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LAPD RESERVES GO ABOVE AND BEYOND: PART TWO

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired)

hen *The Rotator* went to press in late May 2020, the cover story was about LAPD reserve officers going above and beyond during the COVID-19 crisis. Then, a new crisis hit while the ink was still wet. The men and women of the Corps stepped up again, still in the middle of the pandemic. The ramifications of what was happening cascaded throughout the nation.

The flashpoint was on May 25, nearly 2,000 miles away, in Minneapolis. But the impact was felt nationwide and around the world. According to Wikipedia, "Protests outside the Minneapolis area were first reported on May 27 in Memphis and Los Angeles ... By May 28, protests had sprung up in several major U.S. cities with demonstrations increasing each day. By June, protests had been held in all U.S. states. At least 200 cities had imposed curfews, and at least 27 states and Washington, D.C., activated over 62,000 National Guard personnel in response to the unrest."

As LAPD officers headed to work crowd control downtown and throughout the City, full-time officers started noticing the distinctive R-serial numbers on the helmets, and some (even today) did not know what that meant. They soon learned they were joined on the scrimmage line by their reserve brothers and sisters. Police Officer Jonathan Johnson, reserve coordinator for Hollywood Area,



Chief of Police Michel Moore greets this year's Bureau Reserve Officers of the Year in a small ceremony at Police Headquarters Facility (PHF), with COVID-19 limitations in place. Left to right: LAPRF Co-President Karla Ahmanson, Reserve Officers Dr. Paul Strauss, Greig Smith, Tim Widmann (Department Reserve Officer of the Year), Ronnie Hadar, Chaplain Specialist Sholom Langsam and Chief Moore. Bureau honoree not pictured: Reserve Officer Jacquelyn Frazier. See article on page 26.

wrote: "I have been so incredibly impressed with you and the way you handle business. This civil unrest and mobilization have been long and arduous for everyone. We are all physically and mentally exhausted ... My reserves in Hollywood have been here nearly every day since this whole thing started. You come early, you stay late, you're enthusiastic and you hold the line like the rest of us ... Your dedication absolutely blows me away, but I'm not the only one noticing. I can't tell you how many times my full-time coworkers have commented to me how impressed they are by you guys and

continued on pg 5
See "Reserves Go Above and Beyond: Part Two"



Page 2

Presidents' Message

Page 3

Captain's Message

Page 23

Reserve Cold Case Unit Formed

Page 26

Gala Goes Online

Page 28

Reserve Officers of the Year

¹ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Floyd_protests#Elsewhere_in_the_United_States

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Message From the Co-Presidents of the Reserve Foundation

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired) and Karla Ahmanson

he year 2020 has been unprecedented in so many ways. It's still hard to find the words. As COVID-19 hit, the gala was postponed, and it soon became clear that it would have to be postponed indefinitely. Then, that same month in May, the protests and civil unrest erupted and spread across the country. And then ... the LAPD Reserve Corps stood up again.

As Karla said at the virtual gala in August, "During these times, what is particularly impressive was the response to the unrest by reserve officers. Assistant Chief Robert Arcos gave the Corps the choice to report for duty or stay home (to do what's best for you and your families). Well, they reported — in droves. Practically every

division benefited from reserves. Many who I know worked shifts lasting over 24 hours, rested and went back for more ... On the second night, while stopped at an intersection in Hollywood, I looked over, and there was [Reserve Officer and LAPRF Board Director] Bernard Khalili, with a shop loaded with reserves. We got out to snap a quick picture, and yet another shop pulled up with, yup, even more reserves ... dedication."

There are many stories like this documented in these pages. The virtual gala was the way to honor you this year. The online event was also a way for us to reach out to supporters and

continued on pg 4
See "Presidents' Message"



LAPRF INITIATIVES

elow is a summary of the current funding initiatives by the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation. To learn more about the Foundation, go to *laptf.org*.

- Twice a Citizen/Reserve Officer of the Year Gala LAPRF sponsors the annual dinner honoring the Reserve Police Officers of the Year and members of the Reserve Corps. The gala also serves as a fundraising event, recognizing "Twice a Citizen" community leaders.
- Training and Education LAPRF provides funds for training opportunities that are otherwise not funded by the City or the Department. For example, partial reimbursements for the Annual Reserve Peace Officer Convention by CRPOA and POALAC training. During the pandemic, most of this training has been on hold. Currently, the next ARPOC is scheduled for August 2021.
- Recruitment LAPRF researches and provides media opportunities to increase both interest in, and awareness of, the LAPD reserve program. LAPRF creates and manages the production of PSA radio spots and billboard type advertising. The Foundation identifies and coordinates opportunities to recruit at in-person events and creates and executes social media campaigns for recruitment. We coordinate with Department staff and reserve mentors at orientation events.

- Newsletter and Social Media Sites LAPRF sponsors *The Rotator* newsletter and maintains LAPD Reserve social media accounts and *laprf.org*.
- **Equipment** The most recent example of this has been the *BDU initiative*, providing up to a \$175.00 reimbursement for the utility uniform the Department has authorized during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of this writing, 68 officers have received the grant.
 - LAPRF will review requests to help subsidize reserve officers with financial hardships, the costs of their equipment not otherwise provided by the Department.
 - The Foundation reimburses recently discharged military veterans for equipment reserve recruit officers must acquire for Academy training.
 - We will consider other specific requests on a case-by-case basis.
- Special Task Forces The LAPRF considers limited financial assistance towards the creation of specialized reserve units authorized by the Department.
- LAPRF College Scholarships For several years now, the LAPRF has awarded college scholarships for LAPD reserve officers or their children.
- Legal Defense Plan Reimbursement For several years now, the LAPRF has partially reimbursed LAPD reserve officers for the Legal Defense Plan offered through the Los Angeles Police Protective League. In 2020, 53 reserve officers received the subsidy.

CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

By Captain Aaron Ponce, Community Outreach & Development Division

changes throughout the nation as social and political movements take hold. Looking back on 2020, there have been many bright moments for us to reflect upon. The Los Angeles Lakers were crowned NBA champions, and our beloved Dodgers won an exciting World Series, their first since 1988.

