

# 2024

Annual Report



# LAAPOA

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT  
PEACE OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION

LAX | VNY | LPR | MPO







# Contents



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marshall E. McClain, President  
Rodolfo Bojorquez, Vice President  
Ben Spolarich, Treasurer  
Mike Dear, Secretary  
Bill Adrian, Assistant Secretary

## DIRECTORS

Ruth Avalos-Delgado (LAX)  
Tarek Azmy (Lieutenant Representative)  
Alex Baez (Sergeant Representative)  
Adam Dedeaux (Park Ranger Supervisors)  
Daniel Gardea (LAX)  
Maria Iñiguez (LAX)  
Jesse Mauck (Park Rangers)  
William Nugent (LAX)  
Francisco Pimentel (MPO)  
Fran Sur (VNY/LAX)

## AFFILIATIONS

American Alliance of Airport Police  
Officers (AAAPO)  
California Coalition of Law Enforcement  
Associations (CCLEA)  
LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles County Organization  
of Police and Sheriffs (LACOPS)  
Peace Officers Research Association  
of California (PORAC)  
Southern California Alliance of  
Law Enforcement (SCALE)  
Valley Industry Commerce Association  
(VICA)

**911**MEDIA

Published by 911MEDIA®

A division of Trade News International, Inc.  
(818) 848-6397 | 911MEDIA.com



- 2** President's Letter
- 3** About LAAPOA
- 4** Member Services
- 5** Negotiations
- 6** 2024 Year in Review
- 8** Public Relations
- 10** Legislative and Political Activity
- 12** Legal Representation
- 13** In Memoriam

# From the President



**D**ear members: I cannot remember a time when I have wrote this letter with more hope. After a prolonged battle-worn fight, LAAPOA signed a monumental contract, which, along with a successfully passed City Charter Amendment, codified precedent-setting benefits for LAAPOA members, including pay and retirement coverage that will impact LAAPOA for generations.

As 2024 comes to an end, we turn our attention to the FIFA World Cup and the Olympics, which are both on the horizon. LAAPOA leadership is preparing for the world's gaze, attention and the corresponding challenges. On a day-to-day basis, the ongoing expansion and modernization of the airport, the changing nature of threats to aircraft and our infrastructure, and the wholesale metamorphism of our City parks will require dexterity. We are up for it.

It is helpful that LAAPOA has an advocate in Mayor Karen Bass, who has steadfastly supported airport police. Additionally, on December 2, Nathan Hochman succeeded George Gascon to become the 44th district attorney of Los Angeles County, ushering

in a new, more measured stance on crime and public safety. Lastly, President-elect Trump will take office on January 20, 2025, and has promised an end to lawlessness and support for first responders and police officers.

I know there will be challenges we cannot foresee, but the historic contract of 2024 provides our membership with security that will outlive me, our entire Board, and you and yours. On behalf of your leadership team, thank you for believing in us. None of it was easy, but all of it was worth it.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and God bless you and your families and loved ones.

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](http://www.laapaal.com).

## 2024 CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Casa Prieto Sporting Goods – Funding softball team  
Cyborg Sports Apparel, LLC – Funding softball team  
HALO Branded Solutions Inc. – Baker to Vegas running team  
Law Enforcement United, Inc.  
Los Angeles Police Revolver & Athletic Club  
Nevada Police and Fire Games  
Police Unity Tour  
Rampart Station Fund  
Special Olympics Southern California, Inc.



# 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.

## 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](http://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 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 (AAPO) 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](http://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](http://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.



# 2024 Year in Review

## January 1

New laws taking effect in California include SB 14, which increases penalties for human trafficking of minors in California; SB 2, which strengthens California's concealed carry weapons law by limiting the possession of firearms in certain public places; and AB 701, which classifies fentanyl on the same list of controlled substances as heroin, cocaine and other drugs that carry stiffer penalties and sentencing enhancements for dealers.

## January 12

Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore announces he will resign at the end of February after nearly six years in charge.

