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**NOVEMBER 2003** 



WILLIAM J. BRATTON CHIEF OF POLICE

magine initiating a traffic stop for a speeding driver who is weaving in and out of traffic on one of the wide avenues in the San Fernando Valley. The circumstances of the stop quickly change when officers learn the driver has a felony warrant for assault with a deadly weapon and has eluded police for several months. The

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# **VEHICLE PURSUIT PILOT PROGRAM**

ue to a number of high profile vehicle pursuits in 2002, the Police Commission directed the Department to analyze the pursuit policy and make recommendations for change. The Department convened a Pursuit Review Committee consisting of representatives from throughout the Department. The Committee forwarded recommendations to the Commission later that year. The recommendations eventually evolved into Departmentwide training in April 2003, and the publishing of Operational Order No. 2, Pursuit Pilot Program-Established, in June 2.003

As a result of this series of events, reported pursuits decreased 62 percent during April, May and June 2003, compared to the same period in 2002.

The one-year pilot program modified the pursuit policy in three main ways:

- 1. Officers can no longer initiate a pursuit based solely on an infraction, misdemeanor evading, or reckless driving in response to enforcement action taken by Department personnel.
- Air units, whenever possible, are required to assume responsibility for tracking the pursued vehicle

- while authorized ground units follow with their lights and sirens activated.
- 3. Oversight of the pursuit by supervisors is enhanced.

The pilot program stresses safety and allows officers to continue to pursue violators that are a danger to the public either by their driving or by a crime that they may reasonably have committed. The ability of officers to articulate probable cause and reasonable suspicion within pursuit incidents, and with police work in general, will be enhanced. Increased supervisory oversight will substantiate the work of the officers and, together with the air unit, maximize the likelihood of a safe and expeditious conclusion to each vehicle pursuit.

The City of Los Angeles is a dynamic and diverse environment. The Department has always been concerned for safety in vehicle pursuits. In 1976, the Department established the first pursuit policy. Since that time, the policy has been modified no less than five times in order to reflect the changing landscape. At the end of the one-year period, the pilot program will be reviewed to determine whether it will be established as policy. □



# William J. Bratton Chief of Police

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# Chief's Message Continued from page 1

possibility of the suspect taking off, or deciding he's not going to jail, is very real. You call for back up, but it could take several minutes to arrive. So you and your partner rely on your skills, training, and tactics to control the situation and take the suspect into custody.

Although this is a fictional stop, it reflects the "dangerous realities" that we face each and every day as Los Angeles police officers.

I mentioned in the September issue of The BEAT, that our comprehensive fiveyear plan of action would be unveiled by the end of October. Now that it's complete, I want to share with you the purposes of the plan and the issues and challenges we faced as the plan was being developed. First, the plan will help the Department accomplish my stated goals of reducing the fear and incidence of crime, fully implementing the Consent Decree, and creating a world-class Counter-Terrorism Bureau that will serve as a model for police organizations worldwide. I like to refer to these three goals as the Department's "internal realities." I see them as measurable, necessary, and most importantly, attainable. I see these "internal realities" as the only way of making Mayor Hahn's vision to make Los Angeles the safest big city in the country, a reality.

Secondly, the plan of action will also describe candidly "external realities" that Los Angeles police officers must deal with: That we are the most understaffed major metropolitan police organization in the country. East coast and mid-west cities like New York, Chicago and Boston all have more cops per capita. Some have almost twice as many officers per capita as we do. Add to that the staggering amount of real estate that we cover, close to 500 square miles, bound

together by a system of clogged freeways that on their best days yield top speeds well below their intended design, and you can begin to appreciate just how good of a job that you do, considering how little you have to work with.

Another "external reality" is that the intensity and fear of crime in this City oftentimes seems to outweigh that of many other large cities in this country. Although we have significantly reduced the number of homicides this year and overall violent crime, a year ago we were the murder capital of the nation. In my first year as your Chief, I've spoken with numerous cops who have been involved in gun battles or been shotatin Los Angeles. The level of unprovoked violence against police officers seems to me to be much more of a problem here than at any other Police Department where I've worked or with which I am familiar. I have come to believe but for the intense focus that you and the Department place on officer safety-related security, training coordination and tactics, the rate of injury from those assaults would be much higher.

