

2023

Annual Report



LOS ANGELES AIRPORT PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

LAX | VNY | LPR | MPO



Contents



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From the President



As 2023 ends, the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association once again looks back on this year's accomplishments with gratitude for the honor of representing our members, while also reflecting on ways we can improve that representation even more in the future. This has been a monumental year because we were finally able to consolidate our supervisor union into LAAPOA in an effort to move forward and tackle quality-of-life concerns together. As proof of that, we jointly were able to negotiate a monumental contract of pay and benefits parity, exceeding anything we previously accomplished separately.

In 2024, our priorities include continuing to strive for better equipment and staffing for all the agencies we represent. We will continue to work with management on filling existing vacancies. LAAPOA will also continue to push local, state and federal legislation that supports and advances the profession of law enforcement and the safety of airports, parks and grand spaces, and other citywide areas.

We were pleased to hear there are two other city

agencies that have inquired about joining LAAPOA. If this occurs, it will increase our citywide labor footprint and assist with future labor challenges as we continue to improve our positions and raise our public safety platform throughout the city, county and state as the premier labor association for public safety professionals and their families.

We look forward to further improving our members' benefits and quality of life in 2024 and anticipate many great improvements ahead of the many major events coming to the Los Angeles area in the coming years. As always, may God keep you and yours safe and continue to bless us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ME 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.

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

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.

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.

2023 CHARITABLE DONATIONS

ALADS C.A.R.E.S. Foundation – 17th Annual Golf Classic

California Police Athletic Federation – U.S. Police & Fire Championships

Caltrans – Officer Tommy Scott Memorial Highway Sign

Deportes Prieto Inc. – LAXPD team uniforms and hats

HALO Branded Solutions – team T-shirts

Honoring Our Fallen – 2023 Golf Tournament

L.A. Airport Team LAX

L.A. Blue Softball – Tournament Fundraiser

Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union – LAXPD Trunk or Treat

Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club (LAPRAAC) – Baker to Vegas

Nevada Police and Fire Games Police Unity Tour

Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce – Super Bowl Sunday 10K

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 & Toohy 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 X (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.



2023 Year in Review

January 1

New laws taking effect in California include AB 1475, which limits the circumstances in which law enforcement can release the mugshot of a suspect on social media; AB 43, which authorizes local authorities to reduce speed limits to protect the safety of vulnerable groups such as pedestrians and cyclists; and SB 2, which allows the state's law enforcement accrediting body to decertify officers for serious misconduct (such as sexual assault, perjury and wrongfully killing civilians).

January 7

Representative Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.-20) is elected speaker of the House after four days and 15 ballots.

January 13

Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy Darnell Calhoun is fatally shot while responding to a domestic violence call. Prosecutors later announce they intend to seek the death penalty for the accused shooter, who is charged with first-degree murder, attempted murder, special circumstance allegations of lying in wait and taking the life of a peace officer, and sentence-enhancing gun and great bodily injury allegations.

January 21

A 72-year-old gunman shoots and kills 11 people, injuring nine, at a dance studio in Monterey Park.

January 31

Selma Police Officer Gonzalo Carrasco Jr. is fatally shot while on patrol.

March 3

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna swears in 56 recruits from Academy Class #464, including many who were struck by a wrong-way driver during a training run in Whittier on November 16, 2022.



PORAC

March 20

Citing a declaration by Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) President Brian Marvel in his order, Central District Judge Cormac J. Carney issues a preliminary injunction in *Boland v. Bonta*, barring enforcement of the deceptively titled California's Unsafe Handgun Act and ruling that "Californians have the constitutional right to acquire and use state-of-the-art handguns to protect themselves."

May 4

The World Health Organization declares COVID-19 over as a global health emergency, but it remains a significant threat, with at least seven million known deaths.

May 8

The California Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony is held at the State Capitol to honor eight officers who passed away in 2022, as well as one who was enrolled from the prior year.

May 11

National Police Week begins, and law enforcement members and supporters gather in Washington, D.C., to honor the 556 U.S. law enforcement officers – 224 who died in 2022 and 332 from previous years – who were added



to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

June 24

The Officer Tommy Scott Memorial freeway signs are installed on the north and southbound portions of Interstate 405 near LAX, honoring the service and sacrifice of the first LAX police officer to die in the line of duty.