## January 23

After PORAC and other law enforcement groups file legal action against a new California Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) regulation forcing police officers to disclose their gender identity when submitting RIPA reports, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Christopher E. Kruger issues a temporary restraining order preventing the Department of Justice from enforcing it.

## April 20

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Freddy Flores succumbs to injuries sustained on October 10, 2023, when an equipment malfunction ignited a fire in a mobile shooting range while Flores and another deputy were inside.

## April 20

Oakland Police Officer Jordan Wingate succumbs to injuries sustained in a vehicle accident on August 13, 2018, while responding to a suspicious person call at the Port of Oakland.

## April 29

Four law enforcement officers and one gunman are killed and four others are wounded during a shootout in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Madeline Flanagan

## April 30

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Christopher E. Krueger issues a permanent injunction prohibiting enforcement of RIPA's gender disclosure requirements.

## May 5-6

The California Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony is held at the State Capitol to honor four officers who passed away in 2023, as well as four officers who died in prior years.

## May 12

National Police Week begins, and law enforcement members and supporters gather in Washington, D.C., to honor the 282 U.S. law enforcement officers – 118 who died in 2023 and 164 from previous years – who were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

## May 22

Congresswoman Maxine Waters announces her community project funding requests for inclusion in fiscal year 2025 appropriations legislation, prioritizing the LAX Police Department's request for \$963,000 in federal funding to upgrade its vehicle fleet and equipment.



Buncombe County Hurricane Helene JIC

## June 28

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that cities have the authority to arrest, cite and fine people who camp outside on public property. The ruling empowers law enforcement across California and other western states to effectively dismantle or prohibit homeless encampments that have surged throughout the West Coast, causing heightened concerns over sanitation, public health and safety.

## July 11

Vacaville Police Officer Matthew Bowen dies from injuries received from being struck by a vehicle while initiating a traffic stop. Both Bowen and the stopped driver were struck from behind by a driver believed to be under the influence of drugs.





Nathan Hochman was elected L.A. County's district attorney



Congresswoman Maxine Waters

## July 13

Donald Trump is shot in an assassination attempt at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, receiving minor injuries. Corey Comperatore is killed while shielding his wife and two daughters from gunfire. The shooter, 20-year-old Thomas Crooks, is shot and killed by the U.S. Secret Service's County Sniper Team.

## July 23

Secret Service director Kimberly Cheatle resigns following widespread criticism of her department's actions during the attempted assassination of Trump.

## August 16

Governor Gavin Newsom signs into law a bipartisan package of 10 bills that aims to reduce organized retail theft and other property crimes, creating stricter penalties for repeat offenders and people running professional reselling schemes.

## August 20

Federal judge Charles Ralph Simpson III dismisses two felony charges against the two Louisville police officers who were involved in the killing of Breonna Taylor, determining that her boyfriend was ultimately responsible

for her death by firing at the two law enforcement officials and, thus, prompting the officers to retaliate.

## August 26

San Diego Officer Austin Machitar is killed and his partner is critically injured when a fleeing suspect's car broadsides their police cruiser at 90 mph.

## September 6

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals partly upholds a PORAC-supported preliminary injunction blocking the enforcement of Senate Bill 2 with regard to its location-specific bans on concealed carry in so-called "sensitive places," even for permit holders. The decision allows concealed carry in some places (including hospitals, public transit, places of worship and financial institutions) but prohibits it in others (including bars and restaurants that serve alcohol, playgrounds and parks, stadiums and arenas, libraries and amusement parks).

## September 27–30

Hurricane Helene kills at least 215 and leaves 685 people missing in the southeast, the deadliest to strike the mainland U.S. since Katrina in 2005. It is closely followed by Hurricane Milton, which makes landfall in Florida on October 9, kills approximately 23

people and causes at least \$85 million in damage.

## October 4

L.A. Mayor Karen Bass announces she has selected former L.A. County Sheriff Jim McDonnell as the next LAPD chief.

## October 17

LAAPOA hosts its 2024 Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference, offering networking, training and inspiration to female members of law enforcement. LAXPD Captain Karla Rodriguez serves as the master of ceremonies.

