

LAAPOA

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

LAX | VNY | LPR | MPO



2021
Annual Report





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FROM THE PRESIDENT

2021 has been quite a year, but we made it through! The year has been another of fits and starts in politics, policing and air travel.

While it appears we are all preparing for 2022 without COVID-19 in our rear-view mirror, we are working out ways to manage the uncertainties that paralyzed our country, our city, our parks and our airports for now close to two years. We have not yet figured it all out, but our airports nearly getting back to pre-COVID passenger numbers indicates both visitors and Angelenos becoming comfortable leaving their homes again. We will continue to represent the rights of all LAAPOA members to make personal health decisions for themselves and their families.

We have also seen a boomerang in public attitudes toward police – or, to be more specific, we are witnessing a change in public policy that seems more balanced to the challenges that law enforcement faces and the need for law and order where lawlessness did not produce a “summer of love” as some had anticipated. I am hoping that each and every one of you begins to feel support from the public that we deserve, and that seemed to become more abundant as 2021 progressed and as we close out the year.

We are hoping that the resurgence will help with LAXPD recruitment, which has recently been reauthorized after months of delays. We are pleased that our efforts to arm Park Police have advanced. We have crossed the first hurdle and hope to finalize the policy in the new year.

2022 will bring us back to the bargaining table. We will begin negotiating our contract in six months. It will not be an easy task, but LAAPOA leadership is up to it and ready for whatever comes our way. We are stronger for what we have experienced this year, and we are ready to make our case to the airport, City and Rec and Parks as LAWA regains its stride, LAX continues its expansion and the pendulum swings for law enforcement to provide much-needed public safety that we are faithfully sworn to protect.

I wish you and your family good health, peace of mind and happiness for 2022.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M E McClain'.

*Marshall E. McClain,
President*

ABOUT LAAPOA

The Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association (LAAPOA) represents the sworn police officers of the Los Angeles Airport Police, the Los Angeles Municipal Police and the Los Angeles Park Rangers assigned to protect and serve Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), Van Nuys Airport (VNY) and the city of Los Angeles, and provide emergency medical services, law enforcement and wildland firefighting in the open space parks and throughout the city of Los Angeles.

Terminal 1 for the Olympics, staffing increased to handle the influx of travelers flying to Los Angeles.

Today, at the request of the membership, LAAPOA has grown into an outspoken, proactive organization that works to enhance professional and personal benefits for its members. In recent years, the association has built a successful track record of protecting its members' contracts against fluctuations in the local economy.

As part of the **Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)**, LAAPOA members have access to comprehensive legal defense coverage and several insurance and benefit options.

Throughout the year, LAAPOA hosts a number of free activities for members and their families, including a holiday party and picnic. The association's **Los Angeles Airport Police Athletics & Activities League (LAAPAAL)** also sponsors activities and charity events (see below).

As aviation security requirements change to secure the dynamic environment at LAX – the number-one terrorist target on the West Coast – and Van Nuys Airport, LAAPOA will continue to evolve to protect the sworn personnel of the Los Angeles Airport Police Department, as well as Los Angeles Municipal Police and Los Angeles Park Rangers.

The Mission

To maintain a leadership role in organizing, empowering and representing the interests of all current and retired members:

- To facilitate a member-driven organization that promotes public awareness that encourages and upholds a professional image to the aviation community and public at large
- To preserve an environment in which members interact and work toward achieving common goals and objectives and to define and enhance standards for professionalism
- To advocate for ensuring that the latest training and equipment are identified, provided and implemented for all law enforcement and public safety professionals

- To represent and protect the rights and benefits of all our members

The Story

The Los Angeles Airport Police Department is the fourth-largest law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County, with more than 1,200 law enforcement, security and staff personnel.

The Airport Police Department is a division of Los Angeles World Airports, the City department that owns and operates two airports in Southern California: Los Angeles International and Van Nuys (general aviation).

