LOS ANGELES POLICE





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WILLIAM J. BRATTON CHIEF OF POLICE

THE CONSENT DECREE: FACT VS. FICTION

y now, everyone within the Los Angeles Police Department should be familiar with the Consent Decree. However, many employees still perceive Consent Decree restrictions





OFFICER THOMAS BAKER

MEDAL OF VALOR - October 27, 2003

n Monday, October 27, 2003, seventeen Los Angeles police officers will receive the Medal of Valor, the highest award presented by the Department. Officers Mark Aguilar, Thomas Baker, Jude Bella, Roy Ceja, Alan Cieto, Steve Conner, Raymond Diaz, Guy Dobine, Robert Ferrer, Thomas Kimrey, Carlos Langarica, Jose Maldonado, Ivan Ramos, Raul Soto, CalixtoValdivia, Jesus Zaragoza, and Fernando Zuniga, will be commended for acts of bravery and heroism beyond the call of duty during a luncheon ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

The event, sponsored by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, annually attracts more than 500 community leaders, elected officials, members of the business community, Department personnel and Chamber of Commerce members.

These seventeen officers were involved in four separate incidents, each extremely dangerous and involving life and death situations.

Officers Aguilar, Dobine, Ramos, Soto, and Zuniga were involved in a dramatic rescue during the evacuation of a burning twostory apartment building with residents trapped inside. At personal risk to themselves, the officers entered the burning building, filled with toxic smoke and extreme heat. Each officer made several trips back into the burning building to rescue the people inside.

The second incident involved Officers Baker and Langarica in what unfolded into a gang ambush.

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OFFICER ROBERT FERRER



THOMAS KIMREY



CARLOS LANGARICA



OFFICER

MARK AGUII AR

OFFICER JUDE BELLA



OFFICER ROY CF.JA



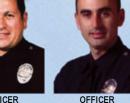
OFFICER ALAN CIETO







OFFICER JOSE MALDONADO



IVAN RAMOS



RAUL SOTO



STEVEN CONNER



RAYMOND DIAZ



GUY DORINE



CALIXTO VALDIVIA



JESUS ZARAGOZA



FERNANDO ZUNIGA



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or requirements that in reality do not exist. Hopefully, separating fact from fiction will help all of us achieve a unified goal of compliance.

Along with reducing crime, particularly gang violence, and improved counter-terrorism capability. compliance with the Consent Decree is one of my top three priorities. I expect that at the end of the mandated fiveyear period, the United States Department of Justice will declare that we are in compliance and federal oversight of the LAPD will be over. I strongly believe the Consent Decree provisions are the basis of solid business and policing practices and are the foundation for the future of this Department. In essence, once we are in compliance, the Federal Government will be able to stand with us and say that we have proven that we are not a corrupt, brutal or racist Department, something that you already know.

I am often asked about the Consent Decree and I understand you have questions and concerns. With this column, I hope to address those questions and clear up some of the myths and misconceptions I frequently hear from you.

The Consent Decree is a contract between the City of Los Angeles and the United States. There is an *Independent Monitor* (Kroll Associates) who provides a real-time review of how we are complying with our obligations. The Consent Decree does not empower the Department of Justice or the Monitor to *control* any part of the Department.

On <u>June 15, 2001</u>, the countdown to compliance began. *We* <u>must</u> be in *substantial compliance* with the provisions of the Consent Decree by

June 15, 2004. Substantial compliance means greater than 94-percent compliance with each of the provisions that apply to the LAPD. If the Department maintains *substantial compliance* for two years, the Consent Decree will expire on June 15, 2006. That is our goal. I emphasize *we*, because compliance is in everyone's best interest and it could remain in effect if we fail as an organization.

The Consent Decree provisions primarily involve six areas: audits, supervision, gang units, internal investigations, relations with the public, and civilian oversight. The Consent Decree will bring benefits as well as obligations in the form of additional monies, resources and technology that will help us operationally for many years to come. CONSENT DECREE MYTHS

1. The Department of Justice and the Independent Monitor controls the promotions of individual employees.

FALSE - The Consent Decree does not concern or impact promotions in any significant way. Police promotions are addressed within the civil service rules and regulations, Memoranda of Understanding of the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the Command Officers' Association, as well as provisions of the City Charter.