## November 5

Donald Trump is elected as the 47th president of the United States. California voters pass Proposition 36, increasing penalties for certain theft and drug crimes. In L.A. County, LAAPOA-endorsed Nathan Hochman defeats George Gascón for the office of district attorney.

## November 21–23

PORAC hosts its 72nd annual Conference of Members in Palm Desert. The event includes several motivating training sessions, discussions of key Association updates and more.

# 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 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.

## New Year, New Laws

At the start of 2024, LAAPOA compiled a list of **new laws our members should be aware of**, which went into effect on January 1. Some of these bills include AB 28, which adds an 11% excise tax on the purchase of firearms and ammunition; AB 791, which prohibits a person convicted of an offense punishable by life without the possibility of parole from being released on bail; and AB 452, which eliminates the time limit for the recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual assault for civil actions that arise on or after January 1.

## Honoring Our Sisters in Blue

In March, LAAPOA celebrated Women's History Month by highlighting **LAAPOA Board member Ruth Delgado**, a detective with the LAXPD who is one of the many women in LAAPOA and in the Department carrying the torch of those who came before them and inspiring the next generation of female officers.

In October, LAAPOA held its fourth 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 "Be the Change"

and featured LAXPD Captain Karla Rodriguez as the master of ceremonies.

## Voting for a Safer Tomorrow

In the wake of the March 5 primary election, LAAPOA highlighted the low voter turnout in L.A. County and statewide, and **encouraged members to be politically engaged** as we prepared for the pivotal general election. As November 5 approached, LAAPOA presented our **official voter guide** listing the candidates and measures that aligned with the interests of public safety professionals and the communities we serve. Crucially, Nathan Hochman, whom LAAPOA endorsed for Los Angeles County district attorney, defeated George Gascón and his extreme pro-criminal policies. Additionally, several LAAPOA-endorsed candidates at the local, state and federal levels won their races.

## Revealing the Latest Safety Threats

In April, LAAPOA shed light on a troubling new phenomenon that emerged involving foreign intruders exploiting the United States' lax visa and criminal justice system. In a trend dubbed "**burglary tourism**" by authorities, thieves from South American countries such as Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia have been involved in hundreds of break-ins throughout Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties this year.

In June, LAAPOA brought to light the **surge in violence at L.A. Metro stations and aboard buses and trains**, causing Mayor Karen Bass to direct an immediate surge in law enforcement personnel on Metro buses, rail cars and stations. The spike in high-profile crimes and the untold number of patrons who have been robbed, accosted and harassed this year have sparked concerns over safety, along with outrage and criticism over the lack of security and law enforcement patrolling the transit system.



Two months later, LAAPOA reported on the large-scale **organized retail thefts**, which often involve mobs of people rushing into stores and swiping items in plain sight, that have devastated California businesses in recent years. In response to this escalating crisis, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bipartisan package of 10 bills on August 16 that creates stricter penalties for repeat offenders and people running professional reselling schemes.

## Gone But Never Forgotten

On April 29, LAAPOA remembered the brave service and sacrifice of **LAXPD Officer Tommy Edward Scott**, who was killed on that day in 2005 – the first officer to die in the line of duty in the history of the Airport Police force. LAAPOA has kept his legacy alive through the Los Angeles Airport Police Athletics & Activities League (LAAPAAL) Tommy Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund, which has provided scholarships to dozens of deserving students in his memory over the years.

The month of May has been a sacred time for law enforcement since 1962, when President John F. Kennedy established May 15 as **National Peace Officers Memorial Day** and the week in which May 15 falls as National



Police Week. Each year, along with Scott, LAAPOA remembers the others within our own ranks whom we lost too soon, including Captain Albert E. Torres (EOW: October 12, 2019), the first Los Angeles Park Ranger killed in the line of duty. LAAPOA also honors the memory of the more than 1,600 officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice since California became a state, whose names are engraved on the Peace Officers' Memorial monument in Sacramento. During the candlelight vigil on May 5 and the enrollment ceremony on May 6, California recognized four officers killed in the line of duty in 2023, three more who died in 2021 and one from the distant past.

