



## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

In any modern police department, there will be times when management and union representatives agree to disagree. My commitment as a Chief of Police has always been to honor labor contracts and to work with unions to resolve differences of opinion in interpretations of policies and contract language. During the last 2-1/2 years, I have been

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## LAPD Underwater Dive Unit Receives Boat

*Donated Boat Will Help Facilitate Unit's Needs*

The LAPD Underwater Dive Unit recently received a gift of a dive boat that will serve as a mobile water-borne command post. The 34-foot, customized boat was donated courtesy of the Los Angeles Police Foundation, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Port of Los Angeles.

The vessel will be the primary dive platform in all dive operations in both Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors, and will serve as the LAPD's center of operations from the water. Prior to the donation of the boat, the dive unit used smaller inflatable boats in their investigations.

The newly acquired vessel is capable of going anywhere inside and outside LA harbor and is equipped with a full navigation system, a dive platform, and storage for up to 20 air tanks. There is also

enough space to carry 14 divers equipped with twin air tanks and five crewmembers.

"This boat was sorely needed and has made a big difference," said Sergeant Steve Richards, Assistant Officer in Charge, Underwater Dive Unit.

Upon receiving a new fleet, the Los Angeles Fire Department donated the vessel, which was originally purchased for them by the Port of Los Angeles. Being primarily used in fire-fighting operations, the vessel needed to be converted to meet the needs of the dive unit. That is when the Los Angeles Police Foundation stepped in.

The Foundation refurbished the vessel, which included the removal of fire equipment, the addition of a dive platform, and a new coat of paint. The vessel was then presented to the Department in a ceremony in late May.

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making many changes in the Department's policies and procedures relative to our disciplinary system, use of force, and investigations of officers' actions. All these efforts are intended to ensure that our integrity and professionalism are above reproach as we attempt to move out from under the clouds of scandal that have unfortunately covered the Department over the last ten years, obscuring the work of the real LAPD – an organization that is not brutal, racist or corrupt, and is one of the most effective crime fighting organizations in the world.

Last month in the Blue Line there was an article that I feel may have unfortunately misrepresented the efforts and intent behind the ongoing reorganization of Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) and the creation of an administrative and criminal division within PSB. The article gives a lengthy hypothetical about all of the evils that could potentially befall you if you should ever give a voluntary statement in any matter under investigation by repeatedly stating that the Department's intent is "to maximize the ability to criminally prosecute you."

Implicit in the article is the idea that the LAPD is criminally prosecuting members that we should not, that we are out looking for opportunities to pursue criminal charges against officers from our Department who made honest mistakes or were in gray areas of the law.

I regret that the author has that belief. Nothing could be further from the truth. The vast majority of you are honest and committed professionals who sometimes make mistakes that have to

be addressed by our disciplinary process. But I also have to identify and discipline the criminals in our midst and I will do everything in my power to maximize my ability to criminally prosecute them.

Let's go over some of the criminal cases that Professional Standards Bureau has brought recently:

There was the cop who was raping prostitutes on duty. He was convicted and sent to prison. An on-duty narcotics investigator who was stealing money from drug dealers at the airport—not once or twice—and who was caught in two separate sting operations. He pled guilty. A Rampart patrol cop took a bribe on the front steps of Rampart Station, in uniform, from a victim in order to complete a crime report. He pled guilty. A captain was selling pirated DVDs. She pled guilty. And there was the officer who was committing Worker's Comp fraud while assigned to Internal Affairs. She was convicted after trial.

Which of these officers should not have aggressively been pursued by our own Department? I don't think that any one of you would want any of these former cops as partners.

I have been very clear on my discipline philosophy, that I will differentiate between malfeasance—the intentional, conscious doing of a bad act—and misfeasance, an officer trying to do the right thing but doing something either negligently or improperly.

There have been two other key elements that I have added to the discipline philosophy. They are both based on a laser-like focus on the

## Denver Colorado Police Officer Killer Caught -- District Attorney Expresses Gratitude in Letter

In a letter to the Department, Denver Assistant District Attorney Chuck Lepley expressed his gratitude for the role the LAPD played in the investigation which led to the capture of Raul Garcia-Gomez, the primary suspect in the murder of Denver Detective Donnie R. Young. The letter offers a sincere show of appreciation for the efforts put forth by this Department.