2. The Department of Justice and the Independent Monitor controls the discipline decisions involving individual employees.

FALSE - Charter Section 1070 controls the discipline of sworn members of the Department. The

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Commission Appoints Blue Ribbon Rampart Review Panel



Police Commission and Chief Bratton are committed to the

implementation of the federal consent decree and the reform of the Department. As a part of that effort, the Commission created the Blue Ribbon Rampart Review Panel to obtain a final accounting of the Rampart incident. Connie Rice, a prominent civil rights attorney, has been asked by the Commission to head the tenmember panel to investigate and review the response by the City and others to the scandal to determine the extent to which its underlying causes have been identified and addressed.

Outgoing Commission
President Rick Caruso and Chief
Bratton asked the Commission to
establish an independent panel as it
became clear that the Department's
own after-action reports on the
incident were unsatisfactory. The
Chief stated that this is not a new
investigation, but rather an
examination of what the
Department has learned from this
dark chapter in our recent history,
and steps we will take to prevent
another corruption scandal in the
future.

At the news conference announcing the selection of panel members, Commission President Caruso stated, "This is the single most important thing I could do for Los Angeles. Los Angeles needs to put this incident behind it."

As a litigator, Rice has filed

class action civil rights cases that have won injunctive relief and damages worth over \$4 billion dollars. Among those cases are a landmark class action on behalf of Los Angeles bus riders and a case that retrieved \$750 million in construction bond funds for Los Angeles school children. Rice served on the Blue Ribbon Committee for Chief Selection

Criteria of the Los Angeles Police Commission. In addition to Rice, the panel is comprised of several distinguished professionals in the field of law. This panel includes: Henry S. Barbosa, Erwin Chemerinsky, Jan Handzlik, Laurie Levenson, Stephen A. Mansfield, Andrea Sheridan Ordin, Carol A. Sobel, Maurice Suh, and Edgar Hugh Twine.

RECENT ACTIONS BY THE POLICE COMMISSION

AUGUST 5: Held a community meeting at the Felicia Mahood Senior Center in West Los Angeles.

AUGUST 21: President Cunningham attended South Bureau Town Hall to thank the community for "keeping the peace" after the Inglewood verdict.

AUGUST 22: Vice President Skobin traveled to San Diego to honor LAPD
Reserve Officer James Lombardi who was named the California
Reserve Police Officer of the Year.

AUGUST 26: Approved the Glock pistol for private purchase for on and off-duty use.

Approved 17 Medal of Valor recipients.

Commission Approves the Use of Glock Weapons

he Police Commission at their August 26, 2003 meeting, approved selected models of the Glock semi-automatic pistol as an officer-purchased handgun for on and off-duty use. Lighter in weight and easier to shoot, approximately 70 percent of law enforcement organizations nationwide use Glocks, including the FBI and the U.S. Drug Enforcement

"It's a much better weapon than the one we are using now," Chief Bratton told the Police Commission when recommending the Glock. The plastic and metal pistols provide greater stopping power with less

Administration.

recoil and have a more ergonomic design, allowing officers with smaller hands to easily handle the gun. The guns have a larger magazine capacity, a more uniform trigger press, and simpler construction.

Officers wishing to carry the \$500 Glock pistol, on or off

duty, must first successfully complete a two-day transition school conducted by the

Firearms Training Unit. Upon completion of the 16-hour training, officers may carry the weapon, but they must qualify with their Glock pistols for 12 consecutive months, except during shotgun qualification months.

Chief's Message Continued from page 2

Consent Decree does not address the issue of individual discipline. It does have limited provisions involving the conduct of administrative investigations. The monitor can only review completed administrative investigations and the purpose of the review is an auditing function only.

3. Field Data Reports (FDR)

What, if any, conclusions can be drawn from statistical analysis of FDR data is currently unknown. In an effort to find answers to these questions, the City is seeking to contract with a technical expert. The FDR is a tool to gather Department-wide information. In 2004, a prototype handheld computerized system will be available to record this data for all patrol officers. It will also allow for the simultaneous creation of citations and field interview cards. Its use by police officers in the field will be phased in over several months after its implementation.

