It is the mission of the Los Angeles Police Department to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life. Our mandate is to do so with honor and integrity, while at all times conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.
To the members of the community:

Presented here is the overview of the year 2008.

As LAPD we continue our efforts in being the leading law enforcement agency in the nation, raising the bar of professional standards for ourselves and for our colleagues in law enforcement. Los Angeles decline in homicides is amongst the highest of the top 10 major cities in America. We delivered declines in crime for the residents of the City of Los Angeles for the sixth year in a row, furthering a history-making success streak that is making local, national and international headlines.

The LAPD partnered with IBM to equip 300 black and white police vehicles with “Digital In-Car Video Systems.” The technology we have used has improved the overall quality of policing and public safety in the City of Los Angeles.

With great sadness we lost two members of the LAPD family, Officers Randy Simmons and Spree DeSha. SWAT Officer Randy Simmons was killed in the line of duty on February 7, 2008, when he responded to a home in West Valley Division. Officer Spree DeSha lost her life during the crash between a Metrolink Commuter Train and Freight Train in Chatsworth on September 12, 2008.

The following are the highlights of 2008. (The notation parentheses at the end of a bulleted item references a Department issued new release or newsletter article that will provide additional subject information.)

LAPD Chief Bratton Congratulates and Thanks Department for Hard Work in 2007 – Chief Bratton sent a personal “Thank You” to all Department personnel for their extraordinary efforts to reduce crime and fear of crime in 2007. (January 2) (Beat January)

Chief’s Message January 2008 – The past year was a very good one for the Los Angeles Police Department. We continued our efforts to re-establish the LAPD as the leading law enforcement agency in the nation, raising the bar of professional standards for ourselves and for our colleagues in law enforcement. We delivered declines in crime for the residents of the City of Los Angeles for the sixth year in a row, furthering a history-making success streak that is making local, national and international headlines. (January 2) (Beat January)
Chief Bratton Announces Command Staff Promotions – The re-assignment and promotion of command staff officers took a few months to be in effect as LAPD managers announced their retirement. (January 22, February 12, March 12, April 7, June 18 and 23) (Beat February, March, April, June, 3rd Quarter)

LAPD Sergeant Returns from Two Tours in Iraq – Chief Bratton had a special “meet and greet” to welcome back Sergeant Jose Melendez to the Department after serving two military active-duty tours in Iraq. (July 28)

Police Commission Re-elects Anthony Pacheco as President and John W. Mack as Vice President – The Police Commission unanimously re-elected Anthony Pacheco as President, and John W. Mack as Vice President. Elections for these posts are annually held on the last Police Commission meeting in July. The President position may be held for up to two consecutive years. This will be Commissioner Pacheco’s second year, as he has already served one successful year leading the five-member panel that oversees the LAPD. (July 22) (Beat 3rd quarter)

New Boeckmann Gallery Opens at Los Angeles Police Historical Society Museum – The Los Angeles Police Historical Museum unveiled ceremony for its new Boeckmann Gallery, dedicated to the history of the Los Angeles Police commission and the achievements of one of its most accomplished Commissioners, Herbert F. Boeckmann, III. (December 2)

LAPD Southwest Division Dedicated Memorial for Fallen Officer Filbert “Fil” Cuesta – Officer Fil Cuesta Jr., 26, was killed on August 9, 1998. Southwest GED officers dedicated a memorial and held the 9th Annual Blood Drive. (August 6)
Freeway Sign Unveiled in Memory of Fallen Officer Steve Gajda – Officer Steve Gajda, 29, was killed on January 1, 1998. A memorial for Officer Gajda was unveiled on the 60 freeway in East Los Angeles. (January 11) (Beat March)

Los Angeles Police Officers Mourned the Loss of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team Officer Randal Simmons – Officer Simmons Officer was killed in the line of duty on February 7, 2008 in West Valley Division. A number of fundraisers including BBQ’s, car washes, car shows and blood drives were held by local business, LAPD SWAT and LAPD Centurions. (February 7, 19, 21, March 1, 5, 26, April 14, 21, May 19, October 18) (Beat March, April, May)