July 1

The Los Angeles Airport Police Supervisors Association (LAAPSA), which represents the sergeants and lieutenants of the Los Angeles Airport Police Department, affiliates with LAAPOA as its official bargaining unit.



Deputy Sheriff
Ryan Clinkunbroomer

July 1

SB 731, signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom last fall, takes effect, making California the first state in the nation to allow almost all old convictions on a person's criminal record to be permanently sealed.

July 9

City Ordinance No. 187923, which was unanimously adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on June 27 and concurred by Mayor Karen Bass on June 28, goes into effect. The measure amends Chapter 10 of Division 4 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to enhance the disability retirement, death and survivorship benefits for sworn peace officers who are public safety officer members of the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) Tiers 1 and 3.

July 11

Leslie Van Houten, a follower of Charles Manson who helped kill Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, in 1969, is released from prison.

August 18

California business owner Laura Ann Carleton is murdered after a confrontation over a LGBTQ+ pride flag hanging outside her store.



September 16

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department mourns the loss of Deputy Sheriff Ryan Clinkunbroomer, who was shot and killed in an unprovoked ambush just outside of the Palmdale Sheriff's Station.

September 21

PORAC releases a Comparative Analysis of the California Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory (RIPA) Board's 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports. The analysis identified significant flaws in the RIPA Board's approach to assessing the state of racial profiling in basic traffic enforcement statewide – misleading Californians to believe that racial profiling is more pervasive than the data suggests.

September 25

LAAPOA resoundingly ratifies a landmark successor labor contract on behalf of its law enforcement members that will provide equitable salary and benefits to its public safety officers.

September 26

Governor Newsom signs AB 28, which doubles the taxes on guns and ammunition, with the new revenue going to safety initiatives.

September 29

California Senator Dianne Feinstein,

the longest-serving female senator, passes away at the age of 90.

October 3

Representative Kevin McCarthy is removed as speaker of the House, a first in United States history. Three weeks later, Mike Johnson of Louisiana is nominated to take over the position.

October 4

Manhattan Beach Police Department Motorcycle Officer Chad Swanson is killed in a traffic collision on the 405 Freeway, almost exactly six years after he helped rescue victims during the Route 91 Harvest Festival mass shooting in Las Vegas.

October 7

The militant group Hamas launches a series of coordinated attacks on Israel that leave more than 1,400 people dead and about 240 taken hostage, leading U.S. law enforcement to intensify security measures to protect Jewish communities and houses of worship.

October 12

LAAPOA hosts its 2023 Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference, offering networking, training and inspiration to female members of law enforcement.

Public Relations

Through our press releases, *BOL*O e-newsletters and print newsletters, and social media platforms, LAAPOA kept members, supporters, political leaders and the media apprised of our advocacy efforts throughout the year as our profession continues to face unprecedented challenges and scrutiny. In addition to speaking out for our members and public safety, we highlighted the major victories LAAPOA has had this year and helped our audience stay informed on the complex legal and policy issues affecting law enforcement.

Fighting for What's Right

In February, LAAPOA and law enforcement organizations around the country came together to **condemn the actions of five Memphis police officers who were being held responsible for the brutal beating and death of 29-year-old Black motorist Tyre Nichols**. Many groups, like our statewide partners at PORAC, said the horrific incident highlighted the need to make sweeping changes to improve the profession as a whole, such as nationwide standards on use of force and increased training on the duty to intercede, as well as other alternatives to force.

In March, LAAPOA joined with many local residents in opposing the removal of the fence surrounding Echo Park Lake. After clearing an encampment of more than 200 homeless people – along with 723 pounds of biological waste and 300 pounds of hazardous waste – the fence was put up as a way to curb the rampant open-air drug use, violence, and reported prostitution and trafficking that was taking place at the park. Nevertheless, Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez announced the fence would be dismantled and made vague promises that did little to assure residents that the encampments and accompanying unsafe conditions wouldn't return once the fence was removed. **LAAPOA called out the councilmember for rushing to make empty gestures** to fulfill his campaign promise and declare victory over this complex situation.

A Hero Remembered

A month later, LAAPOA honored the service and sacrifice of LAXPD Officer Tommy Edward Scott, who was killed in the line of duty on April 29, 2005, while heroically protecting the aviation community from a man intent on crashing a vehicle into an airplane on the LAX airport runway. This year's remembrance was even more special because, in June, **the Officer Tommy Scott Memorial freeway signs were installed** on the north and southbound portions of Interstate 405 near LAX. The commemorative freeway signs were made possible through last year's passage of the Officer Tommy Scott Memorial Highway Bill (SCR-39), a measure introduced by California State Senator Ben Allen in 2021 and supported by LAAPOA.