Detective Young was killed outside of a Denver banquet hall in the early morning hours of Sunday, May 8, 2005. Detective Young and his partner Detective John Bishop were working an off-duty security detail when a lone gunman ambushed them from behind. The suspect fled the scene on foot. The two officers were transported to a local hospital where Detective Young was pronounced dead. Detective Bishop was treated for his injuries and was released the next day.

During the investigation by the Denver Police Department, it was discovered that the suspect had fled to south Los Angeles where his family resides. A team of detectives and assistant district attorneys were sent out and collaborated with the LAPD Robbery-Homicide Division in an effort to capture the suspect.

Detectives from this Department wrote search warrants and obtained a wiretap warrant to help locate the

suspect's whereabouts. Three weeks later, the suspect's vehicle was found parked in the backyard of his mother's home. The suspect had fled the country to Mexico. Shortly thereafter, the suspect was apprehended by Mexican authorities and turned over to the U.S. Marshal.

The following is the letter addressed to Chief Bratton.

Chief Bratton,

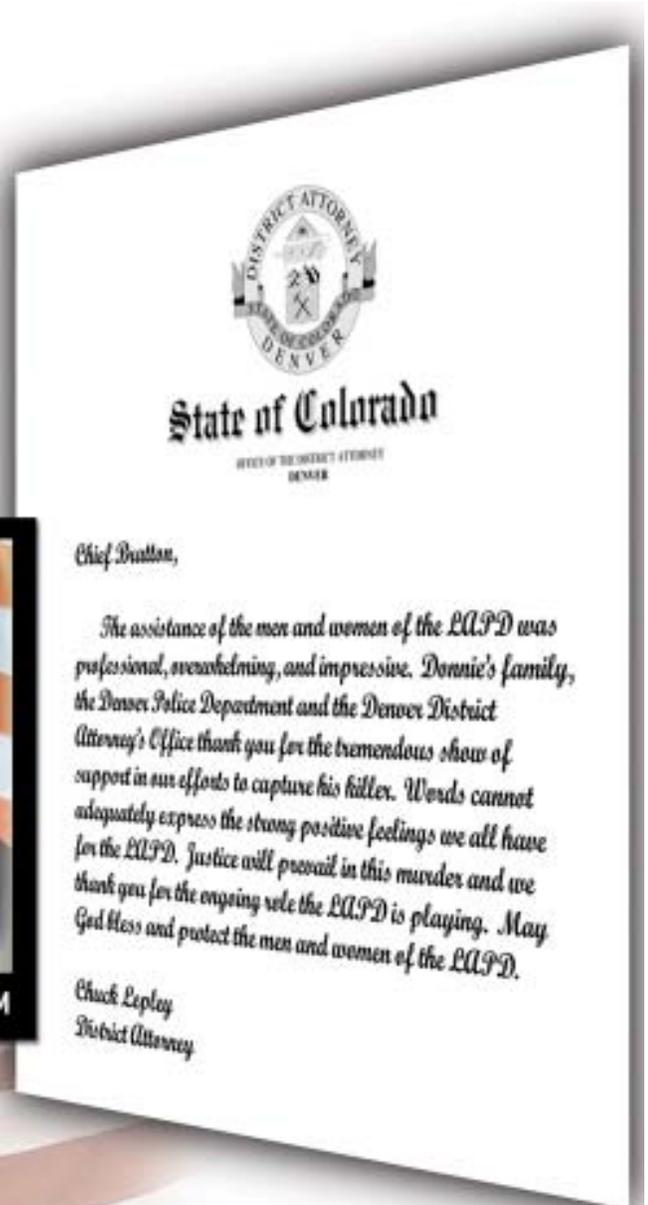
The assistance of the men and women of the LAPD was professional, overwhelming, and impressive. Donnie's family, the Denver Police Department and the Denver District Attorney's Office thank you for the tremendous show of

support in our efforts to capture his killer. Words cannot adequately express the strong positive feelings we all have for the LAPD. Justice will prevail in this murder and we thank you for the ongoing role the LAPD is playing. May God bless and protect the men and women of the LAPD.

Chuck Lepley  
District Attorney



Denver Police Detective  
Donnie Young



**A Four-Year Reflection** - By David S. Cunningham, III, President - Los Angeles Police Commission

Looking back on the last four years as a Police Commissioner, I can easily say that this experience has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life. I know I am speaking for my fellow Commissioners as well.

When most of us were appointed in the summer of 2001, we probably did not know the extent of work involved in overseeing a very large Department on a “part-time, volunteer” basis.