77th Memorial Dedication Ceremony – The ceremony recognized those officers who have been killed in the line of duty. A plaque bearing the names of those officers was displayed. (September 1)

LAPD Officer Killed in Metrolink Disaster – On September 12, 2008, Police Officer Spree Desha was aboard the Metrolink train that crashed head on into a freight train in Chatsworth. (September 13 and 15) (Beat 3rd Quarter)

First Holiday Season without LA Sheriff Deputy Escalante – On Saturday, August 2, 2008, in the early morning hours, Deputy Escalante left his home in Cypress Park intending to go to work at the Men’s Central Jail. Deputy Escalante was shot to death by unidentified suspects. Arrest warrants were executed on December 12, 2008, as the investigation progressed throughout the day, two male adults were arrested and booked in connection with the murder of Deputy Escalante. (November 26, December 13)
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

MILESTONES

LA Crime Down for Sixth Consecutive Year – Chief Bratton announced the Los Angeles crime rate continued to drop for the sixth consecutive year. All categories of Part I crime showed decreases in 2007. Homicides dropped 18%, the lowest since 1970; rape decreased 13.8%; robbery decreased 6.2%; aggravated assaults dropped 9.3%; burglary dipped 4.1%; car burglary dropped 0.2%; personal and other theft decreased 6.1%; and auto theft dropped 8.3%. (January 2) (Beat January)

LAPD Program Chosen as One of Top 50 in the Innovations in American Government Award Program – The LAPD was selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants with the top 50 programs representing the best in government innovation from local, city, county, tribal, state and federal levels. (April 18)

Mid Year Status on Part I Crime and Gang Crime – Chief Bratton announced the declining rate of both Part I Crime and Gang Related Crime showed great promise for the remainder of 2008. To achieve these results, an active community, supportive city leadership, and partnerships with City, State and Federal officials was needed. For the first six months of 2008, Part I crime showed decreases in all but one category. (July 2) (Beat 3rd Quarter)

LAPD Reserve Recruitment Ad Hit the Airwaves – The advertisement is part of a media campaign aimed at recruiting men and women who want to protect their community as reserve police officers while continuing in their chosen careers. (August 11)

LAPD Inaugural “Youth Leadership Day” – “Youth Leadership Day” is a first for our Department and represents one of our signature goals designed to unite young people from throughout the Los Angeles community with members of the leadership team from the LAPD. (August 20) (Beat 3rd Quarter)

The First LAPD Explorer Commanders Appointed – For the first time in the history of the LAPD Explorer Program, the Department appointed a Chief Explorer, six Explorer Commanders and the Executive Advisory Council. (November 6)

LAPD 140th Anniversary – Chief Bratton kicked off the 140th anniversary at the graduation of the recruit class of July 2008. As a special guest, Retired Deputy Chief Harold Sullivan attended. Chief Sullivan is the second oldest living LAPD retiree. Chief Sullivan was appointed to the Department on January 2, 1937, and retired on February 1, 1967. (December 31) (Beat February)
LAPD, Local, State, and Federal Officials Announced Reduction in 2007 Gang Crime – The reduction of gang violence and crime is attributed to the collective resources of the Criminal Justice system and community, working together to address the spread of the gang influence over the Los Angeles region. (January 10) (Beat January)

Police Foundation Provided Funding for Police Bicycles – A partnership of the Weingart Foundation and the Los Angeles Police Foundation provided a grant to the LAPD for the purchase of 150 police bicycles. (March 4)

Chief of Police speaks at 2008 National Fusion Center Conference – The Second Annual Nation Fusion Center conference, held in partnership with the United States Department of Homeland Security Office and Department of Justice, is designed to support fusion centers as they continue to build their capabilities, understand their roles and responsibilities, and gain an awareness of the President’s National Strategy for Information Sharing. (March 19)

