



**WILLIAM J. BRATTON**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

I know that you have continually heard the term "reorganization" over the last 16 months, but for organizations that want to remain current, timely, and competitive in an ever-changing environment,

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## Returning MacArthur Park to the Community

MacArthur Park covers forty acres of land just west of downtown Los Angeles. The park has become a known area for violent crime, narcotics sales, and gang activity. Six months ago, Rampart Area organized the Alvarado Corridor Project. This project brings together police, local government, community members, and business resources in a joint effort to reclaim MacArthur Park and the surrounding area for the people of Los Angeles.

The Alvarado Corridor Project directs the efforts of Rampart's narcotics squad, gang unit, footbeats, and bike unit on the rehabilitation of MacArthur Park. Bike patrols have been augmented by the

donation of bikes from Councilman Reyes' office. The added patrol has proven to be an effective resource in the park. The combination of these Rampart resources made over a thousand arrests in and around the park and even more importantly has changed the culture that surrounds the park.

A big factor in the culture shift has been the Park Camera Project. A partnership made of public funds, private contributions and generous donations of equipment and technical support by General Electric has combined to surround the park with pan, tilt and zoom-capable, closed-circuit television cameras that link to Rampart Station through the internet.

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## Chief's Message *Continued from page 1*

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The monthly news publication serving sworn and civilian employees, and those interested in the activities of the Los Angeles Police Department, is published by the Public Information Office, Public Communications Section, Public Relations Unit. The Los Angeles Police Department does not endorse or warrant any products, services or companies mentioned within these pages.

*The BEAT deadline for material submission is the 4th of each month for the following month's publication.*

Submit your materials to:  
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This publication is available on line at [www.LAPDOnline.org](http://www.LAPDOnline.org).

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flexibility and change are inevitable and out of necessity, constant.

For our Department, the current environment consists of decreased resources in the wake of the State's budget crisis, a public that we continue to work with to build trust, and a criminal element that is resisting our more focused and assertive style of policing.

There are some referendums being proposed for the November ballot that would provide a permanent source of funding for public safety. One, created by Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, would initially generate approximately \$165-million dollars for the LAPD by increasing the county sales tax by one-half percent, enough money to hire 1,800 officers.

While that sounds great, the simple truth is, we would not be able to significantly increase our Department's strength and add officers for at least one to two years after that referendum passes, if it passes.

Despite the current resource limitations, we cannot be satisfied with just holding the line and maintaining the status quo. Therefore, we must further refine and adjust the organization to run at peak efficiency, address issues of officer safety, and meet our crime-reduction goals for the year. By maximizing our potential, we show the people and the politicians of this City that when given more resources we will use them wisely. We also enhance the image of the Department by showing the public that we are capable of learning from our past mistakes.

To reach our stated goals of a 20 percent reduction in Part 1 crimes, a 20 percent reduction in homicides, a reduction in response time to 8 minutes citywide, an increase of our clearance rate to 25 percent, and improved officer safety, the command staff and I have identified ways to make the Department operate more efficiently. It will require change, but the changes are

designed to get more officers out on the streets. The bottom line, if we want to continue the momentum and continue to reduce crime, we need more bodies in blue out on the streets. To do that we will be meeting and conferring with our various unions relative to reducing, eliminating, and streamlining several organizational entities.

Several other changes will directly improve

operational efficiency as it relates to patrol and ultimately to officer safety. First, we will be expanding the Reserve Officer Program. Reserves are a cost efficient way to build the Department's administrative support and operational strength. There is also now a plan to assign sworn administrative personnel to patrol positions for one, and eventually two, days each deployment period. We will work to improve recruitment by increasing our efforts with the Magnet School, Student Intern, Explorer, and Cadet Programs. Our goal is to establish a pipeline to the Academy of the most qualified applicants available. This will put us



*Sheriff Lee Baca*

**Chief's Message** *Continued from page 2*

ahead of the curve when large numbers of personnel retire around the same time.

Another change will be the review of all injury-on-duty cases and the I.O.D. system that is currently in place. We need to find out how many personnel, who are on I.O.D. status, can be returned to patrol duties. Hopefully, with the focus on officer safety, the end result will yield fewer officer injuries and fewer I.O.D. claims, and more officers available for patrol and enhanced officer safety.

To work smarter and to bring the Department into the 21st century, the command staff and I will be working to obtain and implement newer technologies to help officers be more efficient and productive. The savings in time and the increased productivity that technology purchases provide invariably pay for the initial expense. It's smarter policing and provides for a more stimulating and satisfying way to work, minimizing paperwork, and increasing time in the field. We are looking to replace the aging MDTs in the patrol cars. We are close to finding a source of funding for the CopLink technology that will dramatically improve our crime-reduction efforts. It will help us to substantially reduce the number of detective hours needed to investigate crimes. As a result of the Consent

Decree, the Portable Officer Data Device System (PODDS) will soon be in use to assist in the collection of traffic stop data, eliminating the hundreds of thousands of paper forms that you currently complete (see article on page 4). The Department was recently given Blackberry communication devices for all Senior Lead Officers through a donation to the Police Foundation by Cingular Wireless. The Blackberries provide cellular telephone and e-mail technology. We will continue to work with the Foundation to secure additional technologies and replace aging systems, ensuring that officers will have state-of-the-art equipment and support.