Standing With Members

LAX's \$15 billion airport expansion program has continued to move forward uninterrupted, with the number of highly paid executive/management roles at LAX continuing to boom and our CEO and CFO salaries exponentially increasing – while police get paid late, and creative programs to provide a better work/life balance for law enforcement are summarily dismissed. On top of that, staffing at LAXPD is at a 15-year low, with no signs of the exodus stopping. **LAAPOA is on a mission to be heard** and has made numerous commonsense and creative overtures to management to address officer morale and new hiring. Until substantive actions are implemented so that officers have what they need to protect the airport and the thousands of people it serves every day, LAAPOA will continue to be in the ear of LAWA and LAX.

In June, LAAPOA was pleased to see **its hard work come to fruition** with the announcement that City Ordinance No. 187923 was unanimously adopted by the Los Angeles City Council and concurred by Mayor Karen Bass. In 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest incidents, LAAPOA saw the disparity in

disability retirement benefits for certain public safety personnel in the city, the majority of whom were represented by LAAPOA in MOUs #28, #30 and #65. LAAPOA brought this urgent matter to the attention of then-Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Joe Buscaino, who introduced a motion on November 24, 2020. After the motion went through the City Council's channels from 2021 to 2023, the new chair of the Personnel, Audits and Hiring Committee, Councilmember Tim McOsker, reaffirmed it in May, and the ordinance was then drafted by the city attorney and subsequently approved by the City Council and signed by Mayor Bass. **This was another triumph for LAAPOA and all the peace officers in the City of Los Angeles** who were not previously covered by the same disability benefits as other officers.

In addition, LAAPOA was also proud to announce that **the Los Angeles Airport Police Supervisors Association (LAAPSA)**, which represents the sergeants and lieutenants of the Los Angeles Airport Police Department, **voted to affiliate with and designate LAAPOA as its official bargaining unit** as of July 1. This means that, in addition to representing the sworn officers of the Los Angeles Municipal Police and the Los Angeles Park Rangers, LAAPOA now represents the entire rank and file of lieutenants and below for the Los Angeles Airport Police.

Since being sworn into office in December 2022, L.A. Mayor Karen Bass has proven to be a person of action, and LAAPOA is proud to have supported her throughout her campaign. In August, the mayor's office announced that it struck a deal on a four-year contract with the LAPD officers of the L.A. Police Protective League (LAPPL) that will raise starting salaries and benefits and provide incentives to stem the mass exodus of officers that the city has experienced in recent years. Bass is one politician who provides more than lip service in backing her police, which is why LAAPOA asked that she direct

LAWA to wisely use its non-general fund and non-taxpayer, proprietary funds to finish what her predecessor, Eric Garcetti, started and bring parity between LAXPD and LAPD officers.

In September, LAAPOA achieved a massive victory by resoundingly ratifying a successor labor contract on behalf of its law enforcement members that will ultimately provide equitable salary and benefits to its public safety officers. **This is a landmark contract for LAAPOA's majority-minority police force membership**, which has historically been underpaid and undervalued. It also sends a clear message from Bass and her administration that she stands behind her commitment to elevate and compensate minorities, women and other disenfranchised people when they have received the same education and training and have risen to equivalent levels as other contemporaries in their profession. The tentative agreement will now go to the full City Council for a concurrence vote.

We also celebrated **Labor Day**, a day that serves as an important reminder that the wages, benefits and legal protections we take for granted didn't always exist, but had to be fought for and protected through decades of collective action.

A significant legal battle that began in 2018 recently came to an end this year as well, resulting in **four Los Angeles Airport Police Department (LAXPD) officers winning a major class-action adverse employment action case** against Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), the City of Los Angeles and former LAXPD Chief David Maggard Jr. The case, *Kevin May v. City of Los Angeles*, stems from officer allegations that they received "a slew of adverse employment actions" from their supervisors – including promotion denials – after their treating physicians recommended that the injured officers wear police-issued load-bearing vests while on duty. The case serves as an important reminder about why it's crucial for labor unions to meet with

management about everything that revolves around changes to hours, wages and working conditions. We sat down with attorney Bibianne Fell, who represented the officers, to hear her valuable insights into the significance of these kinds of cases and their impact on labor-management relations.