I have come to understand that what sets us apart from other law enforcement agencies in a positive way is our emphasis on officer safety and tactics. As an understaffed organization and through its evolution, the LAPD has been forced to rely on rapid mobilization and tactics "to get the job done." In the 1960s and 1970s, these tools helped to create the image of the LAPD as the worldwide leader in law enforcement. Now, some thirty years later, the focus has not

# Los Angeles Police Foundation presents Crystal Angel Awards

Rebecca Reyes, and Officer Philip Thompson were awarded the Crystal Angel Award for Community Service at the annual March on Crime brunch held October 12, 2003, at the Elysian Park Police Academy. Each year the Crystal Angel Awards are given to LAPD officers who have distinguished themselves in community service. This year, three officers from three different divisions earned the award.

Detective Lopez of Northeast Area has devoted a large part of his personal time to helping at-risk youth, significantly impacting gang crime, and making our neighborhoods a safe place to live and work. Detective Lopez's efforts resulted in the creation of a gang unit and the Community Law Enforcement Area Recovery (CLEAR) program that was used as the model for gang units citywide during the Department's recent reorganization. His strong work ethic and commitment to community service were factors in his recognition for a Crystal Angel Award.

Officer Reyes of West Traffic Division volunteers her free time to work with young members of the community. Her days off are devoted



Left to right: Officer Philip Thompson; Officer Rebecca Reyes; Chief Bratton; Detective Bob Lopez; and Mr. Dave Nichols, Senior Vice President, SBC California and Board Chairman of the Los Angeles Police Foundation.

to coaching basketball at the YMCA. Officer Reyes began coaching at the YMCA when family obligations prevented her from competing in college. Officer Reyes is currently coaching a girl's team sponsored by the Los Angeles Sparks.

Officer Thompson is accustomed to addressing quality of life issues in the neighborhoods he serves as Southeast Area's Volunteer Coordinator. Officer Thompson was

instrumental in coordinating a Weed and Seed program for the Southeast Area. The Weed and Seed program involves weeding out violent crime and drug abuse and utilizing seeding strategies to bring community services to the area, such as after school programs and economic development. The results of his efforts have created mutually beneficial relationships between officers and other community members. □



# RECENT ACTIONS BY THE POLICE COMMISSION

# **SEPTEMBER 15 & 16:**

The Police and Firefighter Housing Task Force sponsored seminars at the Elysian Park Academy.

### SEPTEMBER 29:

Vice President Alan Skobin was honored at the Devonshire Community Police Station.

### SEPTEMBER 30:

Received a verbal report that final negotiations are underway with one facility which will serve as the temporary Police Administration Building. Continued the discussion on the Board of Rights process. A Police Commission report on this topic is anticipated soon.



# Chief's Message Continued from page 2

changed. We still rely on tactics and other methods used when our population was half of what it is today, before September 11th and before gang culture and gang crime were able to create so much fear in our neighborhoods. Although you, the cops and detectives out on the streets still work hard to "get the job done," the resources we give you clearly have not kept up with the demand. The people of this City are, by and large, receiving the best policing for the price they have been willing to pay. But clearly, as we enter the 21st Century, a continuing case must be made for more resources and most importantly, more police officers and civilian support staff.

Many people believe that the disconnect between the LAPD and the people of Los Angeles is the result of an insular Department, closed off to public influences. While that may be true to some extent, another "external

reality" is that our uniformed officers have been sent out to "get the job done" oftentimes without the proper tools, training, development and most importantly, staffing. Because of your dedication to your profession, "getting the job done" has been your priority. However, cutting corners in the absence of adequate funding, has lead to the wearing down of established policies, has tarnished our outstanding reputation, and has eroded the trust of the people we have sworn to protect and to serve. The lack of personnel causes erosion in everything we do, and in particular, finding time for all of our officers to build critical bridges of trust and confidence in many of our troubled neighborhoods.

The public and the politicians have as much responsibility for the LAPD and its ability to perform constantly, compassionately and constitutionally as do the command staff, officers and civilian employees that work here. I

know that you, the outstanding men and women of this Department, sworn and civilian, are capable of doing more with less, but I'm also aware that you cannot do everything. That is why this five-year plan of action is so important. It outlines our responsibilities and our goals within the next half-decade, but it also factors in the responsibilities of all players involved in making Los Angeles the safest big city in the nation. Working with your unions, Mayor Hahn, and the communities that are showing an increasing willingness to partner with us, my commitment to you is to use all of my skills, power, assets and energy to fight for the tools and additional resources that this Department so desperately needs, to "get the job done" the right way.

You are the best and have clearly shown your ability and commitment to do more, but we owe it to you to fight as hard as we can for more cops, for your safety and that of the public.







n September 23, 2003, the \$40 million Valley Communications Center took its first 911 emergency call. The three-story, 59,000 square-foot building has taken over dispatching duties for the San Fernando Valley and operators are currently answering 85 percent of the City's emergency calls within ten seconds. The building is designed to withstand an 8.3 magnitude earthquake and is able to move two feet in any direction during a quake.