This year also marked the 23rd anniversary of the devastating **September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks**. LAAPOA joined with the rest of our nation in reflecting on those tragic events that shook the world, and especially our law enforcement and aviation communities. We also mourned the thousands of lives lost as a result and honor the courage of our first responder brethren, who answered the call to action, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice while working to rescue others.

### Advocating for School Police

In May, LAAPOA advocated for a **stronger, more immediate police presence in schools** to protect children and ensure a safe learning environment. Just three years ago, the Los Angeles school board voted unanimously to cut 133 school police positions. Now we are feeling the effects, with a rise in violence, drug use and public safety concerns escalating throughout public and private schools. According to data from the LAUSD board, since officers were removed from schools, fighting and physical aggression have nearly doubled from 2,270 incidents to 4,569. "It's time to listen to the concerns of parents and take decisive action to restore order and safety in our schools," LAAPOA President Marshall McClain said.

### Putting Officers' Mental Health First

LAAPOA took significant steps to acknowledge and support the mental health of our members during **Mental Health Awareness Month** in May and **National PTSD Awareness Month** in June. In law enforcement, studies have shown that officers are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty and are at a higher risk for suicide than any other profession. Now more than ever, officers need support from their departments and peers and require access to law enforcement wellness programs and competent mental health professionals so that they can manage and cope with the daily stressors of the job in safe and healthy ways.

Over the years, LAAPOA has strived to serve as a helpful mental health and wellness resource for our members, not only creating a safe space for members to talk with others about their issues but also raising awareness on PTSD, traumatic stress, officer suicide and more through our periodic educational *BOLO* e-newsletter articles. We have also worked with our statewide partner PORAC to support legislation and programs that actively try to address mental health in the profession, such as the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act and Public Safety Officer Support Act.

### Investing in LAX Security

LAAPOA was very pleased when Congresswoman Maxine Waters announced her community project funding requests for inclusion in fiscal year 2025 appropriations legislation, prioritizing **the LAX Police Department's request for \$963,000 in federal funding to upgrade its vehicle fleet and equipment**. It's been challenging in the past for LAXPD to have timely maintenance and replacement of its police vehicle fleet. These crucial funds will be used to support purchasing vehicles and upgrading equipment that have been in various states of disrepair.



The commitment to investing in LAXPD came at a crucial time, as **this summer's travel season was the busiest ever** – eight of the 10 busiest days in TSA history have come in 2024. In July, LAAPOA pointed out those sky-high statistics are a signal for travelers to take precautions to stay safe and a reminder that protecting our nation's airports and their surrounding communities is crucial. Nowhere is that more true than at LAX, which remains one of the country's busiest aviation hubs and is preparing for major international events on the horizon with the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic Games.

### Keeping Members Apprised of Crucial Labor Issues

Throughout 2024, LAAPOA updated members on important law enforcement labor issues through expert legal analysis from Mastagni Holstedt, APC. The following issues highlighted included SB 2's concealed carry ban; the temporary restraining order issued to the Department of Justice from requiring officers to disclose their gender identity and from enforcing that disclosure subsection of the new regulation; and an update on the California Supreme Court ruling that people can't be detained just for trying to avoid law enforcement.

# Legislative and Political Activity

For the past 42 years, LAAPOA has played a major role 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 2024, LAAPOA continued its crucial 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 and federal levels. For lobbying on national and global transportation issues, LAAPOA utilizes the services of **Iseman & Szeliga** in Washington, D.C.

Over the past year, PORAC continued to prioritize and engage in efforts to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which unfairly reduce the retirement benefits of millions of peace officers and public employees, robbing them of their hard-earned financial security in their twilight years. Recently, the lead House sponsors of legislation to repeal these provisions, the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82/S. 597), filed a discharge petition for the bill to be considered on the House floor. In about a week, the petition garnered the 218 signatures required to force a vote. Although the bill, if passed, will still require consideration in the Senate, a vote in the House represents the most significant progress to date in securing these essential benefits for public servants.