4. The Consent Decree prevents the use of observation posts and controls how we work.

FALSE - Nothing in the Consent Decree prohibits the use of observation posts or controls enforcement of the law. The provisions state that gang unit activities must be logistically based within the concerned Geographic Area's station and the units cannot use off-site locations at night to hold arrestees or interview witnesses. These provisions were designed to ensure effective and constant supervision, in direct response to the Rampart scandal. You can still use observation posts

or other methods to observe criminal conduct.

These are just some of the questions and misunderstandings commonly expressed by officers. I am certain there are more and I will attempt to address them as I hear about them.

The Consent Decree does allow for modifications or changes if both parties agree and a Federal Judge concurs. However, until we achieve a *substantial* level of compliance, we will not be in a strong position to request material changes. As of the end of the first quarter of 2003, we believe that we are in compliance with 71 of 116 provisions that have been evaluated. We are not in compliance with many provisions relating to gang unit management, audits, training,

and the <u>documentation</u> of arrests, searches and administrative investigations. These are issues that affect supervision and management systems and do not directly impact your policing efforts.

Remember, we are less than a year away from achieving substantial compliance. It is up to each and every one of us to reach that goal. To that end, over the next several months, at my direction, there will be a lot of attention paid to compliance accountability by individual command officers, supervisors and units that have direct designated responsibility for various consent decree issues. You can help them by ensuring that your paperwork and reports are timely and accurate. Individual field

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Assault Weapons Ban

Senator Dianne Feinstein and Governor Gray Davis call on Congress to reauthorize the federal assault weapons ban. At a news conference at Parker Center, the Senator and Governor were accompanied by local law enforcement representatives in support of extending the ban. Enacted in 1994, the assault weapons ban restricts the manufacture, sale, or importation of specific models of weapons. The federal ban on these weapons is set to expire on September 13, 2004. Pictured, left to right are Chief Bratton, Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, Senator Feinstein, San Francisco Police Chief Alex Fagan, Governor Davis, and Inglewood Police Chief Ronald Banks.

MEDAL OF VALOR Continued from page 1

The officers responded to a robbery in the Los Feliz area and saw a suspicious car drive past. The officers followed the car, aware that they were nearing a notorious gang area. The officers were then assaulted by a barrage of gunfire. Undaunted, both officers continued following the car and the suspects were ultimately taken into custody.

The third incident involved an apartment building fire in West Valley Area. Officers Bella, Cieto, Conner, Diaz, Ferrer, Maldonado, Valdivia, and Zaragoza, arrived at the location simultaneously and discovered flames engulfing the northern section of an apartment building. So great was the devastation that each officer initially thought they were dealing with an act of terrorism. The

officers took control of the situation by entering the burning structure to rescue residents trapped inside.

Officers Ceja and Kimrey attempted a traffic stop when the driver refused to cooperate, failing to yield to the lights and sirens. The pursuit continued for several minutes with the suspect eventually abandoning the car and running with a shotgun in hand. Both officers continued on foot, following the suspect as he fired into the vehicles of other responding officers. After the suspect engaged the officers in a gun battle, the nowwounded suspect was taken to the hospital where he died of his injuries.

The Medal of Valor is presented to officers who distinguish

themselves by conspicuous bravery and heroism above and beyond the normal demands of police service. These acts, however, illustrate only a minute portion of the outstanding police work performed by members of the Department. Since its inception, the Department has honored 504 officers with the Medal of Valor.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$85 per person for the general public and \$25 per person for Department employees. Tickets are available by contacting the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at (213) 580-7594. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Los Angeles Police Foundation and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chief's Message Continued from page 4

officers need to work harder to ensure that FDR reports are being filled out correctly.

Working together over the next several years, we can reach Mayor Hahn's goal to make Los Angeles the safest large city in America by reducing crime and the threat of terrorism, and by compliance with the Consent Decree. If I were a betting man, my money would be on you - the men and women who proudly serve and represent the best police department in the country. You are the best cops in America. I have seen that for myself time and again over the last eleven months that I have been privileged to be vour Chief.

The Rampart case and other similar cases of abuse, corruption and non-performance clearly

showed how the criminal actions of a few corrupt cops can bring a great department to its knees. You didn't join the LAPD to be scorned and

not trusted by the very people you protect and serve. You joined because you wanted to be part of the best. Work with me and the Consent Decree and we can once again stand with pride and say irrefutably that we are the best law enforcement organization in America - second to none - and that as a transparent

organization, we have nothing to hide. You and I know that you are the best; working together we can prove it to everyone else.