However, all of those uncertainties quickly dissolved as we came to know the level of dedication, intellect, and professionalism of the men and women, sworn and civilian, of this Department. Our Commission has enacted some significant improvements, but this would have

never occurred without the guidance, input, and expertise from each one of you. I would like to review some of the accomplishments of this Commission that you helped create.

In 2001, the Commission enabled the opening of Cold Case Unit within Robbery-Homicide Division. Several

homicides have been solved through this unit bringing a sense of long overdue justice to many families. The Department renewed its commitment to the Hunter-La Ley Consent Decree by actively tracking progress in hiring and promoting minorities and women.

The full reinstatement of Senior Lead Officers was insured by this

Commission to strengthen the Department’s commitment to Community Policing. As part of our commitment to provide the best

equipment to the Department, I ventured to Washington D.C. to secure a grant which allowed the purchase of state-of-the-art electronic microscopes. These microscopes have assisted the Department’s crime-solving abilities immensely.

In 2002, two major changes were made that directly affect you. The discipline system was revised to a system that is fair. It is harsh on misconduct, but understanding of frivolous complaints. The Flexible Work Schedule was implemented allowing more options for LAPD officers while still maintaining productivity and coverage. This was also the year that the Commission conducted a nationwide search for a new Chief of Police and the result was Chief William Bratton, the most notable law enforcement professional in the country, if not the world.

The year 2003 brought some significant policy changes including the

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*Police Commission President  
David S. Cunningham, III*



**Recent Actions by the Police Commission**

- MAY 3:** Received a presentation on the Southeast Community-Police Advisory Board from Co-Chairs Captain Sergio Diaz and Reverend Lee Heard.  
Received a presentation on the San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs from Deputy Chief Ronald Bergmann and Blinky Rodriguez.
- MAY 10:** The Patriot Award was presented to Commissioner Rick Caruso and Chief William Bratton by Officer David Craig representing the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves.  
Days of Dialogue presentation was made by Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas.  
Approved, in concept, the contracting private entities to provide supplemental law enforcement services. Additional analysis is required before final approval.
- MAY 17:** Approved Dodger Stadium as an authorized venue for uniformed, off-duty employment for Department personnel.

## A Four-Year Reflection - Continued from page 4

revised Pursuit Policy, which removed the ability to initiate a pursuit based on a misdemeanor offense. This action has resulted in a dramatic drop in officer, bystander, and suspect injuries. The Burglar Alarm Policy was also revised in 2003. The combination of verification upon the third call and increased fines has decreased calls for service on alarms significantly. During this year, we also appointed a new Inspector General, André Birotte, Jr., who has done an outstanding job.

While the Rampart corruption scandal investigations were complete, many residual effects were being felt both within the Department and within the community. In 2003, the Police Commission appointed a nine-member panel headed by civil rights attorney Connie Rice to review the incident with the benefit of time, and to ensure that the Department had implemented all appropriate recommendations.

In 2004, the Police Commission eliminated the "Code Two High" dispatch classification. This action has contributed to the Department's decrease in response time. In the same year, the Reserve Corps was enhanced, progress was made toward substantial compliance with the Consent Decree, and the Commission directed the production of a report which will provide extremely valuable information for all law enforcement professionals: "The Status of Domestic Violence in Los Angeles."

In our final year, 2005, we renewed our commitment to the Department's juvenile outreach programs including the Police Magnet School Program and other programs designed to enhance the lives of at-risk youths in Los Angeles. Also, the

policy for the use of the flashlight was adopted, the pursuit policy was modified to include the Pursuit Intervention Technique, or PIT maneuver and the tire deflation device. Modifications were made to the use of deadly force policy which more clearly define when an officer may shoot at or from a moving vehicle, and most importantly, violent and property crimes are down and arrests are up compared to 2001. And, we are once again

growing to better serve the people of this City.

I feel that the LAPD is in a better place than it was four years ago, and I hope that you feel the same way, because you are part of that success.

Thank you all for the safety you provide to the people of Los Angeles. And personally, thank you for an incredible four years. You have given me the experience of a lifetime and I will always be grateful. Thank you. □

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Night Out

July is preparation time for the annual nationwide National Night Out (NNO) event. This year will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> year for celebration of this event. The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is the official sponsor of this celebration, and will be working this year with Target Corporation as a co-sponsor. The event is geared toward providing the communities throughout the country with a night of safe gathering locations, free of crime and criminal activities. NNO is scheduled this year to take place on Tuesday, August 2, 2005.