Although the Los Angeles Airport Police Department has served the aviation security needs of Los Angeles World Airports since 1946, the birth of the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association (LAAPOA) can be traced to a single event in the history of the Department: the 1984 Summer Games. In conjunction with the opening of the Tom Bradley International Terminal and



LAAPAAL
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

The mission of the Los Angeles Airport Police Athletics & Activities League (LAAPAAL) is to encourage and sponsor members of the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association and the surrounding communities to participate in athletics and charity

events that better the membership and the community at large.

Activities and events sponsored by LAAPAAL include the Tommy Scott Memorial LAX Run, the Cruise for a Kid's Cure, the Police Unity Tour, Mistletoe Memories, the State of the

Union Dinner, and the LAXPD soccer, basketball and shooting teams.

LAAPAAL is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, tax ID 90-0604757. To make a donation or for more information, visit www.laapaal.com.

2021
CHARITABLE
DONATIONS

The Cody Waters
Foundation

Filipino American
Law Enforcement
Officers Association
(FALEO-LA)

Nevada Police and
Fire Games
SoCal Force

MEMBER SERVICES

Insurance

All active LAAPOA members receive a paid **City Employees Club of Los Angeles** membership. The club connects City employees through a network of information and discounted products such as theme park and movie tickets. Members also have access to group-rated insurance products.

PORAC Insurance and Benefits Trust

LAAPOA members are granted free membership in the **Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)**, which offers a number of insurance options and benefits.

Retiree Medical Trust

PORAC's **Retiree Medical Trust (RMT)** is a health care pre-funding vehicle that is funded by defined contributions set in the labor agreement and provides a stream of monthly payments for life, for those who meet the eligibility rules.

Short- and Long-Term Life and AD&D Needs

Available through our membership in PORAC, these plans are administered by **Myers-Stevens & Toohey Co., Inc.**, which has countless years of serving its clients.

Long-Term-Care Plan

All active members receive the optional initial benefit amount of \$1,000 per month in coverage from the City Employees Club of Los Angeles.

Banking

LAAPOA is partnered with several banks to offer the best service to its members, including **Citibank** and the **Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union**. These full-service banks have been in business for years and have sound track records. Among the benefits offered are checking and savings, real estate loans, internet banking, debt consolidation, direct deposit, low-interest credit cards and auto loans.



Accounting

Since 1941, **Miller, Kaplan, Arase & Co., LLP**, has been committed to providing clients with the highest level of personal service and attention. So it only makes good sense to ensure that LAAPOA maintains an accurate account of its funds.

Investing

LAAPOA has partnered with **UBS Financial Services**, drawing on its 150-year heritage to serve private, institutional and corporate clients worldwide by combining wealth management, investment banking and asset management businesses to deliver superior financial advice and solutions. LAAPOA members have access to the UBS wealth management team to assist with any investment needs.

Communication

All members receive complimentary copies of the print *BOLO* newsletter, providing timely updates on law enforcement issues and association news. In addition, members receive, at no cost, the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) monthly publication, *PORAC Law Enforcement News*, which contains information on statewide legislative issues, reports from the Legal Defense Fund, member association news and career-related articles.

LAAPOA's extensive website (www.laapoa.com) is full of useful information for the public, in addition to an exclusive members-only section containing sensitive, ongoing union information.

Other communications with LAAPOA members include:

- Free calendar and benefits booklet
- "Eye on Aviation" daily e-newsletter
- Biweekly BOLO electronic newsletters
- *The Layover With LAAPOA* video podcast
- LAAPOA Twitter account
- LAAPOA Facebook page
- LAAPOA Instagram account
- LAAPOA YouTube channel

The LAAPOA App

Available from both Google Play and the Apple App Store, the LAAPOA app keeps users at the forefront of public safety issues at home and abroad. The app provides access to the latest LAAPOA news and press releases, the American Alliance of Airport Police Officers (AAAPO) press releases and the latest issue of the BOLO newsletter. LAAPOA members can stay up to date on union news, events, legal representation, benefits and more.