CRIME WATCH CITY-WIDE YEAR TO DATE - 10/4/03 Homicide - 23.9% Rape - 8.1% Robbery - 1.1% Aggravated Assault - 7.0% Domestic Violence - 3.7% Total Violent Crime - 4.5% - 0.1% Burglary Burglary/Theft from Vehicle - 3.5% Personal/Other Theft - 7.9% - 3.5% Auto Theft Total Property Crime - 3.6%

IDENTITY THEFT - Crime of the Century

By Detective Leanora A. Lindsey Commercial Crimes Division

dentity theft has been referred to by some as the "Crime of the Century." It is estimated that identity theft has become the fastest-growing crime of any kind in our society.

Identity theft occurs in many ways ranging from careless sharing of personal information to the theft of a purse, wallet, or mail. It occurs as a result of "shoulder surfing" with a predator watching from a nearby location as the victim punches in a credit card or PIN number into a telephone or ATM, and by dumpster diving or retrieving financial information from trash receptacles. It can occur through listening to phone conversations as the victim gives personal and financial information over the phone, by obtaining personal information that is shared on the internet, and by obtaining information as victims apply for car loans or home loans. Obviously, there are various ways predators can obtain your information.

How quickly is identity theft growing? Between January and December 2002, Consumer Sentinel, the complaint database developed and maintained by the Federal Trade Commission, received 161,819 identity-theft complaints. More than thirty-thousand of those complaints were reported from victims living in the State of California.

In the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Police Department took over 9,000 identity-theft reports alone. Two-thousand of these victims contacted the Federal Trade Commission to file a complaint.

While it is extremely difficult to prevent identity theft, the best approach is to be proactive and take steps to avoid becoming a victim, including:

- 1) Being cautious about sharing personal information with anyone who does not have a legitimate need for the information.
 - 2) When in public, exercising caution when providing identity information.
 - 3) Not carrying unnecessary identity information in your purse or wallet (such as a social security card).



- 4) Securing your mailbox and not placing outgoing mail in residential mailboxes. Outgoing mail should be deposited in locked post office collection boxes.
 - 5) Securing information on your personal computer.
 - 6) Keeping financial and medical records in secure locations.
 - 7) Shredding nonessential material containing identity information.
 - 8) Removing your name from mailing lists.
 - 9) Carefully reviewing financial

- statements (credit card, bank records, etc).
- 10) When placing passwords on your credit card, bank accounts, etc., do not use your social security number, drivers license number, mother's maiden name, or date of birth.
- of credit reports. Make sure you place a fraud alert on your credit profile with the three major credit bureaus. You can place a "credit freeze" with each credit bureau, which means the identity thief will not be able to get a loan or credit in your name. Victims of identity theft can access this service for free. For others, the cost varies from \$12 to \$59.

Resolving credit problems resulting from identity theft can be time consuming and frustrating. The important steps to remember are: file a police report in the city where you live, contact the three major credit bureaus and obtain copies of your credit profile, and contact the Federal Trade Commission. By doing so, you will provide important information that can help law enforcement track down identity thieves and stop them.

Although the percentage of filing these cases is very low, laws related to identity theft are being presented for legislation on both state and federal levels. Local law enforcement agencies work with federal agencies on these cases daily.

Those of us in law enforcement must continue to educate the consumer on prevention, and pertinent laws, and help them in clearing their credit disputes.



The Following Personnel were Commended by the Community in the Month of August 2003

CHIER

RESERVE POLICE

Seymour Rosen

POLICE OFFICER I

Joseph Barr
Brian Cook
Paul Duron
Angel Gomez
Jorge Gonzalez
Tyrone Moore
Kevin Shaw

POLICE OFFICER II

Georgina Villalobos

Hanson Won

Telesforo Aguirre
Mark Anderson
Christopher Andrade
Hugo Ayon
Alan Bone
Manuel Botello
Tom Chavez
Daniel Cota
Larry Covington
Jason Curtis
Michael Dickes
Peter Galan
Hilda Garcia
Jose Garcia

Jaime Gonzalez Maurice Hampton Mustafa Hassanzai Ali Kaspian Claudia Lamas Hannah Lee Rafael Lopez