I will also be looking at the way we do things and why. Yesterday's policies and practices may no longer meet today's critical needs. That is why I have gone to bat over issues like the burglar alarm policy, the vehicle pursuit policy, and the priority Code-3 call changes. We must continually refine our tactics, procedures, and policies for the sake of efficiency, officer safety, and to protect the public.

I am asking a lot of you, but

I have no doubt that you, the men and women of this Department, will deliver. If we give our maximum effort, with minimum resources, we will make the strongest case for additional support. As additional support becomes available, also be assured that the issue of promotions will be addressed. Keeping you motivated and your morale high is also one of my top priorities. As we continue to become a more efficient and dynamic Department, we will ultimately win the support of the many diverse communities that make up the City of Los Angeles. □



**CRIME WATCH CITYWIDE**

YEAR TO DATE - 4/24/04

Homicide	5.8%	▲
Rape	4.1%	▲
Robbery	- 13.6%	▼
Aggravated Assault	- 14.3%	▼
Child/Spousal Abuse	- 13.2%	▼
Total Violent Crime	- 13.1%	▼
Burglary	- 8.9%	▼
Burglary/Theft from Vehicle	- 3.9%	▼
Personal/Other Theft	- 7.9%	▼
Auto Theft	- 7.8%	▼
Total Property Crime	- 6.8%	▼



Source ITD, LAPD

## New hand-held data collection devices to be in the field by June

The new hand-held Portable Officer Data Device System (PODDS) are being delivered to the majority of the Areas and Traffic Divisions during the month of April. The PODDS is a portable electronic device used to collect traffic and pedestrian stop data in place of the paper version of the Field Data Report. The PODDS will provide fast and easy statistical documentation of Consent Decree-mandated information with respect to traffic and pedestrian stops, including the reason for the stop, the action taken by officers, and the apparent race, ethnicity, or national origin of those stopped.

The devices will be in all Areas and Traffic Divisions and a 30-day training period will be completed by June 1, 2004, when the whole Department is expected to be fully functional with this new state-of-the-art technology. Hollywood and West Valley Areas received their PODDS allotments in early March as part of a pilot program and already have been using the PODDS out in the field.

The PODDS cost \$1,200 each, which includes the cost of the software developed exclusively for the LAPD. As currently programmed, the device



provides for the electronic gathering of data by the use of self-guiding and correcting data fields with logic correcting capabilities. The logic correcting capabilities will provide for a 90 percent reduction in recurring errors in completing the Field Data Report forms.

“With the use of durable PODDS devices and field-proven software, LAPD officers can quickly and reliably enter and upload required data to the database from the field, eliminating collection and transposition errors,” said Chief Bratton, adding that the device is a very cost effective piece of equipment. The device additionally has the capacity to check State and DMV databases for outstanding arrest warrants. PODDS is part of the Department’s continuing effort to create a more technologically advanced organization. □

## ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE



Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell served as the Honorary Grand Marshall for the Fifth Annual Los Angeles City St. Patrick’s Day Parade, held Wednesday, March 17, 2004. Pictured on the left with Assistant Chief McDonnell are his wife Kathy, and his two daughters, Megan (left) and Kelly (right). Ford Mustang convertible provided by Galpin Ford. On right, Department vehicles participated in the parade, including a 1958 vintage patrol car.

# Returning MacArthur Park to the Community *Continued from page 1*

This is proactive law enforcement that can be conducted miles away from the location of the crime. It is literally “virtual patrol” and allows one or two officers to operate observation posts on multiple high crime locations.



Although in its infancy, this project has significant results. In just the past month, over fifty arrests have been made for sales and possession of narcotics and the impact of the total project on the park has been dramatic. Because of signage posted in the park, and a

related publicity effort, drug dealers and buyers are becoming aware of the cameras and are beginning to avoid the park entirely.



*Closed-circuit camera mounted on a light post.*

Another strategy used to reduce narcotics activity is “reverse” operations. A “reverse” operation uses an undercover police officer posing as



a narcotics dealer and results in the arrest of the person attempting to buy narcotics. As part of the prosecution of



those arrested, the City Attorney’s Office requests a stay away order from the park. These operations are run regularly in MacArthur Park and have resulted in 171 arrests over the past several months. “Reverse” operations will continue until the demand for narcotics in the park is eliminated.

As a direct result of the outstanding support from these contributors and the efforts of police officers in the Rampart Area, crime-related statistics for the area surrounding MacArthur Park have remarkably decreased. These include a 38 percent reduction in homicides, a 50 percent reduction in shootings, a decline in robberies by 14 percent, and major assault crimes dropping by 9

percent. The impact of these and other strategies on the park have been significant. The community and their children are returning to the

park. City government in the form of the Recreation and Parks Department and the Department of Water and Power are reinvesting in the park’s infrastructure. Event planners are again considering the park as a venue, and in fact the “Pasadena Pops” are planning a concert for Father’s Day this year. As the community takes back the park, business will expand in the Alvarado Corridor and the local economy will improve.