As I watched the final part of the game, I was struck by how excited my oldest daughter was to be witnessing our home team win. I realized that she had only heard about and seen the replays of Kirk Gibson's famous home run in game one of that series. She has only watched interviews with Tommy Lasorda and viewed clips of Orel Hershiser, Fernando Valenzuela,



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Editor-in-Chief Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired)

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Winner of a Communicator Award





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Don Sutton and sportscasters reminiscing of a championship won long before she was born. Los Angeles baseball fans love their Dodgers and knew a championship would come back to L.A. This has been her hometown team since being born, and now seeing them win it all brought us great joy and jubilation!

Our team, our Community Outreach and Development Division team, has also been playing like champions, specifically our Reserve Unit. When I last wrote, we had just completed the Level I class and then moved directly to a new Level III class. Now, a Level II class is closing in on the finish line. The dedication, devotion and work of the reserve officers who take up this calling and our staff who coordinate the overall effort are remarkable. I applaud each of you and thank you for your participation and dedication to the program that supports Department operations and provides a valuable service to our vast communities.

The entire reserve program is a collaboration between several key partners. Our City's Personnel Department, which processes and completes portions of the hiring process. Our Recruitment and Employment Division, which completes the initial screenings, background investigations and, ultimately, their commanding officer, who appoints the applicant to a Reserve Academy. As you all know, Training Division instructors provide most of the hands-on training. Then, our various Department entities utilize your skills and are the beneficiary of your dedication. I am also very appreciative of a new partnership with Behavioral Science Services, which will be now offering their expertise and wide range of services to each of you. I would be remiss not to mention the ongoing effort and support from the Reserve Foundation. They pulled off a seamless online Twice a Citizen gala!

As we look forward, more than 20 reserve officers have shown an interest in a Level I class. We are in the planning stages for a launch date in January 2021. In reflection, our team has held a continuous Reserve Academy since the end of 2019 and at least two Academies since 2016. That is impressive. We continue to work

to ensure you are assigned equipment and updated on events within the Department.

As I write, we are less than a week away from the 2020 presidential election. Each Bureau has

continued on pg 4
See "Captain's Message"

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE SERVICES FOR RESERVE OFFICERS

APD's Behavioral Science Services (BSS) has been supporting the health and wellness of Department personnel for over 50 years. Now, BSS is pleased to extend that support to those who serve the community as Los Angeles reserve police officers.

BSS is proud to offer:

- Individual, couples and group therapy
- Critical incident/stress debriefings
- Wellness checks
- Support around adjusting to retirement
- Strategies to manage pain and get better sleep
- Group skills training and support for emotion management, addiction, divorce, spouses
- Consultation and treatment for drinking and other addictions with our Addiction Prevention Unit (APU) professionals
- Biofeedback: a treatment empirically supported to help with pain and trauma
- Nutritional consultation and Mind Over Food course help you foster your best physical health

Your wellness is our mission. Give us a call at (213) 486-0790. Check us out at *lapdbss. online*.

continued from pg 2 From "Presidents' Message"

donors since the annual dinner has always been an essential way for us to fundraise to fuel our mission. We thank Scherr Lillico and her Proper Image Special Events team for reimagining under the circumstances and producing what turned out to be a very successful event.

It might be assumed that the pandemic and the unrest has put a damper on our activities. This could not be further from the truth. Please review the sidebar of Foundation initiatives, both continuing and newly implemented this year by our Board. From our partnerships to establish a temporary barbershop at Elysian Park with Captain Peter Casey to the popular BDU grant initiative, we have been here for you to keep you safe.

It goes without saying that we could not do this without our ongoing partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department. Thank you to Chief of Police Michel Moore and the Command Staff for their continued support. This is a testament to the long-term working relationships they have had with so many of you. In the "gala" article, you will read heartfelt comments by Chief Moore, Assistant Chief Robert Arcos and Commander Gerald Woodyard, as well as a few well-known folks. Thank you to Captain Aaron Ponce and his team at CODD, including Lieutenant Curtis McIntyre, Sergeant Cornel

Sandoz, Sergeant Keith Mott, Officers Johnny Gil, Belinda Quezada, Rosheen Bourke-Rosenblum and so many others.

We congratulate retired Reserve Officer Robert Glucroft, named director emeritus, after stepping down from our Board with 20 years of faithful service. And we welcome Director Ryan Cassidy as the secretary of the Board. On behalf of our Board of Directors, we wish you and your family happy holidays as this unprecedented year comes to a close. We sincerely hope that we will all be able to get together next year, on April 24, at the Skirball Cultural Center to celebrate with good friends the extraordinary stories and legacy of the LAPD Reserve Corps. As always, be safe.

continued from pg 3 From "Captain's Message"

planned for potential issues. We have seen your engagement throughout the pandemic. Due to the ongoing rhetoric, conflict and potential

protests, your willingness to engage in extra shifts and work assignments is much appreciated. The Reserve Corps' contribution and value will be magnified as the City budget is strained, and funding is reallocated or no longer available. Your willingness to help us keep our communities safe is needed more than ever.

As we head into the holidays, from our team to each of you and your family, we wish you health, peace and joy. May 2021 bring a sense of renewal and a fresh start.

All the best, Aaron.

SUPPORT THE RESERVE CORPS

Now there is an easy way to support the Reserve Corps, at no additional cost to you! When you register and shop with Amazon Smile, a percentage of what you spend will be donated to the LAPRF. And please tell your friends!



- Go to http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-3900093 and create an account or log in to your existing account.
- 2. Make sure to select the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation as your charitable organization.
- 3. Shop for qualifying products through **smile.amazon.com**.

the way you've handled yourselves on the lines. Your dedication and joy for the job are infectious and truly inspiring, especially at a time when positive LAPD stories are so hard to come by. Thank you all for doing what you do and for representing our beloved Department so well. I will always be proud to have served alongside you."2

Reserve Officer Dennis Wong: "Deployed last night with a GND MFF downtown. Hundreds of LAPD, CHP, LASD, LAFD and other agencies screaming around Code 3 entrail chasing the crowds. Crazy from 2000-0000 hours, then tapered off quickly. Grateful, and a surreal experience deploying with the NG in our beloved City of Angels."