Other key pieces of federal legislation that PORAC supported at the start of the year included the FORCE Act (H.R. 3725), the Providing Child Care for Police Officers Act (H.R. 2722), the Supporting the Health and Safety of Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 4911) and the HELPER Act (S. 1514/H.R. 3170).



In the lead-up to National Police Week in May, the West Coast Coalition, which includes PORAC and law enforcement organizations from Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska, met with 27 members of Congress and over 40 congressional offices. The group collectively pushed legislative efforts to support law enforcement and address recruitment and retention difficulties. During the fly-in, the Coalition advocated for several top-priority bills, discussed the mental health crisis in America and the added responsibility of law enforcement to address this issue, and urged members of Congress to join a letter led by Law Enforcement Caucus Co-Chairs Representative John Rutherford (R-Fla.) and Representative Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) urging for increased Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding for FY 2025.

In recent years, the landscape

surrounding cannabis use in the U.S. has undergone a profound transformation, with 38 states now having legalized medical cannabis and 24 states having made it legal for recreational use. Recognizing that a holistic approach is needed to ensure public safety is included in federal discussions around marijuana policy, PORAC and the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs offered their support for Representative David Joyce's (R-Ohio-14) STATES 2.0 Act (H.R. 6673), which would enable states to establish their own cannabis markets by respecting their rights to prohibit, legalize or regulate cannabis.

Additionally, one of PORAC's biggest focuses this year was on officer rights and safety. The passage of the Recruit and Retain Act (S. 546/H.R. 3325), which was signed into law in May, crucially enables law enforcement agencies to utilize COPS grants for recruitment purposes. The new law also fosters collaborations between local schools and police



departments to promote law enforcement as a career.

The House also approved the PORAC-endorsed LEOSA Reform Act, which would authorize qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons across state boundaries in areas like school zones, national parks and other public properties. Additionally, the House passed the PORAC-endorsed Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act, which would expand the type of information that can be voluntarily reported regarding assaults on law enforcement officers.

On the state level, this past legislative session was memorable to say the least, as there were changes in leadership in both houses as well as a \$73 billion budget deficit in 2024 that resulted in any legislation with substantial fiscal impact being held.

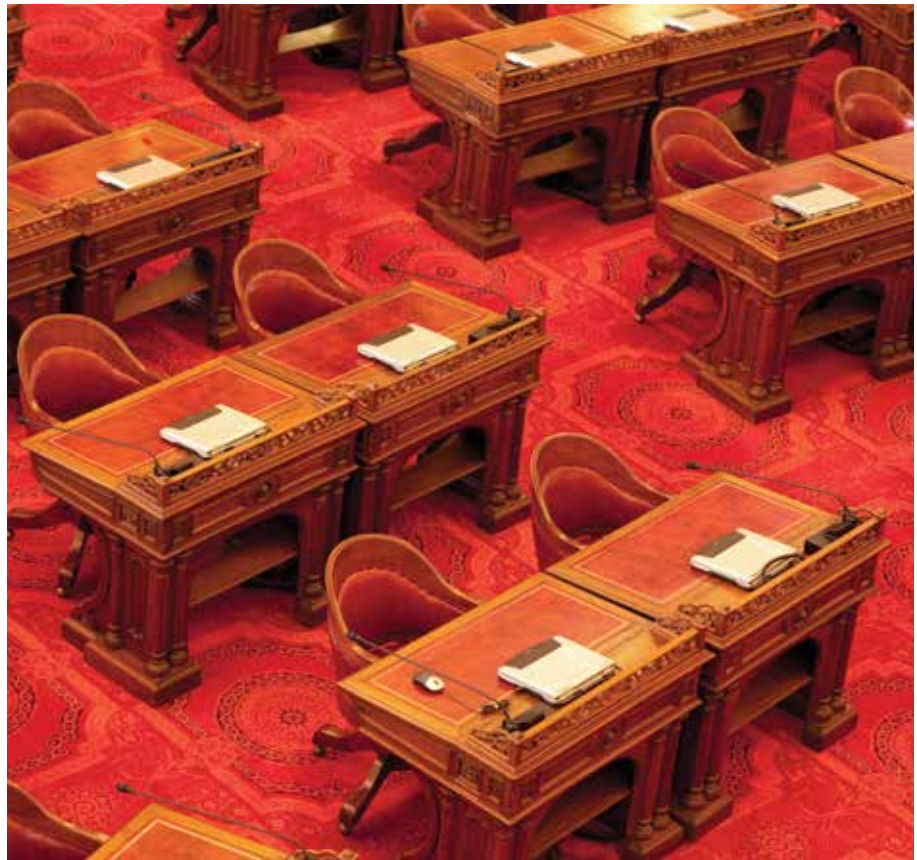
In 2024, a little over 1,000 bills reached the governor's desk, and he vetoed 183 of them. Overall, it was an extremely successful two years for PORAC, with dozens of bills being stopped that threatened public safety, K-9 units, current policing procedures and much more.