The new facility is part of the City's plan to have two fully operational communications dispatch centers in the event an emergency, such as an earthquake or other natural disaster, disables one of the centers. The Valley Center has 84 consoles and three to four times the space of the City's old dispatch center. Both the Valley and Downtown Los Angeles Communications Centers feature ergonomic workstations that can be mechanically lifted and lowered, giving dispatchers the choice of sitting or standing positions. In addition, both facilities have the same exact floor plan for ease of transition in case of an emergency transfer from one location to another.

Citywide, in 2002, the Department's Communications Division received 1,813,143 emergency 911 calls and 1,535,592 non-emergency calls, for a total of 3,348,735 incoming telephone calls for service. The Department currently employs 543 Police Service Representatives who serve as dispatchers. □

CRIME WATCH CITYWIDE YEAR TO DATE - 11/1/03		
Homicide	- 22.6%	
Rape	- 6.4%	<b>*</b>
Robbery	- 1.3%	<b>V</b>
Aggravated Assault	- 6.9%	•
Domestic Violence	- 4.1%	<b>*</b>
Total Violent Crime	- 4.5%	
Burglary	- 0.1%	
Burglary/Theft from Vehicle	- 3.5%	<b>V</b>
Personal/Other Theft	- 7.7%	<b>V</b>
Auto Theft	- 3.5%	<b>V</b>
Total Property Crime	- 3.8%	V



# **METLIFE AWARD**

Reginald Chapple of the Dunbar Economic Development Corporation and Chief Bratton were presented with the MetLife Foundation's Community Police Partnership Award on Thursday, October 2, 2003, marking the success of the Community Safety Initiative. The award was one of only seven such honors presented nationwide. More than 200 applicants competed for the award.

The Los Angeles Police
Department and the Dunbar Economic
Development partnership focuses on
the South Los Angeles - Vernon
Central Safety Initiative. The
partnership is dedicated to forming and
utilizing innovative programs and crime
prevention strategies that focus on
comprehensive community
development and community safety
simultaneously.

The cornerstone of this partnership is the Graffiti-Free Zone crime prevention program, which was initiated by the Newton Area Community Police Station. The program involves a broad-based collaboration of business and community organizations, all joining in partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department to reduce gang

crime and improve the quality of life in the Newton Area. These organizations include the Dunbar Economic Development Corporation, the Board of Public Works' Operation Clean Sweep, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office's Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, the Control Recovery and Development Project, A Place Called Home, Art Storm, Art Share, the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs

Department, and other community based organizations. Since the inception of the program in December 2002, gang graffiti and tagging were reduced more than 65 percent in the Graffiti-Free Zones, graffiti-related arrests increased more than 60 percent, and a 16 percent crime reduction occurred in the initial target area.  $\square$ 



Left to right: Deputy City Attorney Anne Tremblay, Neighborhood Prosecutor Program; Captain Thomas Maeweather, Commanding Officer, Newton Area; Chief Bratton; Mr. Reginald Chapple, CEO, Dunbar Economic Development Corporation; Anthony J. Nugent, Senior Vice President, MetLife Foundation; and Neelura Bell, Senior Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Los Angeles Chapter.

# THE L.A.P.D. MUSEUM IS UP AND RUNNING

By: Tom Hays, Retired L.A.P.D., Chairman, Board of Directors, Los Angeles Police Historical Society

few years back, several of us on the Department felt that it was high time that we had a place where we could "capture" what we do on a daily basis, and a place where we could preserve some of the history that we help create every day we go to work.

You may have heard some comments about a historical society and museum being formed over the past several years. Some of you may have even contributed to the project via check or payroll deduction. We have now made significant progress and are actually open. The museum is

located in the beautifully refurbished former Highland Park station, originally built in 1925, at 6045 York Blvd. We have already created the design for an interactive presentation and are working on the funding. However, in the meantime we have some artifacts

CHIER

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

## **MANAGEMENT ANALYST II**

Patrick Anthony

## POLICE OFFICER I

Jennifer Kim Thomas McLaughlin Alejandro Soria

## **POLICE OFFICER II**

Pete Abskharon Everardo Amaral Adolfo Batres Douglas Beard Patrick Beighley Mario Cardona Joseph Chavez Chad Dellinger **Eric Eppolito** Mario Estrada John Hardin Robert Harrell Jennifer Howlett **Brent Jones** Alisha Jordan Wesley Lin

