

providing support during all of this year's fires and even more extensively last year, when our contract was first executed. Physical attacks on your LAPD officers are up 12% this year.

To Mr. Bonin and his colleagues, respectfully, we are the front line.

We have no interest in meeting over what has already been agreed upon as we believe it will divert our focus and attention away from addressing the violent and deadly crime increases plaguing many of our most vulnerable neighborhoods. These increases include a:

- 25% increase in homicides
- 22.6% increase in gang homicides
- 30.5% increase in shooting victims

As for the additional request to meet "regarding the City's current economic situation," we believe there is ample publicly available information that confirms there is a budget deficit. We also know that the LAPD budget was recently slashed by \$150 million dollars and that a significant amount of that money is being utilized to prevent cuts to the City's civilian workforce. So for those keeping score at home, police officers are being cut, safety of neighborhoods plunged into further peril and the victimization of our residents increased so that other city employees don't suffer in the least bit. Furthermore, it is unclear as to how the balance of the \$150 million is being utilized by the City. We know the money is gone from the LAPD budget, but where did it go?

Unfortunately, the \$150 million cut will result in at least 385 fewer police officers on an ongoing basis and result in the LAPD having up to 700 fewer "street ready" police officers over the next 18 months. This cut is having a catastrophic impact on our ability to patrol our streets and investigate crimes, specifically in our sexual assault unit, robbery and homicide, and other critical units. In short, we have given \$150 million to close the deficit at great cost to our members and the community. This begs the question, what about everyone else?

As you are aware, on June 4 when Mayor Eric Garcetti and Police Commission President Eileen Decker announced the draconian \$150 million cut from the LAPD budget, it was done with great fanfare but with little forethought. It was a political stunt with significant negative impacts. The Mayor and his political appointee did not conduct any analysis as to the dire impacts this budget cut would have on the safety of the residents of Los Angeles. They picked a number out of thin air and the LAPPL was given zero forewarning, was not consulted, and did not participate in the formulation of this scheme.

The League has provided the administration, Mayor and Council with options to address the budget deficit that would not result in cuts to police services. Unfortunately, these options were ignored, including:

- Utilization of the over \$700 million in CARES Act funding received by the City from the federal government to pay for salaries and benefits of all police officers from March of 2020 to December 31, 2020. See our previous correspondence on this matter that

confirms all police officers and fire fighters are presumed to be COVID-related expenditures fully eligible to be paid for by CARES Act money.

In closing, increasing the paltry savings secured from the civilian workforce as well as reducing the increase to the Fire Department budget are other areas ripe for the City to seek cuts from to add to the \$150 million taken from the LAPD budget. We wish you luck.

Sincerely,



Craig Lally,
President

LALLY

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political support of our elected leaders, which you deserved.

At the time of this writing, shootings are up, killings are up, and there is no end in sight. The day before I wrote this article, an expectant mother was shot and

killed while sitting in a car with her boyfriend. The baby died too. That same day, a young tow-truck driver was shot and killed while trying to do his job. Hours before that, two young women were shot and killed at a warehouse party. When is enough, enough?

So while billions of dollars are spent on the homeless issue while only seeing the

problem grow worse, while millions of the LAPD budget is being used to supplement the paychecks of other employees and nonprofits to be named later, and while no one cares to fully engage in a practical plan to improve public safety, we will keep doing our jobs as police officers, and your union will keep fighting for you. We didn't create this budget mess. We

didn't create the catastrophe that made it worse. So, don't expect us to clean up the politicians' mess. To use words our "defunding" Councilmembers will understand, that's not the job of "armed police officers."

As always, please feel free to contact me at CraigLally@lappl.org or call me at (213) 251-4554. ❖

To: The Membership of the Los Angeles Police Protective League

These last few months have been a trial worldwide with the staggering succession of tragic events that have rocked the world since March. The soul-crushing effects of these catastrophes have been felt to some degree by every person on the globe. We in law enforcement, however, have uniquely been delivered the blow of demonization on top of the pandemic, the economy, the fires, social isolation, and so on. We have been asked to continue to hold back the chaos and then are fed to the wolves by the very people who did the asking. It is frustrating, disheartening and morale killing. The Board and membership of the Los Angeles Police Command Officers Association acknowledges that some of your frustrations have been directed upon us and that is valid and understandable. We want you and your families to know:

WE HEAR YOU

We hear the frustration and the pain of betrayal that has run rampant through our proud organization.

WE SEE YOU

When the looting and violence hit our streets, we know that ALL of the LAPD answered the call and we know that the work of LAPD is getting done.

WE VALUE YOU

We know that all the things we as command officers "need" are provided by the work that YOU do.

WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE

While the world demands change for American Policing, we know that you have already delivered and continue to deliver every day. It's not just the changes in the Department but the people who make up the Department who are that change.

WE FEEL IT TOO

We, the members of your command staff, feel it too. We hurt too. We feel the betrayal of people who have taken credit for our collective success. We feel the anger at the deceptive misinformation and the propagation of ignorance by anti-police organizations and anarchists. We feel the fear for ourselves and our families against attacks, both psychological and physical. This situation of anti-police sentiment within a global pandemic is new to us as well.

But please know this ... We need you and We stand with you. We were all hired to be the guardian angels of this City because of the quality of people we are. That quality is the source of our resilience, our innovative spirit, our integrity and our motivation.

We will face the future as one. Thank you for all you do.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.