POLICE OFFICER III

Kelly Artz Andre Clansy John Collyer Edan D'Angelo Michael Dutton Phillip Enbody Marc Furniss Carlos Garcia Irsie Henry Ryuichi Ishitani Sean Kim Thomas Lo Theresa Martinez Jeffrey Nelson Nicholas Nemecek Jeffrey Owen Ron Pickering Jesse Sanchez

Timothy Toth

Everardo Trujillo

Merav Tyler Ted Watson Shawn Wehr John Wolfe Ahmad Zarekani

DETECTIVE I

Eugene Arreola Steve Metz Eric Moore Ronald Stilz Robert Vargas

DETECTIVE II

James Hayes
Diane McNair
Joel Price
John Rodriguez
Michael Whelan
Mark Wright

SERGEANT I

Rick Leiphardt Michael Ling Michelle Loomis Andrea Lucie Michael Patriquin Rosemary Piazza Michael Ventura

SERGEANT II

Robert Acosta Raymond Garvin Albert Kilgore Steve Moore Alfonso Reyes

DETECTIVE III

Thomas Boyle James Gollaz Robert Haro Lou Koven

LIEUTENANT I

Gordon Wade

LIEUTENANT II

Michael Felix Patrick Shields Richard Walker

CAPTAIN I

Kenneth Hillman Douglas Shur

CAPTAIN III

Charlie Beck Vance Proctor

S.I.D. Role in COMPSTAT

Cientific Investigation
Division (SID) is responsible for the collection, comparison and interpretation of physical evidence found at crime scenes or collected from suspects and victims. Analysis of various types of evidence may connect a suspect to a crime, associate particular items to a specific source or determine the circumstances surrounding an event.

The role of SID in the COMPSTAT process is of vital significance. Just as SID associates with the forensic science community nationally and globally to solve crime through state-of-theart science and technology, SID partners with other commands in the Department to solve crime through the most effective means, while maximizing efficiencies. The partnership with the Department is achieved through educating Department personnel on the services available from SID and resolving issues in real time. It is also one of educating SID personnel in the principles of crime reduction and the COMPSTAT process so they can better serve the Department.

Part of the philosophy of community policing is that many operational decisions are made at the level of the division commanding officers rather than the level of bureau or office chiefs. To achieve the maximum success of crime reduction through community policing, it requires a partnership or team comprised of all facets of the Department. COMPSTAT is the thread that drives the process. The team members must meet routinely and assess statistics, which will

SID Role in COMPSTAT Continued from page 7

quickly identify emerging crime trends as well as crime suppression successes.

The COMPSTAT process is only as effective as every member of the team. For division commanding officers, detective supervisors, and detectives to be effective, they often rely on SID services, and in doing so, they must be educated in these services. They must understand the process of requesting SID services, the prioritization of these services, and the limitations of these services. While formal training for detectives by SID staff occurs in the Department's detective schools, detectives and detective supervisors should interact with SID supervisors to learn the true depth of SID resources.

A successful example of this team effort is the implementation of "Walk-In Wednesdays" in the SID Firearms Analysis Unit (FAU).

SID's participation in COMPSTAT educated the command staff in the important role SID plays in the investigation of shooting incidents. This led to the allocation of additional resources for the FAU CROSSFIRE detail. Each Wednesday, evidence consisting of expended cartridge casings is entered into an automated database while the detective waits. No instant results are available, but the evidence entered is searched against the National Integrated Ballistic Identification Network database within a week. If any potential hits occur, the detective is advised. This process empowers the detectives to prioritize selected cases. The FAU offers 28 walk-in appointments every Wednesday from 0630 to 2000 hours. Since the inception of "Walk-In Wednesdays," the FAU has recorded 120 walk-in cases resulting in approximately 40 "cold

ROLL CALL OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 18 - 8:00 AM LATINO RECRUITMENT EXPO

Elysian Park Academy

OCTOBER 27 - 12 NOON **MEDAL OF VALOR CEREMONY**

Hyatt Regency Hotel 711 Hope Street, Downtown

NOVEMBER 2 - 8:00 AM COPS FOR TOTS CAR SHOW

Elysian Park Academy

Call Special Events Section at (213) 485-3281 for additional information.

hits" requiring confirmation.

The support role of SID in the Department can only be effective if the lines of communication between the operational areas and SID are open and fluid, which the COMPSTAT process encourages. □



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