Veteran Reserve Officer Steve Fazio told The Rotator that he and his wife were having dinner with friends when news of unrest started coming in after Minneapolis. "I got on my rover to see what was happening at [Topanga]. The division was assigning radio calls to supervisors and dropping calls because most of the watch was being redeployed to downtown." That's when Officer Fazio headed to the station. En route, he received a phone call from Reserve Officer Pheap Chev, who was also on his way. The two partnered up at about 2030 hours and worked until 0200.

"The following three days, I worked with Reserve Officer Ronnie Hadar. For several hours we worked with our area detectives and

continued on pg 6 See "Reserves Go Above and Beyond: Part Two"

Officer quotes, unless otherwise noted, are from the LAPD Reserve Officers Facebook Group.



the National Guard; there was some credible intel that the Westfield Plaza Shopping Center in Woodland Hills was a target ... Day four, we basically worked the division and handled calls for service, as the division was very lean on patrol with more than half of each watch being deployed to the hot spots. All and all, probably worked 35-40 hours those first few days, and continued to work patrol over these last many months as things would flare up."

On June 9, LAPD HQ on Twitter reported: "The week of May 31 to June 9, homicides went up 250%, and victims shot went up 56% compared to the previous week. The past 24 hours has seen four shootings, one of those resulting in a homicide."3

Many veteran reserve officers recall working during the riots in 1992, which started on April

29. In a retrospective 25 years later, NPR wrote: "For the rest of the night, the scene at Florence and Normandie repeated itself with rioters across the city. Just before 9 p.m. that night, Mayor Tom Bradley called for a state of emergency, and California Governor Pete Wilson ordered 2,000 National Guard troops to report to the city."4 One of the criticisms in the aftermath of 1992 was the general lack of preparation and planning by the City and the Department. Times have changed since then, on a number of fronts, of course. LAPD personnel recently went through IC/DC training (Integrating Communication, De-escalation and Crowd Control) at Davis, a 10-hour class that included training and certification for the 40MM Launcher System and practical exercises on the "scrimmage" line. (This left-handed author learned that southpaws were no longer the default "linebackers.")

One officer told The Rotator: "What's really frustrating is that the reforms several of the organizations are asking for⁵ have already been implemented in Los Angeles. After the [1992] riots, after Rampart, policies have changed."6 "I look at what happened in Minneapolis, and it's like watching one of those old Cops TV episodes when you're yelling at the screen saying, 'Who the hell taught you to do that!"

At the virtual tribute to LAPD reserve officers held on August 29, Chief of Police Michel Moore, Assistant Chief Robert Arcos and others talked about how LAPD reserve police officers went above and beyond during the pandemic and the civil unrest. See page 27 for the quotes, but as Commander Gerald Woodyard said that night, "Individuals are measured by their actions during times of strife and trouble."

Mike Rowe, who hosted the Discovery Channel series Dirty Jobs, said in his tribute message: "I should apologize, as well as thank you because in

continued on pg 8 See "Reserves Go Above and Beyond: Part Two"

The Christopher Commission was established in 1991. In 2000, the U.S. Department of Justice entered into a consent decree with the LAPD that lasted until 2009. Both led to many policy and tactics reforms within the LAPD.



See https://twitter.com/LAPDHQ/status/1270441223753396224?s=20

See https://www.npr.org/2017/04/26/524744989/when-la-erupted-in-anger-a-look-back-at-the-rodney-king-riots

An example can be found at https://naacp.org/latest/update-naacp-demands/ dated May 31, 2020.







300 episodes, I never got a chance to work with the men and women of the [LAPD Reserve Corps]. And I'm sorry for that. Not because your job is dirty, $necessarily, but \ because \ you \ really \ do \ make \ civilized$ life possible for the rest of us \dots I know there's never been a tougher time to be a cop ... I think you are heroic. I know a lot of other people feel the same way." He ended by quoting Hill Street Blues' Sergeant Phil Esterhaus, "Let's be careful out there."

continued on pg 10 See "Reserves Go Above and Beyond: Part Two"

















Finally, the images. The pictures printed on these pages come primarily from the end of May and early June during Mobile Field Force deployment. We printed them mostly without captions, as an archive of a moment when $LAPD\ reserve\ police\ officers, in distinguishable\ from\ their\ full-time\ broth$ ers and sisters, went above and beyond, as they always do. ©















SCENES FROM THE PROTESTS AND CIVIL UNREST











LAPD — "DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE, EVOLVED"

ouncilmember Joe Buscaino (15th District), who transitioned from full-time to reserve police officer after his election to the City Council in 2012, spoke at a "Defend the LAPD" community rally near Elysian Park on October 17. Here are his abridged comments regarding LAPD reform. (Editor's note: There may have since been updates to issues discussed.)

"As a former LAPD officer and a proud current Los Angeles police reserve officer, I know how complex and dangerous this job can be. And as a former senior lead officer, I'm well aware of the many great contributions all our sworn officers make to our City. The LAPD deserves praise, and I am here to deliver it. I am one out of only two members of the L.A. City Council who voted against a decrease in the LAPD budget because I know that a decrease in the public safety budget equals a decrease in public safety.

"While many Americans protested in cities across the country this summer against the inexcusable conduct of officers in Minneapolis and other cities, the reality is that the LAPD is probably the most progressive police department in the country and has been the model of a reformed department. The LAPD is one of the most diverse, inclusive, evolved departments in the United States. We have come such a long way since I joined the Department in 1996! In fact, the LAPD is 70% women and people of color!

"We cannot continue a conversation about how to improve policing without acknowledging the quantum leaps the LAPD has made, and how the LAPD can serve as a model to every other department in the United States. The LAPD is already the most reformed department in our nation.

"We have civilian oversight and the consent decree, and the LAPD is not done. There is no doubt that the LAPD will continue to evolve and get even more efficient at accomplishing its mission to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life.

"Recently, there was a story on the local news that most of you saw, reporting that the City Council approved a 'plan' to revamp the LAPD with a crisis response team. While there are some who are doing



Councilmember Joe Buscaino speaks at community rally supporting the LAPD on October 17.

a victory lap about this, the reality of the action that was taken by the City Council is very different and very far away from a plan. There is no plan.