LAXPD University

In 2019, LAAPOA introduced a new benefit to help Airport Police officers, other Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) employees and their family members continue their education. The LAXPD University program offers tuition discounts from participating schools to family members and tuition reimbursement of up to \$6,500 per fiscal year to active full-time or part-time regular LAWA employees eligible to take Civil Service promotional examinations. For more information, visit www.laapoa.com/laxpd-university.

NEGOTIATIONS

Bargaining Unit

LAAPOA is the exclusive bargaining unit for the sworn police officers and firefighters of the Los Angeles Airport Police Department and is the only union recognized by the City of Los Angeles to negotiate their wages, benefits, hours and working conditions. Only LAAPOA members have the right to ratify a potential contract. The following are just a few examples of previous and recent successes:

- One of the few City unions to avoid any salary or benefit cuts, layoffs or furloughs
- Implementation of marksmanship bonus
- Creation of compensated time off bank
- Creation of a new public safety tier and increased retirement formula
- Uniform allowance increase
- Approval of Class "C" uniforms and outer bulletproof vest for optional patrol uniform

- Increase of 10.75% for pay parity
- Elimination of 20% pay reduction for new hires
- City withdrawal of release time balance owed and lower future reimbursement rates
- Creation of one full-time release position at the reduced rate
- Creation and implementation of two additional pay grades, actively working on more
- Expansion of on-call pay to more members
- Implementation of bilingual and sign-language pay
- Approval of Class "C" uniforms for vehicle checkpoints and during inclement weather

More information about LAAPOA's contract negotiations can be found at www.laapoa.com.

Standing Committees

Standing committees are composed of the Board of Directors and LAAPOA members. Committees include:

- Activities/Fundraising
- Discipline/Grievance
- Legislative/PAC
- Members/Benefits
- Negotiations/Bylaws
- PAL
- Public Information
- Scholarship
- Training/Equipment
- Retiree Liaison

Fringe Benefits

Due to LAAPOA's PORAC membership and experienced negotiators who contract directly with the City for fringe benefits, there is more to offer members and their families, such as added medical, dental, vision and, of course, vacation and sick-leave benefits.

RETIREMENTS

LAAPOA congratulates the following members who retired in 2021. We thank you for your service and dedication and wish you all the best in your retirement.

Park Ranger
Russell C. Brown
31 years

Police Officer
Gregory B. Gladson
28 years

Police Officer
Burt J. Davis
25 years

Sr. Park Ranger
Desiree M. Rideaux
17 years

Police Officer
Michael E. Garzon
31 years

Police Officer
Mike E. Romero
27 years

Police Officer
Gregory J. Giacomini
27 years

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Los Angeles Airport Police Department celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. The agency started in 1946 with only six guards patrolling the fledgling municipal airport. Today, the LAXPD is recognized as the largest airport police agency in the U.S.

January 1

New laws taking effect in California include SB 480, which prohibits law enforcement from wearing camouflage or other military-style uniforms; AB 1185, which allows county oversight of sheriff's offices; and AB 1076, which automatically clears records for arrests that did not result in conviction after the statute of limitations has passed, and those around probation and jail once the sentence is completed.



January 6

Rioters attack the U.S. Capitol to challenge the results of the 2020 presidential election. Five police officers who responded to the scene died as a result (one from a stroke and four by suicide), and 138 officers were injured.

February 22

The U.S. reaches a grim milestone, surpassing 500,000 known coronavirus-related deaths in the pandemic that began nearly one



year earlier. (By December, the count would be more than 800,000.)

April 20

A jury finds former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin guilty of two counts of murder and one count of manslaughter in the killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020.

May 9–15

Due to continuing restrictions on in-person gatherings due to the pandemic, National Police Week is celebrated virtually, with an online candlelight vigil and other events honoring fallen officers.

May 18

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announces it has selected Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to test state-of-the-art technology to detect, track and identify drones that are encroaching on restricted airspace.

July 1

AB 1506 takes effect, requiring that the California Department of Justice (DOJ) investigate all officer-involved shootings that result in the death of an unarmed civilian.