Evening of Dialog with LAPD – Chief Bratton with attending dignitaries discussed and shared crime reduction strategies and significant events. (April 10)

Joint Regional Law Enforcement Intelligence Conference – More than 250 law enforcement and other public safety professionals from seven counties served by the Joint Regional Intelligence Center in Norwalk gathered for this conference. (April 10)

Operation Triangle Brought Local, State and Federal Emergency Agencies Together – Operation Triangle is a comprehensive exercise involving local, state and federal responders to improve and better coordinate multi-agency emergency response efforts. (April 29)

LAPD Joins with Autism Society of America to train Officers – LAPD Metropolitan Division Officers received training on how to recognize and work productively with individuals with autism. (April 29)

Click It or Ticket Aims to Boost Seat Belt Use – LAPD aggressively enforced the state’s occupant protection laws as part of California’s 2008 “Click It or Ticket” mobilization. The campaign relies on heavy enforcement and public education as a means to help California achieve the highest seat belt use rate in the nation. (May 9)

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Supporting Our Troops, One Care Package at a Time – Care packages were sent to our front line troops in Iraq and Afghanistan from LAPD Valley Bureau Community Police Stations. (May 12)

2008 Safe and Sober Graduation Operation ABC – This project designed to curtail the accessibility of alcoholic beverages and promote “safe and sober” graduations throughout the 61 Los Angeles Unified School District high schools. The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage control announced the 2008/2009 Grant Assistance Program recipients and awarded the LAPD a 13th consecutive grant. (May 19, December 17)

Los Angeles Police Academy Magnet School Program Graduation – 135 high school seniors graduated from the Los Angeles Police magnet school program, which prepares highly motivated young men and women for cadets in law enforcement and related fields. (June 6)

Clergy Leadership Summit – Ecclesiastic leaders from various faiths and denominations assembled in one place for the purpose of examining the problem of gangs and were guided towards a greater understanding of this social issue and develop action able solutions to this deeply rooted problem. (June 28)

4th of July Anti-Fireworks Campaign – This campaign promoted public awareness to the fact that all fireworks are dangerous and illegal within the City of Los Angeles, including Safe and Sane Fireworks. (June 30) (Beat 4th Quarter)

Multi-Agency Effort Brings Two Violent Gang members to Justice – Two brothers from an Asian gang were arrested for a series of murders in one of the largest multi-defendant death penalty cases in California History. (July 10)

National Counter-Terrorism Academy Graduation – Nearly 60 students from 25 agencies in California and Nevada received instruction in topics including terror financing, how terrorists use the Internet and global and local threats to communities. (July 22)
Multi-Agency Effort Culminates in Numerous Arrests Suspects Involved in Wide Array of Felonies – A series of 20 search warrants, 12 arrest warrants, and one parole search were served at various locations. (July 25)

Hollenbeck Community Police Advisory Board donates Money to fire Victims – A fire broke out in the Rodriguez family second floor apartment. Although no family members were injured, the family suffered the loss of their personal items and food. (July 25)

LAPD Mounted Platoon Bridges Cap with At-Risk Teens – LAPD Mounted Platoon partnered with Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services to help teenagers break from a cycle of crime and abuse. (August 13) (Beat 4th Quarter)

Peace In Northeast – Northeast was in the media spotlight based on incidents of violence, and other criminal activity, including drugs and gangs. Local churches, neighborhood councils, community groups and residents came together. (August 16)

Safe Driving Around Schools – A collaboration between LAPD, LA School Police, LAUSD and Councilmember Wendy Greuel brought awareness to motorists of the traffic laws in effect around schools in an effort to save children’s lives was held at Colfax Elementary School. (September 1)