"Rather, what the Council voted on was to instruct the Chief Administrative Office to produce a Request for Proposal, which is a call for entries, for ideas for a pilot program to introduce the concept of alternative forms of response. There was no instruction as to the type of alternative form of response, size, scope or any other details of the type of 'pilot'

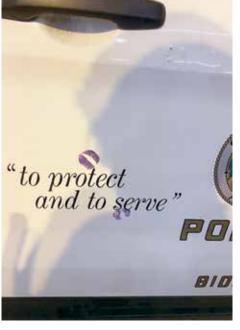
"I am not against the submission of ideas. Nor am I against pilot programs. The City runs pilots on all kinds of things. I am in favor of mimicking the tech industry by A/B testing things and studying effects to know which actions and programs are most effective in creating better outcomes. But the LAPD infrastructure that can deliver officers to your home in minutes after you call 9-1-1 is not easily or quickly [replicated]. This Department will always continue to evolve, but you don't get more public safety by investing less. I want to go on the record with my position that defunding the LAPD will only create less harmony and more crime in Los Angeles."

Councilmember Buscaino spoke on the importance of investing in both public safety and in the communities. "We can do both." He went into detail on the Community Safety Partnership and how the Watts community has been revitalized by grants, private and public investments. "The reality is that investing in communities of color means investing more into public safety, not less. Another reality is that policing is going to get more and more expensive because it is getting more and more dangerous. We must always be working to improve quality of service, but if you know the LAPD, you know that it's been doing exactly that for decades! We should be increasing the police budget, not decreasing it."

At the end, he said: "To the Los Angeles Police Reserve Corps and all my brothers and sisters in blue, I promise to advocate for you with my colleagues and continue to promote the great work all of you do each and every day. Thank you to my fellow reserve officers for being that bridge to our communities, you are all truly twice a citizens." Our government should be a place where we all come together, and no one gets left behind. An instrument of good.

SCENES FROM THE PROTESTS AND CIVIL UNREST







1992 AND 2020: "I AM A POLICE OFFICER'S WIFE"

By Karla Ahmanson

Editor's note: Karla Ahmanson is Co-President of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation.

t was 28 years ago that I was engaged to be married to the love of my life.

The year was 1992. Young and not very worldly, I really did not understand what it was that my handsome, gentlemanly, kind of silly, intelligent and very kind fiancé did as a "reserve police officer." And I surely in my young life had never been exposed to any sort of civil disobedience.

That was before April 29, 1992. On that day, I had been on an appointment

and, upon returning to the office, was told by the security guard that everyone was sent home due to a bomb threat. Having had some extra time, I wanted to do some work on the house that I would be moving into in less than 45 days. The answering machine was blinking, and there was a message from Bill saying, "Don't worry, I'm at the station, putting bad guys in jail." Then the phone rang, and my father told me not to come home to Placentia and to stay at the house. He then asked if I had a gun (not a strange question, as he taught his daughters how to shoot). At that moment, I finally turned on the TV and saw the property destruction, the looting and the violence. It seemed as though I was watching something from another country, and not actions that were so close to me in Mid-Wilshire. It occurred to me that I should check on Bill's mom since she was alone and lived only a few blocks away. Kathy was fine; she was always pragmatic and certainly did not display any worry. She had the news on. It seemed prudent that I should let her know her son was putting people in jail and not among the unruly mob. Kathy turned to me, pointing at the TV, and said, "No, he is not. There he is, right there." It was not hard to miss his long last name on the back of a riot helmet. There he was, right on the front line, facing off with the unruly mob. However, Kathy was not too concerned, so I also tried not to be, but I think I was a little numb from the shock of it.

Bill came home the next morning with what appeared to be the medical symbol for "female" (a circle with a cross centrally below it) drawn on



Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation Co-President Karla Ahmanson with husband, Reserve Officer Bill Ahmanson, and their two daughters.

his arm. While he was headed to the shower to get ready for his job at the bank, I asked, "Wait, don't you need to tell me what's going on, and, by the way, why are your arms all marked up?" In the ensuing days, I would learn a lot about what a reserve police officer in Los Angeles was and what life in a large urban city can be like. What I thought was the symbol for "female" was the symbol for the blood type, O-positive (a circle with an addition sign).

In the aftermath of the '92 riots, Kathy wanted to look at the resulting damage to our community. The three of us loaded into the car and took a drive. That is when it became real, and the reality of how dangerous it had actually been set in. Now, I had a choice. I knew that by loving Bill, I was going to become a police officer's wife. Was that something I was prepared to do? It had to be. I had to just love him and embrace all that was to come with this new life. Love is stronger than fear. In those early years, I used to lie awake in fear of my husband being hurt. As I gained more police officer-wife experience (and maybe a little more faith), those fears got easier to manage.

Who could have known that Bill's passion would become mine too? Working with the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation has allowed me to work closely with the Corps. It has led to firsthand knowledge of the training officers receive and a greater understanding of blue camaraderie. And I learned not to be afraid when Bill is on a shift. I trust in his training, I trust in his partner and I trust in him.

That was until May 30, 2020. Bill had taken a

break from the Reserve Corps for many years. He wanted to go back, and instead of just doing a reintegration course, he chose to go through the entire Academy again. Bill felt too much had changed since he had last been out protecting and serving, so he wanted to have the latest training. On May 30, his Level I Academy class was in session, which meant he had to wake up at 4 a.m. to be on time for class. Assistant Chief Robert Arcos had not given the order to call up the Reserve Corps. Instead, he gave the Corps the option of volunteering for duty. Straight from class, Bill reported to Olympic Station. The destruction at

the Farmers Market and the burning of police cars was just over a mile from our home, and the mob of protesters were heading north and east (towards us). The memories of 1992 came flooding back, and so did the old fear. But I had long ago learned to be Bill's biggest advocate and supporter. Bill worked a variety of assignments that night and through the early morning hours, finally coming home some 28 hours later.

I had learned a few things in the last 28 years, some already mentioned, and I learned a few more during those 28 hours on May 30. I had learned to push the worry aside, that officers are hyper-vigilant, even off duty. I had learned to share the excitement and discuss the difficulties.