LAAPOA also rallied behind two LAXPD officers who were recently given devastating blows. Through PORAC's Fund a Hero campaign, LAAPOA helped fundraise money for Officer Teresa Arizaga, who sustained and survived a traumatic brain injury that has damaged her overall health and her life's trajectory. We also helped raise money for the family of Officer Geramie Eleazar, who is recovering from stage 3 colon cancer.

Promoting a Diverse and Inspired Workforce

Episode 6 of *The Layover With LAAPOA* video podcast featured Simi Valley Police Chief Charles "Steve" Shorts, a 33-year law enforcement veteran who began his career with the L.A. City Park Rangers, where he served as civilian park patrol officer and eventually promoted to interim chief park ranger. LAAPOA President Marshall McClain's interview with Shorts, who became the first Black person and the first member of a minority group to lead the Simi Valley Police Department, featured a ton of interesting insight, including Shorts' thoughts on current criminal justice reforms and policies, his future goals as chief and much more.

In October, **LAAPOA held its third annual Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference**, bringing together public safety professionals from around the state to network and hear from accomplished female leaders in the fields of law enforcement, finance, and mental health and wellness. The daylong event revolved around the theme "Lift As We Climb Up," which was all about motivating, inspiring and training attendees to confidently advocate for themselves and others in their careers, particularly as they

progress into leadership roles. The event featured several inspirational speakers, including Megan McCarthy, a retired deputy with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, who was involved in an on-duty shooting and attempted execution in September 2019 that was captured on video and highly publicized. Following the shooting, she became medically retired for PTSD and now advocates for mental health for first responders. The Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference is just one of the many ways that LAAPOA shows its continued commitment to improving and supporting its members in all aspects of their career development.

Educating on the Issues

Throughout 2023, LAAPOA provided expert interpretation of the legal issues impacting our members from our general counsel, Mastagni Holstedt, APC.

In addition, we made it a priority **to update members on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's preliminary data** from its 2022 fatality report. While the 226 officers who died in the line of duty in 2022 is a 61% decrease – driven almost entirely by the substantial reduction in COVID-19-related deaths – from the year prior, **the numbers showed a troubling trend of higher-than-average firearms fatalities**. The past two years represent a 21% increase in firearms-related deaths when compared to the average of 53 firearms-related fatalities from 2010 to 2020, proving that our profession is as dangerous as ever.

In recognition of National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month and National PTSD Awareness Day on June 27, **LAAPOA shed light on PTSD and similar mental health conditions**, noting that public safety officers have a 25.6 times higher risk of developing PTSD or other similar mental health conditions than those in other professions. We also shared our support of the programs and legislation that actively try to address these issues and pointed members to several important resources.

Legislative and Political Activity

For the past 41 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 2023, 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.

Over the past year, PORAC has worked closely with Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Grassley has been focused on combating retail theft and recently reintroduced the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2023 (S. 139, S. 140) to create a multiagency approach and center through the Secretary of Homeland Security to combat organized retail crime. PORAC has renewed its support for this bill and is working closely with his office to help push it forward.

Other key pieces of federal legislation that PORAC supported at the start of the year included the Qualified Immunity Act (H.R. 233), LEOSA Reform Act (H.R. 354), Prosecutors Need to Prosecute Act (H.R. 27), Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act (H.R. 472), and Protect and Serve Act (H.R. 743).

PORAC has also been focused on pushing for a full repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). On January 9, the Social Security Fairness Act of



2023 (H.R. 82) was reintroduced by Representative Garret Graves (R-La.), and PORAC renewed its support. This bill, which would repeal both provisions, failed to move forward last year despite having the required co-sponsors to be placed on the House consensus calendar.

On the state level, this past legislative session, PORAC's team tracked a total of 251 bills and took an official position on 143 of them. In addition, PORAC helped get 38 new bills over the finish line and signed into law, including 10 we actively supported. Perhaps more importantly, out of 28 actively opposed bills, we were able to stop 19 and get significant amendments on the rest.