LAPD and Allstate Insurance Join Together to Educate and Demonstrate the Dangers of Driving While Distracted – The Allstate Action Against distraction Teen Driver Challenge provided students form Crenshaw, Dorsey and Manual Arts High Schools the opportunity to experience firsthand how distractions like cell phones, texting, radio channel surfing, loud music and passengers impact their ability to drive safely. (October 27)

LAPD Youth Financial Summit for more than 1,000 Students – Volunteers throughout the Los Angeles financial sector responded to a “call to action” to provide more than 1,000 LAPD Youth Explorers and Magnet Academy students from across the City with a full day of critical financial training on managing money and credit. (November 15)

Suspects Arrested for Stealing Items from Passengers Luggage at LAX – As part of a collaborative effort, two employees working in the baggage handling area of the airport were arrested for theft of property from passengers’ luggage. A subsequent search of the suspects’ residences resulted in the recovery of more than 280 pieces of property, all believed to have been taken from passengers’ luggage. (November 22)

Children’s Day: A Salute to Kids – The San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs and LAPD joined forces to help reach “at risk” kids and keep them from getting into gangs or tagger crews. (November 22)
Council Member Recognized National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness – National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness was highlighted by accomplishments of LAPD’s Metropolitan Task Force on Human Trafficking. (January 11, September 25)

Man Arrested for Animal Cruelty Charges – The Los Angeles City Animal Cruelty Task Force seized eleven dogs that exhibited scarring from possible dog fighting. (January 16, February 19)

Multi-Agency Task Force Targets Counterfeit Merchants – The task force purpose was to target the illegal sales and distribution of counterfeit and pirated products. (January 18)

Operation Oakwood – A multi-agency search warrant operation where arrests of wanted criminals involved with the sale of narcotics and firearms. (February 17)

North Hollywood Area leads Multi-Agency Task Force to Combat Gang Crime – Operation Wild Card deals Vineland Boys Gang a bad hand. (February 26)

Reserve Officer Crime Suppression Task Force Reactivated – For the first time in 15 years, the LAPD rolled out the Reserve Officer Crime Suppression Unit to address special crime problems. (April 4)

Colombian Lotto Criminal Operation in the Southland – The task force comprised of Hollenbeck Area personnel analyzed several incidents where victims had been conned into forfeiting their personal income. (April 24)

LAPD Reserve Officer Task Force Deployed in Venice Beach – The task force of more than 50 Reserve Officers patrolled Venice Beach as the LAPD strives to provide a safe and secure environment for residents and tourist alike. (June 5)

Multi-Agency Cruiser Task Force – The task force is made up of LAPD personnel, California Highway Patrol and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. It was formed in an effort to reduce traffic congestion and illegal activity often associated with “cruising” along Sunset and Hollywood Boulevards during the busy summer months. (June 13)

Police Bust Cockfighting Breeding Location – Authorities from the Los Angeles Animal Cruelty Task Force shut down what they say was a breeding ground for suspected cockfighting in South Los Angeles. (June 27)

LAPD/ATF Operation 2008 – The culmination of a two month long City, State, and Federal Task force investigations probing the criminal operation of several active street gangs. (July 24)
LAPD/CHP Joint Task Force – LAPD and CHP joined forces to enhance public awareness of the extreme dangers of illegal street racing and identify and arrest those involved in planning, aiding and abetting, and engaging in reckless driving or racing. (August 7)

Learn More About Modern Day Slavery – Councilmember Cardenas joined the Los Angeles Metro Task Force on Human Trafficking, a partnership which unites service providers, religious organizations, and law enforcement in the fight against modern day slavery, presented an awareness educational fair on slavery and trafficking. (January 11, September 25)

Joint Task Force to Combat Residential Burglaries in South Los Angeles – Probation searches at forty locations resulted in seven arrests ranging from possession for sales of narcotics to possession of deadly weapons. (December 9)

LAPD Announces Digital In-Car Camera Technology – The LAPD partnered with IBM to equip 300 black and white police vehicles with Digital In-Car Video Systems. (June 5)