The NATW will judge 10 categories of participation, ranging from Population, Rookies of the Year, Military, Electric Utility, State and NNO All-Stars. Awards are given out to all participants, with plaques going to the top ten award winners. In the Population category, the Los Angeles Police Department received plaques for placing 10<sup>th</sup> in 2003, and for placing 7<sup>th</sup> in 2004. "This year, our goal is to place first," said Sergeant John Amendola, of the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU).

The Department is preparing all geographic Areas for participation in this

grand event. NNO is coordinated through the Community Relations Section, CPU. Coordination efforts include providing notice of the upcoming event and resources such as materials for dissemination. New this year, the CPU will be providing banners to the geographic Areas for posting to help inform the community of the upcoming event. CPU posts a matrix of events, locations, and times, on the Department website.

Events should be planned by the Area Community Relations Office and Senior Lead Officers, in conjunction with local neighborhood residents, such as, Neighborhood Watch Block Captains or Community Police Advisory Board members, and any retail outlets in the community. Events in the past have included neighborhood cookouts, potluck dinners, peace rallies or marches, candlelight vigils, and station open houses.

If there are any question regarding this event, please contact, Officer Tanya Hanamaikai, Crime Prevention Unit at (213) 485-3134. □

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

primary purpose of discipline, which is to modify inappropriate behavior.

First, I have made it clear that if we are seeking to modify behavior by suspension days, it is my belief that 22 days should be the maximum in the vast majority of cases. If officers cannot change and modify their behavior following a 22-day suspension, they should not be members of the LAPD.

Secondly, that I believe in and endorse the concept of disciplinary settlements. This is a process by which Professional Standards Bureau and the accused officer meet and agree on the appropriate charge and the appropriate penalty. We will not accept a "guilty" plea if an officer insists they are innocent and the officer is just seeking a settlement in order to "get the matter over with."

What we have done in about 300 cases over the past two years is allow officers to accept responsibility and for the Department to impose a reasonable penalty that is believed most likely to help the officer bring their behavior in line with the Department's expectations and then get on with their career.

The settlement process speeds things up. Cases are resolved, the officers take responsibility and move

on. The reality is that everyone loses with suspension days: the officer loses money, the Department loses the work that the employee would have provided during that duty day. These changes have brought us from 108 directed Boards of Rights cases in 2002, to 68 directed Boards in 2003, to 29 directed Boards in 2004.

We are working hard to ensure our disciplinary system is effective, efficient, and most importantly, just and fair. I want our investigators to be aggressive in pursuing the small number of our members that intentionally violate the law. I want them out of our beloved Department.

The move to a criminal/administrative functional split eliminates a constant refrain of our critics: that we have structured our internal affairs investigations in such a way to contaminate criminal investigations and to delay our administrative investigations.

The article criticizes voluntary statements in any form. I don't agree. I think there is a time and a place for an officer to give voluntary statements. I accept that the League and I don't agree on this and that's

fine. Voluntary means just that: we ask and if you want to provide a statement, great; if not, ultimately that is your choice and we will honor it.

I leave it to you, your good judgment and good legal advice as to what you should do. I take no exception to the League suggesting a different approach from one that I believe is appropriate. What I do object to is the suggestion that somehow the Department is "head hunting" or inappropriately pursuing officers through the Internal Affairs process. This is a disservice to the men and women of this Department who are honorably serving in the Professional Standards Bureau. We are working very hard to make sure that good, innocent, appropriately behaving officers are protected from bogus complaints, and that guilty officers, officers that are not worthy of the title, are removed from our ranks. That is my goal and my responsibility and I will not waver from it. □

## LAPD Underwater Dive Unit Receives Boat *Continued from page 1*

The Department's dive unit has been in existence since the early 1970s, however it did not have a formal city budget until the early to mid 1990s. Today the dive unit consists of 31 divers, six boat operators, and approximately eight Metro SWAT divers.

The Los Angeles Police Foundation is a non-profit organization, established in 1998 that provides funding for programs and equipment not allocated in the city budget. □

### CRIME WATCH CITYWIDE

YEAR TO DATE - 6/25/05

Homicide	- 7.4%	▼
Rape	- 25.4%	▼
Robbery	- 8.1%	▼
Aggravated Assault	- 38.9%	▼
Total Violent Crime	- 27.8%	▼
Burglary	- 10.3%	▼
Burglary/Theft from Vehicle	- 16.3%	▼
Personal/Other Theft	- 12.6%	▼
Auto Theft	- 9.3%	▼
Total Property Crime	- 12.6%	▼
Total Part I Crimes	- 16.3%	▼

## Memorial Foundation Scholarship Awards

In May, the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation announced the award of five college scholarships to the dependents of Department employees. Each scholarship will be \$5,000 per year for four years, totaling \$20,000.