July 14

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) announces the release of its midyear fatality report showing COVID-19 as the leading cause of death for officers nationwide, and a 10% overall increase in total line-of-duty deaths over the same period last year, putting 2021 on track to be one of the deadliest years for law enforcement in recorded history.

August 18

The Los Angeles City Council approves an ordinance requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for all city employees, except for those who have medical or religious exemptions.

August 20

LAAPOA begins a social campaign urging the Los Angeles City Council to approve a motion that would provide additional resources for the L.A. City Park Ranger Division to better serve and protect the city's parks and communities.

August 26

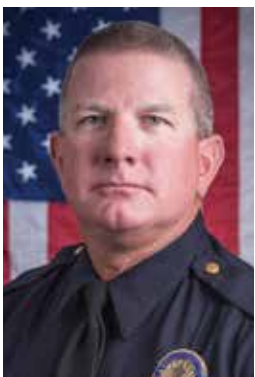
As the U.S. withdraws its troops from Afghanistan, 13 American service members and dozens of Afghan civilians are killed in a suicide bombing outside Kabul Airport, a reminder of the importance of vigilance against terror attacks on airports at home as well as abroad.

September 11

The nation marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks.

September 14

LAAPOA grieves the loss of LAXPD Officer Michael Rasmussen after he is killed in a tragic motorcycle accident on his way home from work.



Officer Michael Rasmussen



Officer Andrew Marksbury

September 30

Governor Gavin Newsom signs eight police reform bills into law, most notably SB 2, which creates the first-ever peace officer licensing program in California. The other measures raise the minimum age for police officers from 18 to 21, set statewide standards on use of rubber bullets and tear gas for crowd control,



require agencies to mandate that officers intercede and report when they see a colleague using excessive force, expand the types of personnel records subject to public disclosure to include sustained charges of excessive force and improper arrests, seek more transparency for law enforcement agencies that acquire military equipment, and require agencies to adopt policies that prohibit participation in law enforcement "gangs."

October 1

The TV show *The American Dream Los Angeles* visits LAX and interviews President Marshall McClain to learn how LAAPOA members are helping to keep the airport and local community safe.

October 4

LAAPOA mourns the passing of LAXPD Officer Andrew Marksbury in his sleep, following a short illness.

October 7

LAAPOA hosts its 2021 Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference, offering networking, training and inspiration to female members of law enforcement.

October 10

Governor Newsom signs SB 98 into law, giving journalists unrestricted access to protests closed by police.

October 13–17

The law enforcement community finally has the opportunity to gather in Washington, D.C., to honor fallen officers from 2019 and 2020 during National Police Weekend.

October 28

President Marshall McClain interviews Sheriff Alex Villanueva for *The Layover With LAAPOA* video podcast.

November 9

A three-member L.A. City Council committee votes to advance the motion by Councilmember Joe Buscaino to allow park rangers to carry firearms on duty.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Through our press releases, *BOLO* e-newsletters and print newsletters, and social media platforms, LAAPOA kept members, supporters, political leaders and the media apprised throughout the year on how we've been advocating for our members and public safety during these uncertain times. We also helped our audience stay informed on the complex legal and policy issues affecting our profession, and highlighted the vital work our members and their fellow peace officers are doing to serve and protect their communities.

Advocating for Public Safety

While many had hoped the new year would bring a return to normalcy, the beginning of 2021 picked up where the unprecedented 2020 left off, with highly contagious COVID-19 variants spreading throughout the country, rising crime and continued demands by a vocal minority to defund the police. In January, in the face of all these challenges, LAAPOA emphasized the importance of unity and assured members that – along with our partners at the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) and the American Alliance of Airport Police Officers (AAPO) – we would continue to do all we can to advocate for law enforcement at the local, state and national levels through the ups and downs of 2021.