One of PORAC's biggest focuses this year was putting victims' rights first. Earlier this year, PORAC worked to push back against SB 94, a dangerous piece of legislation that would have enabled convicted murderers sentenced to life without parole to petition the court for resentencing, potentially allowing

for the release of dozens of violent criminals back into the communities they terrorized. To put a stop to this bill, PORAC organized a joint press conference with Crime Victims United, the California District Attorneys Association, elected officials and fellow law enforcement organizations. This strong show of force and significant media attention created a more conducive environment for PORAC's advocacy in opposing the bill – which was ultimately successful when SB 94 failed to get out of Assembly and was placed on the inactive file.

PORAC's Defeated Priority Opposed Bills

The following are some additional bills that PORAC successfully stopped from passing through the Legislature in 2023. Because it is the first year of a two-year session, bills that failed to make it to the governor's desk this year can be carried over to the second year (two-year bills) and dealt with when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

AB 93 by Assembly Majority Leader Isaac Bryan (D-Culver City):

This bill would have prohibited a peace officer or law enforcement agency from conducting a warrantless search of a vehicle, person or their effects based solely on a person's consent, unless the officer had reasonable and articulable suspicion to believe they contain evidence of a crime.

AB 742 by Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Perris): This bill would have prohibited the use of canines by peace officers for arrest and apprehension unless necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.

AB 793 by Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland): This bill would have banned reverse location searches, also known as "geofence warrants," which allow law enforcement agencies to obtain cellphone data about unspecified individuals near a certain location, and reverse keyword searches, which allow law enforcement agencies to obtain data about unspecified individuals who used certain search terms on an internet website.

AB 797 by Assemblymember Akilah Weber (D-La Mesa): This bill would require cities and counties to establish independent, community-based commissions to investigate complaints alleging physical injury resulting from conduct by law enforcement officers. AB 797 failed to get out of its house of origin and is currently a two-year bill. It may be acted upon in January 2024.

AB 807 by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento): This bill would have required the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate additional types of use-of-force incidents resulting in death and would eliminate a requirement that DOJ operate a division to review law enforcement agencies' deadly-use-of-force policies.

SB 50 by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood): This bill would prohibit peace officers from



initiating a traffic stop for specified low-level infractions unless a separate, independent basis for a stop exists, or unless multiple infractions are seen. It would also authorize local authorities to enforce non-moving or equipment violations through the use of non-sworn government employees.

PORAC's Successful Co-Sponsored Bills

The following are a few of PORAC's co-sponsored bills that were signed into law.

AB 33 by Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains (D-Bakersfield): This bill establishes the Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force to undertake specified duties relating to fentanyl abuse. It contains an urgency clause to ensure the provisions of this bill take effect immediately.

AB 88 by Assemblymember Kate Sanchez (R-Rancho Santa Margarita): This bill requires a court to hold a resentencing hearing if the victim notifies the prosecution of their request to be heard.

AB 303 by Assemblymember Laurie Davies (R-Laguna Niguel): This bill requires the attorney general

to provide local law enforcement agencies with enumerated information related to prohibited persons in the Armed Prohibited Persons (APPS) database.

AB 355 by Assemblymember Juan Alanis (R-Modesto): This bill exempts persons enrolled in specified peace officer training courses from assault weapon prohibitions while they are engaged in firearms training being supervised by a firearms instructor, and the enrollee has met specified hiring and employment standards.

AB 791 Assemblymember James Ramos (D-Highland): This bill prohibits a person convicted of an offense punishable by life without possibility of parole from being released on bail pending sentencing or appeal.

SB 14 by Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield): This bill designates human trafficking of a minor for purposes of a commercial sex act as a "serious felony," making it a strike for purposes of the Three Strikes Law. SB 14 was approved by the governor and chaptered by the secretary of state.

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 retired officers in 2023 and offers our deepest sympathies to their families.

Officer Rodney Brown

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Charles Magee

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Chief Alan Hyde

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Moses McCullough

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Clifford Kennish

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lieutenant Joe Wheatley

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Bernard Wilson

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

REMEMBERING FALLEN HEROES

LAAPOA extends heartfelt condolences to the families of the California peace officers killed in 2023.*

Deputy Darnell Calhoun

RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
EOW: January 13, 2023

Officer Gonzalo Carrasco Jr.

SELMA POLICE DEPARTMENT
EOW: January 31, 2023

Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
EOW: September 16, 2023

We will never forget.

*As of December 11. List of fallen officers from California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation.



LAAPOA

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT
PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/laapoatv ★ Instagram: www.instagram.com/laapoa