LAPD Releases Results of DNA Study – The LAPD released the results of a 20-month study, funded by the National Institute of Justice. The results showed that in 45 percent of burglary cases, where DNA was collected and profile developed, a suspect was identified. (June 30)

Target and LAPD Partner to Launch New Crime Fighting Capabilities – LAPD and Target announced the formation of a unique public-private partnership to foster safe families and communities in Southern California. (July 6, September 17) (Beat 4th Quarter)

New LAPDonline.org webpage and Reserve Officer Recruitment Ad – Unveiled was the ‘new and improved’ LAPD website and the launch of a radio recruitment advertisement campaign aimed to inform the public of the vast opportunities available to those who wish to serve their community. (August 11)

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Crime Tips Via Text Messaging and Emails Can Now be Made Anonymously – Through the use of a third party interface, tipsters can be completely anonymous. The third party interface provides the user with a code by which they can add new information and claim any possible rewards. (September 17) (Beat 4th Quarter)

Dedication Ceremony for LAPD Valley Bomb Squad Facility – The Valley Bomb Squad Facility is 8,200 square feet, built to serve as Valley Bureau Headquarters for the Department’s Hazardous Devices Section (Bomb Squad). (January 9)

Echo Park, Pico Union and Westlake Communities Receive New Rampart Police Station – The new state of the art facility is “Gold-certified” by the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. (September 4) (Beat 3rd Quarter)

Grand Opening of Topanga Area Community Police Station – The 54,000 square foot state-of-the-art, Topanga Station is a “Green” facility. (January 3) (Beat 1st Quarter)
LAPD Officers shave Heads in Support of Fellow Officer suffering from Leukemia – To show support of their fellow Officer Carlos Torres, a group of officers from Central Traffic Division shaved their heads. A bone marrow event was also held for Officer Torres and this year’s Fight for Life boxing event was dedicated to him as well. (January 24, April 4, November 3, 7)

The US Navy Seals and LAPD Promote Physical Fitness – About 25 LAPD Academy recruits participated in physical fitness training with the Navy Seals. (February 7)

The Los Angeles Police Foundation and the World Famous Gladstone’s Restaurant In Malibu Partner to Tell Crime to Take a Hike – A two-mile path lead hikers into the Topanga State park, then back to Gladstone’s for a California style St. Patty’s Day Beach Party which included entertainment and lunch hosted by the world famous restaurant. Donations from the event will support LAPD youth programs and fund essential safety equipment not included in the City’s budget. (March 16)

6th Annual Patrick Flanders Memorial Golf Tournament – This golf tournament brings public awareness to drunk driving in an effort to reduce the incidents of injuries, death, and property damage associated with intoxicated drivers. (March 28)

LAPD’s Korean Citizen Academy – Sixty two Korean-Americans graduated after completing the 11 week course of Citizen Academy. (April 2)

Reseda High School Police Academy Magnet 10th Anniversary – A building dedication and 10 year anniversary was celebrated at Reseda High School. The Los Angeles Police Academy Magnet Program began in the fall of 1996 and is currently in operation on six campuses within the LAUSD. The program is designed, not only to educate students about law enforcement and related careers, but, also to encourage students to commit to a rigid course of study, physical training and compulsory community service. An LAPD Officer is assigned a full-time position to lead, counsel and mentor the students through their Police Academy experience. (April 9)
LAPD and Volunteers Clean Up Neighborhood – Hollywood Area Community Relations Office, Los Angeles Community Beautification, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Councilmembers Eric Garcetti and Tom LaBonge sponsored a cleanup of the Western Avenue Corridor between Hollywood Blvd and Beverly Blvd. (April 6)

Car Wash and BBQ Fundraiser for Officer and Son – West Valley Area Community Police Station had a fundraiser for two of their own who are battling life-threatening cancer. (April 5)


24th Annual Challenge Cup/ Baker to Vegas Relay Race – Over 240 teams from around the nation and the world participated in this event. Our special entry this year was officers representing the South Wales Police Service United Kingdom. (May 30) (Beat May)