In February, LAAPOA commemorated Black History Month with a look back at our long fight to negotiate improved wages, benefits and working conditions for our proudly diverse membership. While much progress has been made, we urged the City to act on its commitment to equity by supporting **pay and benefits parity for all of its sworn peace officers**. We again spoke out against discrimination in May, honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month by shedding light on this event's history and significance, the **recent attacks against the AAPI community** and how law enforcement has been combating them. LAXPD Chief Cecil Rhambo and LAAPOA Board member Fran Sur,

both of Korean descent, joined with LAAPOA President Marshall McClain to condemn these hate-fueled crimes and express solidarity with the AAPI community.

LAAPOA also weighed in on national and world events that impact the work of peace officers. In April, when former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of two counts of murder and one count of manslaughter in the 2020 killing of George Floyd, LAAPOA reaffirmed its **commitment to commonsense changes** that can help avert further tragedy, including weeding out reckless officers, intervention training and a national use-of-force standard. And when 13 U.S. military service members and dozens of Afghans were killed in a suicide bombing outside Kabul Airport in August, we reminded our members and supporters of the importance of **vigilance against terror attacks** at our airports and elsewhere in our communities. This lesson was underscored just a few weeks later by the **20th anniversary of 9/11**, when LAAPOA reflected on the terrible toll of that day, the sacrifices made by first responders and the ongoing need to invest in preventing future attacks.

In addition to these communications, LAAPOA launched a social media campaign urging the Los Angeles City Council to approve a motion that would provide **additional resources for the L.A. City Park Ranger Division** to better serve and protect the city's parks and communities. We also publicized our work over the airwaves as President McClain discussed law enforcement issues with **Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva** for an episode of *The Layover With LAAPOA* video podcast, and appeared on the TV show *The American Dream Los Angeles* to share how **LAAPOA members are helping to keep the airport and local communities safe**.

Educating on the Issues

Throughout 2021, LAAPOA provided expert interpretation of the legal issues impacting our members from our general counsel, Mastagni Holstedt,

APC. In February, they described how the ill-informed proposals to require law enforcement officers to purchase **individual professional liability insurance** are no more than an end-around attack in support of the "defund the police" movement. In April, they spotlighted a recent federal court ruling rejecting the exclusion of **holiday-in-lieu payments** from pay rates regarding overtime, a significant victory for public safety employees nationwide. In August, they explained how a recent Supreme Court ruling in support of a high school student's First Amendment rights demonstrates the way an individual's **free speech protections** are weighed against their school or employer's interest in preventing substantial disruption – and specifically how those principles apply to public employees.

Other legal bulletins helped members and supporters understand the effects of new state laws. After Assembly Bill 1506 took effect July 1, requiring that the California Department of Justice (DOJ) investigate all officer-involved shootings that result in the death of an unarmed civilian, Mastagni Holstedt analyzed **the DOJ's protocols and guidelines for OIS investigations** and noted the areas of concern for law enforcement. And when Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 490 into law on September 30, prohibiting law enforcement agencies from authorizing force techniques that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia, they informed LAAPOA's audience about the law and its problems, as well as the broader issues surrounding lawmakers' attempts to place **limitations on the use of force**.

As more and more governments and employers began requiring COVID vaccination for their workforces in 2021, the legality and constitutionality of these mandates became one of the hottest topics for public employees. In September, our legal advisors provided an invaluable overview of the legal precedent for **government vaccine mandates**, the role of collective bargaining for public employees and



Latasha Wells Amerson



Erica Villanueva



Michael Ahumada



Starla Reader



Shannon Weathersbee



Manuel Elloriaga

the circumstances under which an employee may seek accommodation due to medical conditions or religious objections.

Highlighting Our Members

While there were plenty of worrisome political and social issues facing law enforcement this year, LAAPOA also made sure to keep a positive focus on its membership and their daily duties protecting the traveling public and the citizens of Los Angeles. The year began on a high note as we celebrated the **75th anniversary of the Los Angeles Airport Police Department**, providing an overview of its proud history, its growth and evolution, and what the future has in store.