I am married to a man who runs towards danger, someone who is committed to protecting his community and who puts others' lives before his own. He is someone with integrity, respect and courage. During those 28 hours last May, I learned that it is even more important that I be his support. An officer's spouse must give reassurance, have their back and be their strength. By encouraging and supporting Bill, it was as if I had also joined the Corps. That I, too, also wear his badge with honor.

I had learned what it's like to be the wife of a police officer. It is a responsibility, a burden, an honor and a blessing.

After all these years, I have never been prouder to be the wife of someone who makes a real difference. I have never been prouder to be the wife of a Los Angeles Reserve Police Officer.

SCENES FROM THE PROTESTS AND CIVIL UNREST









I BECAME A COP TO FIGHT INJUSTICE

By Reserve Officer Faisal Rashid

Editor's note: The following is reprinted, courtesy of the USC Trojan Family. Faisal Rashid is a project specialist in radiation oncology at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. The views expressed here are his own.

eople often ask me why I joined the Los Angeles Police Department as a reserve officer. Ultimately, it comes down to my passion to fight against injustice and oppression and to help those in need. When I recently watched the video of George Floyd being killed, I saw the exact opposite of those things I value most.

I am well-educated about health disparities among racial and ethnic groups and the systemic racial injustices in our society. I experienced my own share of discrimination and bullying as a Muslim growing up in the San Fernando Valley. I acknowledge the anguish and anger in communities of color, whose members have faced oppression for many centuries.

I also see many police officers who act with compassion, understanding and humility. I volunteer my time as a reserve officer to protect and serve the very community members who are protesting and demanding change. I know that they aren't protesting against me, but rather a broken system.

I've spent the past few months reflecting on my position, straddling two worlds that seem in extreme opposition, but in fact, have more in common than each side might realize. Here are some of my thoughts.

More Training for Police Officers, and a Shift in Culture Is Needed

I started the application process for the LAPD's reserve program in 2015 in part because I witnessed an increase in hate crimes and footage of police brutality across the nation. Since then, I've seen good police officers who do speak out and stand up for what is right, but at times, they are ignored, marginalized or even retaliated against.

Although some metropolitan police departments that are as large and diverse as the LAPD

have wholeheartedly committed to resolving these problems and working toward a culture of openness and transparency, smaller agencies with fewer resources may need more support.

I've also seen that due to the culture of law enforcement, officers don't like to police one another. Too often, a clan mentality outweighs the desire to grow intelligently from feedback and hold colleagues to a high standard of conduct. We need to change that culture.

Police officers, I would argue, need more exhaustive training in human relations, counseling, cultural awareness and mental health — for their own well-being just as much as to help them serve the community. I find that some officers don't always agree with this. They want to stick to exclusively making arrests and stopping crime. But that work can be done differently, such as bringing many more resources to disadvantaged communities.

I don't entirely agree with demands to "defund" the police. But if departments won't take a proactive stance on helping disadvantaged communities, then funding should be appropriately redirected to programs that do invest in these areas of need.

Compassion and Shared Understanding Can Bring People Together

I joined the Department with a desire to lead with compassion and serve my community, contrary to what I was seeing in those videos of police brutality and misconduct. Since the first day of the Los Angeles Police Academy, I have experienced nothing other than compassion-based leadership from our instructors. We need to understand why that training isn't carrying over into the field for some officers around the country.

When That Training Does Work, the Results Speak for Themselves

Recently, I was on duty at L.A. City Hall with several hundred protesters present. Everything was relatively calm until a few people suddenly began threatening to break down the doors and storm the building. But then, many amazing

members of the community, the same members who were protesting, stepped forward to stop that from happening.

We need to recognize and celebrate those kinds of moments when we can find common ground and appreciate each other for our shared humanity.

I also witnessed excellent leadership from my fellow officers, who maintained the peace without escalating tensions. Our sergeants reinforced that behavior by taking the time to talk with all of us, to point out how our peaceful and compassionate interaction with the community had a significant and positive impact and that we are here to serve them.

We need to recognize and celebrate those kinds of moments when we can find common ground and appreciate each other for our shared humanity. The more we make a proactive effort to understand each other, the more we will treat each other with respect and compassion.

We Can Build a Better Community Through Collaboration and Action

To further that goal, I encourage anyone even mildly curious about law enforcement to get directly involved — become a reserve officer or participate as a volunteer. And I encourage my fellow officers to spend time in the communities they serve. Get to know the residents. Be open to criticism. Learn and grow.

As I reflect on these issues, I am reminded of the words of the great abolitionist and statesman Frederick Douglass: "If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters."

We must all be willing to struggle to make this world a better place for all people. I am confident that if all members of the community, regardless of creed, come together to proactively combat systemic racial inequalities, we will not only prosper as a thriving community but also become a model for the nation to follow.

BALBOA MAGNET SCHOOL DRIVE-THRU GRADUATION









Reserve Officers Dave Bush and Gary Hall covered a "drive-thru" graduation at Balboa Magnet School, located in Devonshire Area.

RESERVE OFFICER DONATES 13,000 MEALS

A lfonso Cisneros retired full-time in October 2018 after 28 years of service. After retiring, he became a reserve officer at Central Area, now Transit Bureau.

In April 2020, he planned to open his restaurant, Garcia's South of the Border Cantina and Grill in downtown Fullerton. He writes: "Due

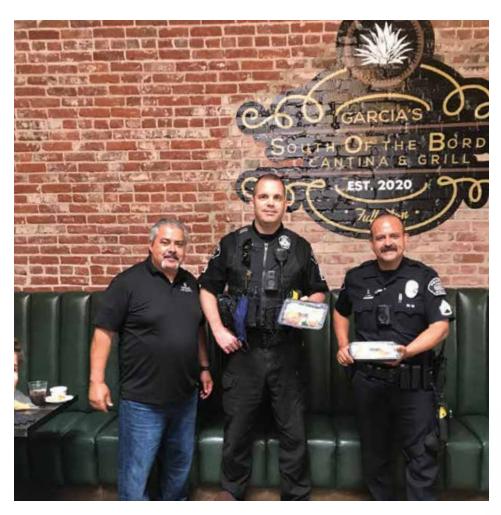
RETIREMENTS



Reserve Officer Todd Moore's (West Traffic Reserve Motors) End of Watch broadcast, retiring after 23 years.



