historic appointment gave more meaning and depth to the community's celebration of Fil-Am

History Month this year. Consul Enciso also pledged the Consulate General's support for the Commander and his initiatives, especially those that would impact Filipino-Americans.

Cmdr. Graham was born and raised in New Jersey and eventually moved to the west coast, placing him on a path that led to a 24-year career in the LAPD, where only very few Fil-Ams made it to captain. END.