Memorial Ceremony to Honor LAPD Officers Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice – The rank and file of the LAPD, the community and family members of fallen officers gathered to honor LAPD officers killed in the line of duty. (May 5) (Beat May)

Charity Football Game between the LAPD Centurions and NYPD’s Finest – This unique fraternity of Los Angeles Police Officers practice, play, and travel on their off-duty time to raise money for the Blind Children’s’ Center of Los Angeles. (May 3, October 23)

LAPD Employee Needs Help – A barbeque was held in honor of Deatrice Thomas, an 18-year veteran recovering from a critical illness. In April 2008, during her stay in the hospital, her apartment building burned to the ground along with all of her possessions, leaving her with nothing. (May 7)
Los Angeles Police Department Celebrates Mother’s Day – The demands of law enforcement professions preclude many officers from sharing this day with their families. Two dedicated officers who represent many of the moms, who are LAPD officers, shared their challenging experiences. (May 11)

2008 Medal of Valor Ceremony Honors Exceptional Heroism in Police Service – The individuals recognized were those who have truly gone above and beyond the call of duty in critical incidents, who have performed an act of bravery displaying extreme courage while consciously facing imminent peril. They were also honored at Dodger Stadium during a pre-game ceremony. Annually, the Los Angeles Dodgers honors and recognizes the contribution that public safety officials make to the people of Los Angeles and surrounding areas. (May 28, July 30, September 7) (Beat June)

Mini Mounties Community Outreach Program – The Mini Mounties program provides a positive interaction between the children of the Skid Row area and members of the LAPD. (May 27)

Valley Traffic Safety Fair Event Includes Classic Car Exhibit – This event increased public awareness of traffic safety and provided an opportunity for attendees to meet city officials and traffic safety professionals. (May 31) (Beat June)

30th Annual Memorial Relay Race – The Annual Police Memorial Run is held to honor officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. (May 31) (Beat May)

Teen Community Police Advisory Board Concludes Successful First Year – A Junior Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) was established with hope of opening the lines of communication between the police and the area’s high school teens. During the school year 1,620 students were selected by the school principals of four area high schools. (July 3)

National Night Out – The Department participates in this nationwide event in which thousands of neighborhoods across the country come together with their respective police departments. (August 5) (Beat 3rd Quarter)
LAPD, The Closer and Sunshine Kids – LAPD in a ceremony bestowed the Oath of Office to children seriously ill with cancer, making them “honoree” police officers. (September 4)  

Annual True Blue Event Honored Outstanding Police Officers and Producer Jerry Bruckheimer – The Los Angeles Police Foundation hosted the ninth annual True Blue event, honoring the outstanding service of two LAPD officers and acclaimed film and television producer Jerry Bruckheimer. (October 4)  

8th Annual LAPD Angels in the Community Book and Toy Drive – The event took place at Para Los Niños Family Learning Complex where children received books provided by the William Morris Agency and toys provided by JAKKS Pacific, Inc. (December 3) (Beat 4th Quarter)  

Gunfire Reduction Campaign – This campaign is designed to help reduce incidents of indiscriminate gunfire that have become a deadly New Year’s tradition in our city. We also promote public awareness to the fact that all fireworks are dangerous, and illegal within the City of Los Angeles, including Safe and Sane Fireworks. (June 30, December 29) (Beat 4th Quarter)
Officer of the Year Awards – Harbor Area honored officers, employees and community members who distinguished themselves above the normal demands of service. (February 21)

Central City Police Boosters Honor Officers – The luncheon provided businesses and residents of the community a forum to recognize and support the LAPD in Downtown Los Angeles. (March 5)

Phoenix Houses of California Presented the 2008 Public Service Award to Chief and Mrs. Bratton – Chief Bratton and his wife received the 2008 Public Service Award for their contribution to civic life, exemplary leadership and their efforts to bring change to at-risk and disadvantaged youth. (April 8)