Reserve Officer Cheryl Gifis announced her retirement in November, after 30 years of service. In 2020, she was named Reserve Officer of the Year for Valley Traffic.







to the [COVID-19] pandemic, we were unable to open. We decided to give back to the community. We decided to provide meals to our local first responders. We provided more than 13,000 meals to police, fire, medical providers and hospital staff. We also fed more than 2,000 of our community families. We were finally able to open on May 1 for takeout orders only. We felt blessed to be able to do this."

The reviews have been coming in: "I tried this restaurant after my friend posted about it on her Facebook. I've been trying to help family-owned businesses during the pandemic. This experience was a 10 [out of] 10! I had to take the order to-go, and it was fast and easy. Friendly staff and very nice interior design. The food was great. I recommend the shrimp enchiladas. I'll be back when the bar is re-opened for sure!" Another review: "Asada seems to be marinated in lime! So bomb! Wet burrito was half green and red and it hit the spot! Nachos had all the fixings! I can't wait for COVID to be done and bring my fam there!" (Yelp reviews)

Reserve Officer Cisneros tells *The Rotator*: "I am very proud to say that I am still a member of the LAPD family."

Editor's Note: Garcia's South of the Border Cantina and Grill is located at 136 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832. You can reach them at (714) 519-3906

FIREARMS QUALIFICATION

ualification was still on hold as *The Rotator* newsletter went to press. Check Department notices for any updates. If you are on Facebook, we recommend joining the LAPD In-Service Training group. Range information: Elysian Park Academy (213) 485-3139, Davis Training Facility (818) 832-3718, Harbor Pistol Range (310) 548-7636.

SUPPLY RUN



Reserve Officers Bernard Khalili and Eric Ortiz helped to arrange an emergency run for field supplies that were running low during the height of the civil unrest. "Normally, the soonest we would have gotten supplies is five days from now." The run acquired the needed supply in six hours.

LEVEL I CLASS 1-20R







At the finish line in June. There were 19 graduates, so it was only appropriate to use the following motto for our class: Courage, Optimism, Valor, Integrity, Discipline (COVID-19).

RESERVE COLD CASE HOMICIDE UNIT ESTABLISHED

eserve Police Officer Greig Smith updated The Rotator on the status of the newly formed unit.

Greig Smith became the first reserve police officer to work in the elite Robbery-Homicide Unit (RHD). After screening cold case homicides for a few years, the lieutenant suggested he go to LAPD's Detective School and be certified. Then, RHD would let him work full detective duties with his own cases. In 2016, Greig solved a 16-year-old case and was IO in court, getting a conviction.1

In 2018, RHD was downsized, and the captain eliminated the Cold Case Unit.

In mid-2019, then-Commander Kris Pitcher became the Chief of Detectives. Officer Smith went to see him about an idea he had to utilize reserve officers in concert with retired detectives who were now reserves and create an all-reserve Cold Case Homicide Unit. He loved the idea and asked Smith to put together an action plan. In August 2019, Deputy Chief Pitcher approved

the project and said he wanted the unit fully operational by April 1, 2020. With the support of Captain Aaron Ponce and his staff, an offering was sent to reserve officers Department-wide: an opening for six positions to reserves, and six positions to retired full-time now reserves.

Over 30 officers applied for the 12 slots. All applicants had to file an official request to transfer, team history and go through a full interview by two RHD detectives and one lieutenant.

The following officers (at press time) have been selected and broken into detective teams: Jose Espinoza, John McCarthy, Ismael Moreno, Craig Pfefferman, Kevin Pulsipher and Adam Ripp will join retired LAPD's Tim Marcia, Luis Rivera, Charles Knolls, Jose Espinoza. Jeri Weinstein and Smith. The new unit assigned Detective III Mitzi Roberts as the OIC, and with the support of new

RHD Captain Jonathan Tippet, Reserve Officers Steve Fazio and Kashy Dowlatsahi were added.

In August, all officers attended a specially created Cold Case Homicide Detective School. Officers were broken into partner teams with retired detectives as the senior lead detective of each team.

On Tuesday, September 9, the unit became fully operational, marking a rare moment in LAPD history in which a unit is comprised entirely of reserve officers, just as was done with the Reserve Motors Unit in the early 2000s, and more recently, the Reserve Dignitary Protection Unit. Separately, at press time, the LAPRF was making arrangements to fund a Basic Detective Course for reserve officers, an opportunity to gain knowledge and training regarding the processes related to detective investigations. The class was being scheduled for early December.

TRUE BLUE





Approximately 10 LAPD reserve officers worked the "True Blue" event at the Davis Training Facility on October 25. Pictured are Reserve Officers Mark Payette and Albert Austria.

See article in The Rotator (Winter 2017), cover story: laprf.org/in-the-news-bringing-closure-to-families-cold-caseunit-reserve-edition

FIND THE RESERVE CORPS AND LAPRF ON SOCIAL MEDIA



LAPRF on Twitter

www.twitter.com/laprf_org

On Twitter, the LAPRF engages with local leaders and the community, discussing news and current events that may be of interest to reserve law enforcement officers. The LAPRF thanks Reserve Officer Eric Rose for managing this account. Officer Rose is a crisis communication expert and partner at Englander, Knabe & Allen.



LAPD Reserve Officers Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/ LAPDReservePoliceOfficers

There is now a private/closed Facebook group for active, former and retired LAPD reserve officers. It is an independent forum for reserve officers to communicate and share information. When first joining, you will be prompted to indicate your reserve status (active, former or retired) and provide your serial number. This is done so that your eligibility to join the group can be confirmed.



LAPD Reserve on Instagram

www.instagram.com/lapdreserve

On Instagram, the LAPD Reserve account reaches out to potential reserve officer candidates as part of LAPRF's reserve recruitment initiative. As you may know, Instagram is all about pictures, so if you have any cool photos (high resolution), let us know.