To be eligible, the student must be a child of a current, fulltime LAPD employee, and have the required credits for acceptance at an accredited college or university. Current college students must not have completed more than their sophomore year.

This year's scholarship recipients are as follows:

- Jessica Corona, accepted at Boston College, majoring in English and Business Marketing. Jessica is the daughter of Detective Luis Corona, Wilshire Area.
- Jaclyn Espinosa, accepted at University of Tennessee, majoring in Science and Forensic Medicine. Jaclyn is the daughter of Officer Ramon Espinosa, North Hollywood Area.
- Brent Fierro, accepted at Georgetown University, majoring in Business. Brent is the son of Captain William Fierro, Hollenbeck Area.

- Megan Solomon, accepted at Johns Hopkins University, majoring in Biology and Science. Megan is the daughter of Senior Clerk Typist Karen Solomon, Audit Division.

- Amber Witherow, accepted at University of Southern California, majoring in English and Journalism. Amber is the daughter of Sergeant Bart Witherow, Rampart Area.

The five recipients selected were among 65 applicants. Qualifications for the award were based on academic achievement, community service, an essay, and an interview. Applications are considered annually and are available in January.

For further information on the Scholarship Program, contact Alan Atkins, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation at (213) 847-4239. □

### THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE COMMENDED BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE MONTH OF MAY 2005

#### POLICE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE II

Tracy Page

#### POLICE OFFICER II

Gerry Chamberlain  
Casey Cox  
Dennis Cunningham  
Reno Dominik  
Steven Hillmann  
Alisha Jordan  
Korina Kozub-Casas  
Thomas Loera  
Francisco Martinez  
James Park  
Paul Razo  
Edwin Rosin  
Edmund Russell  
Tim Scully  
John Smith  
Hector Villanueva  
Marcos Villanueva

#### POLICE OFFICER III

Francisco Avila  
Jamie Bennett  
Todd Booth  
Boyan Brkic  
Scott McNeil  
Tim Scott  
Chris Vasquez

#### DETECTIVE I

Eugene Arreola  
Richard Lozano  
Yehuda Packer

#### DETECTIVE II

Carol Bowie  
Niall Byrne  
Patricia Hauck  
Stacey Morris  
John Rodriguez

#### SERGEANT I

Steven Olson  
Murrell Pettway

#### SERGEANT II

Mark Ehring  
Ruben Padilla

#### DETECTIVE III

Lillie Franklin  
Rene LaCasse

#### LIEUTENANT II

Donald Hooper

#### CAPTAIN I

William Murphy

#### CAPTAIN III

Sergio Diaz  
Terry Hara



Left to Right - Jessica Corona,  
Jaclyn Espinosa, Brent Fierro,  
Megan Solomon, and  
Amber Witherow

## 34th Los Angeles Police-Celebrity Golf Tournament

The 34<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Police-Celebrity Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, May 21, at Rancho Park Golf Course. Celebrity Host Chris O'Donnell was joined by more than thirty television, sports and motion picture personalities in support of the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation and members of the LAPD family. The annual Tournament is the Memorial Foundation's only fundraiser. This year's Tournament netted over \$250,000. The success of this event is critical to the ability of the Memorial

Foundation to provide financial grants to Department members in their time of acute need. Last year, the Memorial Foundation provided \$503,000 in grants to Department employees. □



*Shawn Parr, of radio station 93.9 KZLA, returned to golf again this year and to sign autographs for fans.*

### ROLL CALL OF EVENTS

**AUGUST 2, 2005**

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

Events throughout the City

**AUGUST 27, 2005**

**10:00 AM**

**LAPD CELEBRITY SWING-A-THON**

El Cariso Park, Sylmar

(661) 246-9645

**OCTOBER 22, 2005**

**6:00 PM**

**TRUE BLUE**

**(Formerly March on Crime)**

Paramount Studios

(213) 741-4550

**NOVEMBER 10, 2005**

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP**

**CONFERENCE**

Universal City Hilton



2.2.5

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