The success of the Alvarado Corridor Project demonstrates how the city can make neighborhoods safer through collaborative efforts with the police department, community groups, and the private sector. □

## Rampart barbecue raises money for family of injured officer

**O**n Wednesday, March 10, 2004, a barbecue lunch was held at Rampart Area Station to raise money to benefit the family of Police Officer I Santiago Gascon, who was critically injured in a motorcycle accident on February 19, 2004. Officer Gascon is now out of the hospital and has been moved to a rehabilitation facility and is doing well.

The men and women of Rampart Area would like to extend their thanks to everyone who donated to the fund and attended the barbecue as the response was overwhelming. The Gascon family, Santiago, his wife, and 3-month-old son, are very appreciative of the outpouring of concern and support. □



The Following Personnel were Commended by the Community in the Month of February 2004

<b>SUPERVISING CRIMINALIST</b> Doreen Hudson	Jason Liguori Ricardo Lizarraga* Frank Marino James Martinez Timothy Olsen Joel Ruiz	<b>DETECTIVE I</b> Yehuda Packer Harry Stirwalt Dionne Taylor	<b>SERGEANT II</b> Jorge Gonzalez Kurt Miles Daniel Wong
<b>POLICE OFFICER I</b> Jennifer Snell Michael Switzer	<b>POLICE OFFICER III</b> Anthony Cabunoc Roy Ceja Rick Flores Steve Kotsinadelis Christopher Landry Nicholas Lee Jesus Martinez Randall McCain Darryl Shum Kathleen Talbot	<b>DETECTIVE II</b> Sang Jin Han Ralph Morten Ronald Rawson Rodney Rodriguez Gregg Smith Terry Willis	<b>DETECTIVE III</b> Teresa Ramon Nathaniel Williams
<b>POLICE OFFICER II</b> Telesforo Aguirre Christopher Andrade Hugo Ayon Robert Bean Daniel Cota Fernando Flores Ruben Garcia Sean Gregory Manuel Hernandez John Izzo		<b>SERGEANT I</b> Richard Brunson Hector Feliciano Daniel Gomez Valerian Valenti	<b>LIUTENANT I</b> Loren Farell  <b>LIUTENANT II</b> Corina Hees  <b>CAPTAIN I</b> Charles Beck

\* Officer Ricardo Lizarraga was killed in the line of duty on February 20, 2004.



**RECENT ACTIONS BY THE POLICE COMMISSION**

**FEBRUARY 5:**

- ★ Approved the placement of the Hate Crimes Unit in the Detective Bureau.
- ★ Requested recommendations from the Department for:
  - Ways to increase Department staff in light of the limited budget.
  - Ways to improve officer safety.

**FEBRUARY 17:**

- ★ Approved the removal of the “Code Two High” designation.
- ★ Approved Inspector General’s recommendations designed to improve the Department’s enforcement of the Retaliation Policy.

**MARCH 2:**

- ★ Requested information from the Department on:
  - The awarding of pensions after an injury or death occurs on duty.
- ★ Approved the preparation of a letter outlining the numerous health and safety violations issued to Parker Center following the receipt of the Chief Legislative Analyst’s recommendation to have staff remain in Parker Center until a new facility is built.
- ★ Asked for full presentations on strategies to fund additional officers, including a presentation from Sheriff Baca.

## LAPD Centurions Football

Since 1978, the Los Angeles Police Department Centurions have been playing football for kids. This unique fraternity of Los Angeles police officers practice, play, and travel on their off-duty time to raise money for the Blind Childrens Center of Los Angeles. The center provides research and development of educational programs for families in the Los Angeles area with young children who are blind or severely visually impaired.

For the past five years, the LAPD Centurions have won the National Public Safety Football

League West Coast Championship, and in 2001 the team won the National Championship. The Centurions are one of 15 law enforcement and public safety football teams that travel nationwide to play football and raise money for charity. The LAPD Centurions are proud to be a part of this organization that puts so much emphasis on giving back to the community.

Admission to games is \$5 at the gate, children 16 and under are free. For additional information, contact Sharlene Johnson at (213) 473-0419 or log on to the Centurions website at [www.lapdcenturions.com](http://www.lapdcenturions.com).

### ROLL CALL OF EVENTS

**MAY 23, 2004**  
4:00 PM

#### INTERFAITH DAY OF PRAYER

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
6020 Radford Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA

**JUNE 26, 2004**  
8:15 AM

#### MEMORIAL RUN AT DOCKWEILER BEACH

Playa del Rey

Call Special Events Section at (213) 847-4882 for additional information.

### LAPD CENTURIONS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
April 3, 2004	4 P.M.	FDNY's Bravest	at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks
April 24, 2004	1 P.M.	Southern California Knights	at Baker to Vegas
May 8, 2004	4 P.M.	L.A. Heat	at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks
May 22, 2004	T.B.A.	Orange County Lawmen	Location to be announced
June 5, 2004	T.B.A.	Championship Game	Location to be announced



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