You can also find out more about the LAPRF at *laprf.org*. ©

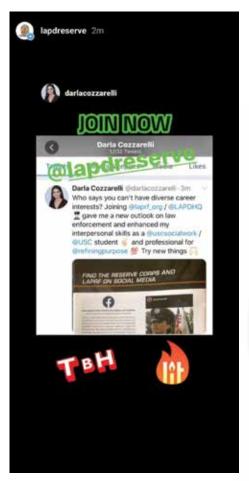


Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation on Facebook

www.facebook.com/ LosAngelesPoliceReserveFoundation

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation (LAPRF) first posted on Facebook in 2011 as part of an initiative to raise awareness and tell the story of the LAPD Reserve Corps and to recruit potential candidates. Today, the Facebook page continues to engage with the community. Photo albums provide an archive of pictures from annual galas, Academy classes, in-service training days and special events like the Sunshine Kids and Special Olympics.





RECRUITMENT BOOTH AT COMMUNITY RALLY









Chief of Police Michel Moore spoke at the Defend the LAPD rally and said if you "believe in the cause of what we go out to do every day, we're hiring." The LAPD Reserve Recruitment booth was at the event on October 17, which took place near Elysian Park. It was a fun, positive day! Candidates can begin the process by going to lapdreserve.com.

GALA GOES ONLINE DURING PANDEMIC

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars (Retired)

reserve officer dinner has been held annually since the 1980s, shortly after the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation was established in 1984. Among the first locations was the Sportsman Lodge in the Valley, a place dating back to the 1880s that was once a hangout of Hollywood stars during the 1930s and '40s. It, like so many other places, has been closed during the pandemic.

For the first time, the annual dinner — now the combined Twice A Citizen/Reserve Officer of the Year gala — was not held; it was first postponed, then postponed indefinitely for 2020 because of the pandemic. But there were still officers to be honored, and the gala is an important fundraising event. A "virtual gala" was held online on August 29 via Zoom and also streamed on Facebook Live.² The running time was about 40 minutes.

The Department Reserve Officer of the Year was Timothy Widmann (Central), who also received the honor for Central Bureau. The other Bureau honorees were Reserve Officers Dr. Paul Strauss (Southwest) for South Bureau, Jacquelyn Frazier (West Traffic) for Transit Services Bureau, Ronnie Hadar (Topanga) for Valley Bureau, Greig Smith for Specialized Divisions (Robbery-Homicide) and Chaplain Specialist Sholom Langsam (Wilshire) for West Bureau. Biographies of the bureau winners start on page 28, and a complete list of Area/Divisional honorees is on page 31.

The event was hosted by Amy Aquino (Amazon's *Bosch*), who hosted the gala at the Skirball Cultural Center last year, and Tim Conway Jr. For the festivities, Tim was "riding along with" *Adam 12's* Pete Malloy and Jim Reed as the "third officer" in the shop, courtesy of a background photograph. Later on, he quipped he'd only been in a patrol car "three times," twice in the back seat.

LAPRF Presidents Karla Ahmanson and Michael Sellars spoke. In her welcoming comments, President Ahmanson said: "It is a



Reserve Officer Timothy Widmann receiving the Department Reserve Officer of the Year award from Chief of Police Michel Moore, with Tim's wife Victoria and his likeness, used as part of reserve recruitment campaigns.

pleasure to address you all at the Twice a Citizen's first-ever — and hopefully last — virtual tribute. This is the evening when we honor our own. Reserve officers who have distinguished themselves in their divisions; representatives of the best in community-based law enforcement. Traditionally, it is also an evening when reserve officers get together and strengthen the bonds many have had for years, kind of like a class reunion. I pray we will be together face-to-face next year." President Sellars said: "It's unfortunate we couldn't hold our annual gala this year. Having retired, I was looking forward to seeing a lot of good friends. And, if there was ever a year, if there was ever a time, to recognize and to honor the LAPD reserve, it's a year like this, it's times like these. And that's what tonight is all about."

While Chief Michel Moore was unable to present the awards personally to the officers, he recorded a short message to the Corps. He said, in part: "This is such a strange year, such an out of the ordinary one, that has us out of our element in so many ways ... Thank you and God bless you for the work that you are doing. God knows it's important and needed, never more than today ... As Chief of Police, I'm proud of you."

A new video on the history of the Corps was played,³ describing the origins of the program and the Corps becoming an official part of the LAPD. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, 1,600 men and women in Los Angeles lined up outside of City Hall to volunteer as auxiliary police, firefighters and air raid wardens. This jumpstarted a reserve program, which was officially established in 1943, and the Corps became a part of the LAPD in 1947. The video described the challenges the Reserve Corps faced in the 1950s and the revamping of the program in the 1960s into the gold standard of law

A dinner and Twice a Citizen were at one time separate events. While the dinner has never been skipped, LAPRF Former President Mel Kennedy recalls that TAC was skipped after 9/11 in 2001.

² A recording of the event can be seen on the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation Facebook page, under Videos.

³ The video can be seen at approx. the 13:15-minute mark on the Facebook Live replay referenced earlier.



enforcement that we know today.⁴ The video also featured the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation, which was founded in 1984.

In the video, Chief Moore said, "The existence of the reserves over so many decades has demonstrated that this is a department that welcomes and embraces that community engagement, that community involvement, and that we really are, in this shared responsibility of public safety, an all-hands event."

Assistant Chief Robert Arcos joined from his office, thanking the "amazing men and women of our Reserve Corps" and their families. "This pandemic, these protests that are going on, it would be an easy out for our reserves to say, 'Not for me, I'm not coming in ...' Instead, you all answered the bell, you stepped up, you're at the gates, you're at the desk, you're out in the field, and you're a great service to the City. We owe you so much ... I know we can do so much better for you, and my promise and my commitment on behalf of myself and Chief Moore is to continue to work hard for you as you work hard for us."

Commander Gerald Woodyard, who recently headed up the Department's Community Engagement Group, said: "Individuals are measured by their actions during times of strife and trouble. When I think of the reserves, the first words that come to my mind are family. Not only are you a part of the family in times of comfort, but recently, you stepped up tremendously during this pandemic and during the civil unrest. Thanks for standing on the line with me. Thanks for connecting with the community with me, thanks for thinking of others, as we think of your family. Your exemplary work during 2020 has not gone unnoticed and will not be forgotten. Thanks, family."