LAAPOA observed Women’s History Month in March with a three-part series on **the women of LAXPD**. We detailed the long fight for gender equality and highlighted the female leaders who have helped move the profession forward and make the Department one of the

most diverse in the country, including **Assistant Chief Latasha Wells Amerson** and **Detective Erica Villanueva**. LAAPOA also took a look back at the **pioneering L.A. park rangers** who helped break down barriers for female and minority peace officers throughout their division: Lucia Ruta, the first female ranger, and Doc Jefferson, the first Black mounted ranger.

Our profiles of the remarkable people behind the badge continued with the launch of the “LAAPOA Member Spotlight” series, which has so far featured **Officer Michael Ahumada**, **ESU Operator Starla Reader**, **PO II Shannon Weathersbee** and **Officer Manuel Elorriaga**. In addition, LAAPOA spotlighted the **LAXPD Detective Bureau**, with Detective Villanueva and LAAPOA Treasurer Ben Spolarich offering an in-depth look at the unit’s mission, challenges, opportunities and successes.

LAAPOA also took time to remember the members and

colleagues we’ve lost. This year offered two formal occasions to honor the fallen, first during the annual **National Police Week** in May – when events were held virtually due to public health restrictions – and then again during a special **National Police Weekend** in October, when law enforcement members from across the country were finally able to gather in person in Washington, D.C., to memorialize the officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2019 and 2020. Closer to home, on April 29 we sadly marked the 16th anniversary of the death of **Officer Tommy Scott**, the first LAXPD officer to die in the line of duty. And in the fall, LAAPOA mourned two tragic losses in short succession: LAXPD **Officer Michael Rasmussen**, who was killed on September 14 in a tragic motorcycle accident on his way home from work at LAX, and **Officer Andrew Marksbury**, who died in his sleep on October 4 following a short illness. Their legacy of dedication and service will endure.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

For the past 39 years, LAAPOA has been proactive in the political sphere, advocating for legislation that advances the interests of our members and the law enforcement profession while also keeping the safety of the communities we serve at the forefront of our mission. In 2021, LAAPOA continued its vital work of promoting proposed bills that would benefit public safety and opposing bills that would threaten it.

LAAPOA's lobbying firm locally and in Sacramento is **Aaron Read & Associates (ARA)**. LAAPOA is also part of the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), which advocates for its public safety association members on the statewide level. For lobbying on national and global transportation issues, LAAPOA utilizes the services of **Iseman & Szeliga** in Washington, D.C.

This year, we continued to see the repercussions of the unprecedented events of 2020, particularly the killing of George Floyd and subsequent calls for changes in policing. Police reform and public safety issues were a key focus among California legislators, who introduced 45 bills proposing new law enforcement policies and nearly 70 measures introduced relating to criminal justice reform. This is in addition to other topics important to our members, such as bills relating to firearms, workers' comp, pensions and labor relations issues.

In 2021, PORAC took positions on a total of 110 bills and kept a close watch on over 100 more. Overall, it was a successful session, as we worked with many of our state leaders to advance sound, effective policies, implement amendments or otherwise recommend that particularly problematic legislation be held back to allow more time for adequate research and vetting. Since this was the first part of a two-year legislative session, many of these issues will likely resurface in 2022, but rest assured that we will continue to bring our law enforcement experience, expertise and ideas to the conversation around police reform and policy changes that impact our members.



California's First Peace Officer Licensing Program

For years, PORAC has been committed to establishing a fair licensing program in California. Since the introduction of last year's SB 731 by Senator Steven Bradford, PORAC has been a part of the discussions around licensing and decertification. Though SB 731 did not pass, it was reintroduced as **SB 2** this legislative session. AB 60 by Assemblymembers Rudy Salas and Jim Cooper was also put forward as an alternative licensing bill that established a more fair and judicial licensing program that PORAC could support. AB 60 was denied a hearing in the Assembly Public Safety Committee, leaving SB 2 as the only option. There are 46 other states that already have a law enforcement licensing program – a fact that was used by sponsors of SB 2 consistently in their testimony. We knew that a licensing bill was likely going to pass this year.