### **PORAC's Defeated Priority Opposed Bills**

The following are some of the bills that PORAC successfully opposed. They are now either dead or have been vetoed by the governor.

**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.

**SB 50 by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood):** This bill would have prohibited 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.

**SB 94 by Senator David Cortese (D-Santa Clara):** This bill would have allowed for an inmate currently serving life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) who was sentenced prior to June 5, 1990, and has served at least 25 years to be allowed to petition for parole.

**SB 838 by Senator Caroline Menjivar (D-Van Nuys):** This bill would have revised the definition of "crime" for purposes of the Victim Compensation Program to include an incident in which an individual sustains serious bodily injury or death as the result of a law enforcement officer's use of force.

**SB 898 by Senator Nancy Skinner (Oakland):** This bill would have allowed for an inmate serving LWOP who has been sexually assaulted in prison and who has served at least 15 years to be eligible to petition for parole.

### **PORAC's Successful Co-Sponsored Bills**

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

**AB 1779 by Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks):** 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 1414 Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield):** This bill increases the punishment for the crime of solicitation (asking for a sex act in exchange for something of value) of a minor under the age of 16, or a minor under the age of 18 who is a victim of human trafficking, and requires a person convicted of soliciting a minor who has a prior conviction of soliciting a minor to register as a sex offender if the person was more than 10 years older than the minor at the time of the offense.

# 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](http://www.poracldf.org).



# In Memoriam

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

LAAPOA grieves the passing of the following officers in 2024 and offers our deepest sympathies to their families.

**Fire Chief Dan Lindsay (retired)**

LOS ANGELES/ONTARIO AIRPORT  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Officer Richard Taylor III (retired)**

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Sergeant Elliott D. Wade (retired)**

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Officer Charles Gleason (retired)**

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Sergeant Mattie Carol  
Thompson (retired)**

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Officer Fredrick  
Cornelius Syers (retired)**

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

## REMEMBERING FALLEN HEROES

LAAPOA extends heartfelt condolences to the families of the California peace officers killed in 2024.\*

**Deputy Alfredo "Freddy" Flores**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
EOW: April 20, 2024

**Officer Matthew Bowen**

VACAVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
EOW: July 11, 2024

**Officer Austin Machitar**

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
EOW: August 26, 2024



California Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony

PORAC

*We will never forget.*

\*As of December 12. List of fallen officers from California Peace Officers' Memorial Foundation.



# LAAPOA

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT  
PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

6201 W. 87TH STREET, #336 ★ LOS ANGELES, CA 90045 ★ TELEPHONE: (424) 374-8157

Email: [info@laapoa.com](mailto:info@laapoa.com) ★ Website: [www.laapoa.com](http://www.laapoa.com) ★ Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LAAPOA](https://www.facebook.com/LAAPOA) ★ X: [@AirportPoliceLA](https://twitter.com/AirportPoliceLA)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/laapoatv](https://www.youtube.com/user/laapoatv) ★ Instagram: [www.instagram.com/laapoa](https://www.instagram.com/laapoa)