LAPD Officers Recognized for Their Exemplary Work in Combating Auto Theft – Thirteen north Hollywood Area Officers were awarded the prestigious “10851” pin for their efforts in combating auto theft and property crime. (April 16)

Chief of Police Honored – Women Against Gun Violence, a nonprofit organization, awarded its ‘Courageous Leader’ Award to Chief Bratton at their 13th Annual Awards Ceremony. (June 8)

LAPD Harbor Division Teen CPAB Honored by City Council – Teens honored for their community policing efforts in involving teens in the problem solving process in dealing with gang intervention/ prevention, violence prevention and establishing trust with the police department. (July 11)

LAPD Supervisor Receives Fulbright Award – Sergeant Timothy Kalkus was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to conduct research at the Peel Training Centre, Hendon, United Kingdom, during the 2008 - 2009 academic year. (August 12)

Police Officers and Civilian Employees Honored – The Department held its 28th annual Recognition Awards Ceremony. A total of 251 sworn and civilian employees were honored. (October 16)

LAPD Sports Award Banquet – This awards banquet honored the men and women of the Department who spend untold hours of their own time and money to compete on the field of battle defending the honor of their teams and LAPD in various athletic events. (November 14)
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

HIGH PROFILE MEDIA CASES

LAPD Statement Regarding Public Safety – LAPD responded to public complaints and criminal behavior in order to protect public safety. Despite recent media reports, the LAPD is not “targeting” specific individuals or groups of individuals involved in covering “high profile persons.” (January 18)

It’s a Boy, Injured LAPD Officer Gives Birth – On February 13, 2008, Lucas Braedon Pearce was born to retired Officer Kristina Ripatti and LAPD Officer Tim Pearce. Officer Ripatti was paralyzed when she was shot by an armed robbery suspect on June 3, 2006. (February 13)

Jewish Center Target of Hate Crime – Two incendiary devices were lobbed at a local Jewish Center and the incident was investigated as a hate crime. (February 19)

Suspect Armed with AK-47 Rifle fires at Officers – Officers assigned to Northeast Criminal Apprehension Team investigating an attempted murder incident were met by gunfire. (February 22)

Cold Case Homicide Detectives Get Their Man – Detectives from the Cold Case Homicide Unit were informed that 60-year-old, Kazuyoshi Miura, was arrested on a warrant, charging him with the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, and conspiracy. (February 23 and 26)

More Details of Stolen Goods Uncovered from Caveda Thefts – The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (AFT) discovered a blind auction was held for a defaulted storage locker. The person who won the auction entered the wrong locker by accident and discovered a number of firearms. (February 27)

Helicopters Become Black and Whites in the Sky – Air Support Division unveiled two police helicopters with a new black and white color scheme. (March 20)

First Female Command Pilot lot Retires – Los Angeles Police Officer Lincoln retired after 23 Years of outstanding service. In January 1991, she proudly received her Command Pilot wings and served 17 years as one of the first female Command Pilots, accumulating more than 7,000 hours of flight time. (March 26)

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SWAT the Next Level – LAPD SWAT’s new selection process, combined with more extensive training, is intended to take the elite unit and its officers to the next level. (April 3)

Off Duty Officer Saves a Child’s Life – LAPD Metropolitan Division Officer Carlos Flores was working and off duty uniform detail at Dodger Stadium when he responded to a four-year-old child who was choking. Officer Flores, who is a trained EMT, rendered aid and successfully saved the life of the young girl. (April 14)

May Day News – The Department and its partners are committed to maintain order while also protecting lives, property and First Amendment rights and coordinated with organizers for the international Worker’s Day March, Latino Movement USA and March 25th Coalition for a peaceful rally. (April 29, July 8, September 16)

LAPD Counter-Terrorism Academy Opened – This pilot program for state and local law enforcement will bring world-class training to mid-level safety professionals. (March 10)