PORAC remained adamantly opposed to SB 2, but worked with law enforcement partners, attorneys, Senate leadership and the Governor's Office to develop substantial amendments that

significantly improved the bill. The new language provides better due process rights for officers, a two-thirds vote threshold by the POST Commission to revoke a license and a required standard of "clear and convincing" by the nine-member Board and the POST Commission to revoke a license. On September 30, Governor Newsom signed SB 2 into law, creating the first-ever peace officer licensing program in California.

With that said, SB 2 is still a flawed approach to a licensing program. There are still unclear and subjective definitions of serious misconduct, and POBR has been excluded from the bill text. PORAC will be working with leadership to address these concerns over the next year.

Other Bills Signed Into Law

The following are some of the bills impacting law enforcement that were signed into law this year.

AB 89 by Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), actively opposed: Earlier this year, PORAC co-sponsored

SB 387 (Portantino) relating to officer education and recruitment. Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer introduced AB 89, addressing the same issue. However, we believe his bill went too far. AB 89 required a four-year college degree and set a threshold of age 25 for new hires. AB 89 was amended to include some language from SB 387, at which time SB 387 was held. PORAC remained opposed to AB 89, and after much debate and negotiation, Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer turned his bill into a study, with one exception — he raised the minimum qualifying age to be a peace officer from 18 to 21. This law does not apply to anyone who, as of December 31, 2021, is currently enrolled in a basic academy or employed as a peace officer in California.

SB 278 by Senator Connie Leyva (D-Chino), actively supported: Employers have a legal and actuarial obligation to correctly report pension-eligible compensation to CalPERS as a result of employer bargaining. If an item of compensation is later determined to be improper, it is an appropriate policy to require the employer to bear the actuarial liability of that promise made to their retiree. If pensionable compensation is misapplied, it should be corrected. But that misapplication should not come at the cost of breaking the promise made to someone already retired and living on a fixed pension that they depend upon in retirement. SB 278 ensures retirees' already promised and paid-for collectively bargained benefits in cases where CalPERS disallows the benefit after the member has already retired. This new law also sets parameters for resolving future disputes over active and retired employees' collectively bargained pensionable compensation.

AB 110 by Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Laguna Beach), actively supported: AB 110 requires the Department of Corrections and

Rehabilitation (CDCR) to provide specified information to the Employment Development Department (EDD) to prevent unemployment compensation benefits fraud involving the information of incarcerated individuals in California's state prison system.

AB 333 by Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), opposed: AB 333 narrows the conduct that is prosecutable — and leads to enhanced sentences — as criminal street gang activity. It also requires the court to try gang crime charges separately from other criminal charges that do not require gang evidence if requested by the defense.

AB 481 by Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco), actively opposed: This bill establishes requirements that must be met before a law enforcement agency takes specific actions relating to acquiring and using military equipment.

SB 73 by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), actively opposed: SB 73 deletes various crimes relating to controlled substances from current prohibitions against granting probation or a suspended sentence if an individual was previously convicted of a similar offense. Offenses include, but are not limited to, possessing or agreeing to sell or transport opiates or opium derivatives, possessing or transporting cannabis, planting or cultivating peyote, and various crimes relating to forging or altering prescriptions, possessing for sale or selling 14.25 grams or more of a substance containing heroin and possessing for sale 14.25 grams or more of any salt or solution of phencyclidine or its analog. In addition, SB 73 authorizes the remaining prohibitions on probation for those crimes to be waived by a court.

SB 98 by Senator Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg), actively opposed: SB 98 allows "duly authorized" members of the press to enter areas

closed by law enforcement due to a demonstration, march, protest or rally. It prohibits officers from citing press members for failure to disperse, a violation of a curfew, or a violation of resisting, delaying or obstructing. The new law lacks a definition for "duly authorized," so someone with a fake business card or other form of false identification could potentially get behind the skirmish line.

Vetoed Bills

Below are two vetoed bills that would have negatively impacted law enforcement and public safety.