Jaime Luna

Mario Marquez **Eddie Morales** Season Nunez Leroi O'Brien Dennis Orris Ramon Ortega Andres Paredes Michael Pettinato Kenneth Phillippe Robert Quiroz Mario Ramirez Jesse Reyes Ricardo Rivera Lydia Solis James Sterling Hannu Tarjamo

# POLICE OFFICER II

Kevin Webb

Chris Allen Christopher Amador Aaron Blackburn Eric Briggs Michael Cannon Jaime Chacon Danny Chao Pilar Depadee

James Marshall Katharina McAnany Randall McCain Gerald Mimms James Neuhaus Brian O'Hara Robert Palacios Robert Quezada Carol Sawamura Robert Schlesinger Darlene Shelley Kristian Werner David Williams Paul Williams

## **DETECTIVE I**

George Molina Martin Pinedo Grace Torres Carl Worrell

#### **DETECTIVE II**

Gilbert Escontrias Stephen Frizzell Stephanie Lazarus Michael Small Ronnie Walker

### **SERGEANT II**

Maria Acosta Kevin Burke Armando Perez Carmine Sasso

#### **DETECTIVE III**

Steven Galeria Ron Hodges Louis Koven Russell Long Yvette Moreno Ron Phillips

## LIEUTENANT I

Ruben Lopez

#### LIEUTENANT II

Paul Geggie Tony Lomedico Paul Vernon

### **CAPTAIN III**

James Cansler

#### **COMMANDER**

Harlan Ward

# **Parker Center Update**

s reported in the April 2003 issue, the Department is working with other City entities to make the vision of a new Police Administration Building a reality. However, much planning, design and hard work lie ahead.

In May 2003, the City and Department entertained bids and concept designs from a number of well-known and exceptionally qualified architectural firms. After a series of presentations and evaluations, DMJM Design/Roth Sheppard Group was selected to complete the two-year design phase. This firm is familiar with the various stakeholders in this enterprise and has specific knowledge of the Public Safety Metro Site Master Plan. In addition, the design concept submitted by DMJM Design/Roth

Sheppard Group incorporated elegance and simplicity of line in a distinctive design. In the ensuing two years of design, DMJM Design/Roth Sheppard Group will be working with the various entities to ensure functional space, to identify needed adjacencies, and to develop efficient floor plans. They face the challenge of unifying all the diverse entities into a 500,000 square foot building that can meet the Department's needs for some time to come. The favored placement of the permanent Police Administration Building remains at the First and Alameda Streets site.

However, due to strong resistance from the Little Tokyo community and the opposition of Councilwoman Jan Perry, the Metropolitan Jail originally

proposed for this site has been withdrawn. It is likely that the Metropolitan Jail will be located at the current Parker Center site. Design of this facility is also ongoing and is making progress. Jail Division personnel and other entities have been highly involved in providing insight to the selected architects. Hellmuth. Obata & Kassabaum, Inc. This firm has an international reputation for building correctional facilities, and locally has designed the City of Santa Ana Jail Facility.

The hard part is the next few months where much of the planning and development will be taking place. We are all anxious for the success of these projects and we will keep you updated as to progress made.

# THE L.A.P.D. MUSEUM IS UPAND RUNNING



The Los Angeles Police Museum, located at 6045 York Blvd., is open for public tours on Fridays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Department employees with ID are welcome during the week.

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already on display and the staff is available for public tours every Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. In fact, those of you with Department ID are most welcome during the week. You may have to do a little touring on your own, but we want you to see the place.

While we are being supported by some donations and annual dues of \$4.00 per month, we really need your

support by joining us both financially and by getting involved. We also receive some film and television revenue. If you have seen "Blood Work" or the new TV series "10-8," then you have seen the museum building.

Take the time to visit and you too will feel the dream that we feel. This will not only be a museum but will be a community center for the public;

### **ROLL CALL OF EVENTS**

# NOVEMBER 22 - 5:00 PM TRIBUTE TO LAPD DETECTIVES

Los Angeles Police Museum

GRAND OPENING VALLEY
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Northridge, California

DECEMBER 12 - 7:00 PM CHIEF'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Century Plaza Hotel

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

educating them as to the purpose of the Department, it's proud past, what it's like to be a police officer, and the difficulties officers face in present day Los Angeles.

For additional information, to set up an "off-hours" tour, or to obtain our colorful and informative brochure along with a payroll deduction card, call the Museum at (323) 344-9445. I think you'll like what we have so far.



1.1.3 P.O. Box 30158 Los Angeles, California 90030