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OF THE CITY
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LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

A PROFESSIONAL POLICE UNION

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April 30, 2008

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Commissioner John Mack
Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman
Los Angeles Police Commission
Room 150, Parker Center
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Commissioners Mack and Saltzman:

It was shocking and deeply disappointing to hear your public statements upon learning that no LAPD officers had been found guilty of racial profiling.

Those wholly inappropriate remarks have revealed a mindset that you both apparently hold: you believe that a certain percentage of LAPD officers are racists and that they misuse their police authority in furtherance of that racism. That is the only conclusion that can be drawn when a Commissioner, with knowledge of the LAPD complaint process, publicly voices a belief that not enough complaints of racial profiling have been sustained.

Fortunately for LAPD officers, it takes a preponderance of proof to sustain a complaint. While a robust complaint process is important in ensuring that officers who commit wrongdoing are discovered, every American knows that an accusation **does not** equal guilt. We would expect a Commissioner, who previously headed a Civil Rights organization, and a Commissioner, whose full-time job is the Dean of a law school, to understand and embrace that simple due process concept.

Frankly, it is circular logic to think that just because there are complaints against LAPD officers that some of them must be found guilty of wrongdoing. In the case of the number of racial profiling complaints, thorough investigations uncovered that they had **no** merit.

COMMISSIONER JOHN MACK
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. SALTZMAN
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As Police Commissioners, you have an ethical responsibility not to manufacture circumstances that serve personal views. Your ill-considered public comments sent the wrong message to LAPD officers and the public – that the complaint system requires a certain number of complaints of every type to be sustained, even if there is no evidence to justify the complaint.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further discussion of this issue.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Los Angeles Police Protective League


TIMOTHY SANDS
President

TS:lab

cc: Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
William Bratton, Chief of Police, Los Angeles Police Department
Members of the Board of Los Angeles Police Commission