A few special, surprise guests recorded their thanks to LAPD reserve officers: Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey, Councilmember and Reserve Officer Joe Buscaino, *Bosch*'s Titus Welliver, actor and director Joe Mantegna, Erik Estrada and *Dirty Jobs*' Mike Rowe.⁵

On October 15, the Department Reserve Officer of the Year and Bureau honorees were thanked in-person by Chief Moore, in a small ceremony at Police Headquarters Facility (PHF), with COVID-19 limitations in place.

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation would like to thank all of the donors and supporters, including the Ahmanson Foundation, Gary and Linda Goldfein, Tom and Judy Flesh, Steve and Alice Yslas, MUFG Union Bank, Mark Hutchins and KPMG, Ambassador Frank and Kathy Baxter, Steve Soboroff, Patricia Glaser/ Glaser Weil, Patricia and Ken McKenna, Bernard Khalili, Evan Meyer and Taylor Van, L.A. Police Command Officers Association, The Parker Foundation, Ginny and David Sydorick, Gill and John Wagner, Peter and Merle Mullin, Ashley and David Frandzel/Midwest Wholesale Light-

ing Corporation, Los Angeles Police Academy Magnet Sc., Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Bruce Meyer, Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union, 911MEDIA, Warren Dern, Beckman Vineyards, Edward Ines, Tom Blumenthal/Gearys of Beverly Hills, Longo Toyota — Longo Lexus, James and Marla Ryan, Steve Fazio, Michael and Deitta Rosson, Jim Sarni and Payden and Rygel Investment Management, Alex Calfo/King & Spalding Law Group, Michele and Patrick Thibiant, Scott and Michelle McMullin, Tina Marie and Dennis Ito, Peter Hyan and Merrill Lynch Investments, and many more.

Next year, the gala is scheduled for April 24, 2021, at the Skirball Cultural Center.

MISSION AREA



Reserve Officer Matthew Judy and his full-time partner on October 18, after a 12-hour shift at Mission Area that included 27 traffic stops, 22 citations (and a few warnings) and some time for community engagement.

⁴ Also see the article, "LAPD Reserve Corps: 70+ Years of Protecting and Serving," in *The Rotator* Winter 2019, https://laprf.org/blog/the-rotator/.

⁵ The guests can be seen on the video at the 22:00 and 30:00 time marks.

LAPD RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2019

CENTRAL BUREAU/ DEPARTMENT RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

TIMOTHY WIDMANN

(CENTRAL AREA, LEVEL I)



"A USC grad, Timothy has worked both patrol and foot beat assignments, as well as provided compassionate services to the homeless. Officer Widmann also received the Department honor."





TRANSIT SERVICES
BUREAU RESERVE
OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

JACQUELYN FRAZIER

(TSB, LEVEL I)



"Jacquelyn has been a reserve for 18 years. She teaches the Drug Recognition Expert program, works the DUI task force and is a dedicated, committed and valuable resource."







SOUTH BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

DR. PAUL STRAUSS

(SOUTHWEST AREA, LEVEL I)



"An anesthesiologist, Paul joined the reserves in 2017, bringing his medical expertise to the streets. He recently presented the 'Stop the Bleed' training, designed to teach bleeding control techniques. He has also worked Vice and Narcotics."





WEST BUREAU SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR: **CHAPLAIN SHOLOM LANGSAM**

(WILSHIRE AREA, SPECIALIST)



"An outstanding example of 'Twice a Citizen.' Sholom works a full-time job plus assists the Wilshire Area, where he can be counted on at all hours for roll-call, call-outs and special events."





continued on pg 30

LAPD RESERVE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2019 - CONTINUED FROM PG 29

VALLEY BUREAU RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

RONNIE HADAR

(TOPANGA AREA, LEVEL II)



"For 26 years, Ronnie has supported Air Support, Counter-Terrorism and Detectives — working patrol and special details, and has received countless commendations for his dependable contributions to crime reduction."





SPECIALIZED DIVISIONS
RESERVE OFFICER
OF THE YEAR:

GREIG SMITH

(ROBBERY-HOMICIDE, LEVEL I)



"While also serving as a member of the L.A. City Council, for 28 years, Greig has investigated and solved many cold case homicides, and recently developed a Cold Case Unit of reserves and retired detectives to continue to give closure to victims."





TWICE A CITIZEN HONOREES

Department Officer of the Year

Timothy Widmann

Bureau Reserve Officers of the Year

Timothy Widmann - Central Bureau
Dr. Paul Strauss - South Bureau
Greig Smith - Specialized Divisions
Jacquelyn Frazier - Transit Services Bureau
Ronnie Hadar - Valley Bureau
Chaplain Sholom Langsam (Specialist) - West Bureau

Area and Divisional Reserve Officers of the Year

RPO-I Mark Green – 77th Station
RPO-I Timothy Widmann – Central Area
RPO-I Bert Szathmary – Central Traffic Area
RPO-III Gary Krystof – Devonshire Area
RPO-I Carmen Silicato – Foothill Area
RPO-I Marco Jimenez – Harbor Area
RPO-I Ricard Carey – Hollenbeck Area
RPO-III Georgia Jones – Hollywood Area
RPO-II Shane Heitzman – MCD Area
RPO-I Roger Andrews – Mission Area
RPO-I Ellis Imaizumi – Newton Area
RPO-I William Hirt – North Hollywood Area
RPO-III Sarah Novak – Northeast Area
RPO-III Benedict Pak – Olympic Area

RPO-III Mike Moran — Pacific Area
RPO-I Raul Gomez — Rampart Area
RPO-I Greig Smith — RHD Area
No nominee — South Traffic Area
No nominee — Southeast Area
RPO-I Dr. Paul Strauss — Southwest Area
RPO-III Ronnie Hadar — Topanga Area
RPO-III Cheryl Gifis — Valley Area
RPO-I Crystal Burke-Potts — Van Nuys Area
RPO-I Thomas Hutchinson — West L.A. Area
RPO-I Jacquelyn Frazier — West Traffic Area
RPO-I Jeff Engen — West Valley Area
Chaplain Sholom Langsam — Wilshire Area



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Look What You Can Do on the Weekend

Start the process of becoming a Los Angeles Police Department Reserve Officer by attending an orientation at the City of Los Angeles Personnel Department.

For more information, visit www.LAPDreserve.com or call a recruiter at (323) 486-6000 or email lapdreserves@lapd.online.