AB 122 by Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath (D-Encinitas), opposed: Current law requires the driver of any vehicle, including a person riding a bicycle, when approaching a stop sign at the entrance of an intersection, to stop before entering the intersection. A violation of this requirement is an infraction. AB 122 would have removed that requirement and instead only required the bicycles to yield to oncoming traffic. In his veto message, Governor Gavin Newsom stated that he believes this bill will put bicyclists in more danger, and AB 122 is "especially concerning for children, who may not know how to judge vehicle speeds or exercise the necessary caution to yield to traffic when appropriate."

AB 1238 by Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), opposed: This bill would have legalized jaywalking statewide through January 1, 2029. PORAC believes AB 1238 would have only added to the injuries and deaths of pedestrians. In his veto message, the governor echoed PORAC's concerns, stating that California has the highest total number of pedestrian fatalities in the nation, and "AB 1238 will unintentionally reduce pedestrian safety and potentially increase fatalities or serious injuries caused by pedestrians that enter our roadways at inappropriate locations."

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Protecting Members' Rights

It is paramount that LAAPOA members' rights are protected. To ensure this, the association has teamed up with the best law firms the state has to offer. Members can rest easy knowing that their representatives have been trained by the best and that experienced labor attorneys are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. LAAPOA is available to assist with filing a grievance, Internal Affairs interviews, administrative appeals hearings and much more.

Members should call a LAAPOA representative when named as a suspect in an investigation, interviewed as a witness or questioned by a supervisor. It is never in a member's best interest to submit to an interview without representation, even if the member believes there is nothing to worry about because they have done absolutely nothing wrong. Based on the records of numerous members interviewed as witnesses who, as a result of their interviews, became subjects themselves, all prudent LAAPOA members should have a reasonable belief that they might be accused of misconduct, and as such may be subjected to discipline.

Mastagni Holstedt, APC, is the general counsel for LAAPOA, and also provides legal services in the following areas for our members: workers' compensation, personal injury, criminal defense, civil litigation defense and retirement law.

Law Firms

LAAPOA has established relationships with the following law firms for member representation:

- **Mastagni Holstedt, APC**
- **Stone Busailah, LLP**

Members can call one of these attorneys and ask for advice or referrals free of charge.



PORAC Legal Defense Fund

Members of LAAPOA receive membership in the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC). The **PORAC Legal Defense Fund** provides members with access to a host of attorneys and law firms specializing in everything from workers' compensation to the Peace Officers' Bill of Rights and contract negotiations. Features of the PORAC LDF include:

- No cap on benefits
- Administrative discipline coverage
- Criminal coverage
- Civil coverage
- Civil case monitoring
- Court costs
- Investigators
- Polygraph examiners
- Court reporters
- Expert witnesses

For more information about the PORAC Legal Defense Fund, please visit www.poracldf.org.

IN MEMORIAM

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

LAAPOA grieves the passing of the following officers in 2021 and extends deepest sympathies to their families.

Santiago Del Hierro (Ret.)

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Derek Holtz (Ret.)

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Robert Edwards (Ret.)

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Andrew Marksbury

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

John Hamilton (Ret.)

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Rasmussen

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

REMEMBERING FALLEN HEROES

LAAPOA extends heartfelt condolences to the families of the California peace officers killed in 2021.

Deputy Adam Gibson

SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

EOW: January 18, 2021

Officer Jimmy Inn

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

EOW: May 11, 2021

Sergeant Richard P. Brown

FRESNO POLICE DEPARTMENT

EOW: February 17, 2021

Sergeant Dominic Vaca

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

EOW: May 31, 2021

Deputy Thomas Albanese

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

EOW: February 25, 2021

Deputy Phillip Campas

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

EOW: July 25, 2021

Officer Jose Anzora

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

EOW: March 3, 2021

Officer Harminder Grewal

GALT POLICE DEPARTMENT

EOW: August 26, 2021

Detective Luca Benedetti

SAN LUIS OBISPO POLICE DEPARTMENT

EOW: May 10, 2021

We will never forget.



LOS ANGELES AIRPORT PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

LAAPOA



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