

MOTION PICTURE OFFICER ASSOCIATION

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August 9, 2008

To All MPOA members
From Hal DeJong

LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell has been in City Council offices shaking hands, finding ways to help with general constituent problems, and promoting his plan for Contract Services Section. He has all but won over the Council members and their staff members at this point. He and Duran have been selling the Council members on what an awful disciplinary problem the retired officers are, with Duran using the things he has been doing to us as evidence to back up those claims. The Council is getting the same impression of the retired officers that the Chief of Police got from Futrell and Rives.

We have to get **OUR** message to the Council members. They need to know that we are not out of control as LAPD is painting us. We need to, and our friends in the industry need to, let them know the following points:

- The film industry values the services of the retired officers. Their experience makes it safe for them to do running shots, stunts on the streets, and significantly contributes to the effectiveness of their production efforts within the City. Many of these activities are specifically planned in Los Angeles because they do not get anywhere near the level of support from off-duty active officers in other jurisdictions. It is not the fault of those officers. They simply lack the experience and know-how that the retired LAPD officers have developed over the years. This industry has a \$ 52 Billion per year impact on the economy of the region. Other areas of the country are actively seeking to lure production to their cities and states, building elaborate sound stages and offering incentives to move production there. Yet much of it remains here, in part due to the support they receive from the experienced retired officers who facilitate their production requirements. The LAPD proposal will take away this experience, and substitute the same type of "crime fighter" officers that they get in other jurisdictions, who have little or no concept of how to safely set up for a movie closure .
- The LAPD has embarked on a campaign to portray the retired officers as unfit to serve in the uniform of the Los Angeles Police Department. They have assigned a Sergeant to harass the retired officers with petty complaints, documenting numerous alleged infractions of the rules so that they may use those in their case to eliminate the retired officers. The truth is that the vast majority of the retired officers are dedicated, experienced, seasoned officers who truly work to facilitate the delicate balance between the rights and safety of the public and the needs of the film companies.
 - These retired officers have from 20 to 30 years of experience handling police situations before they retired. They also have years of experience working film locations. Those are different skill sets. The retired officers know from experience where the film sensitive areas are and why they are sensitive. They take steps to mitigate the impact on the location in those situations. A large cadre of active officers rotating through off-duty movie jobs would prevent those officers from acquiring the skill level of the retired officers for a very long time.
 - These retired officers have earned the respect of the production industry, which has given them de facto authority over enforcement of the film permit provisions, even in the absence of formal statutory authority.
- The retired officers are able to respond to the highly dynamic schedules of the film industry without impacting the cost or level of police service in the City.
 - The current system under which coordinators facilitate the assignment of retired officers to movie jobs provides the necessary level of flexibility to change call times, add or delete officers, even at the last minute. The LAPD proposal would require 4 days notice. The current system often changes call times at wrap the day before.

- While police patrol work is demanding and requires an officer to maintain a state of readiness to enter into a gunfight at any moment in his shift, location film work does not require such a high state of readiness. Retired officers are able to work the long hours of production schedules. Active officers would have to limit their movie job hours to avoid conflict with their scheduled LAPD shifts, court appearances, and other obligations.
- Because the retired officers are not employed by the City, any lawsuits arising out of their actions would be against the retired officer and/or the studios they are working for. The actions of active officers working on City payroll would subject the City to legal liability for their actions. While the track record of citizen lawsuits against retired officers for their actions is nearly nonexistent, that is not the case for the actions of active LAPD officers.
- Because retired officers are not City employees, their injuries are not treated at City expense and the City does not lose the services of an officer while the retired officer recovers from his injuries. An active officer injured on a movie job must be paid his regular salary while he recovers, even though he is unable to work his regular shifts during that time.

The City Council needs to hear the true impact of allowing LAPD to take away the retired officers and substitute active duty officers. The time is now to use any and all contacts you have. If you have access to a City Council member, go in and tell them. If you have friends in the industry who have access to City Council members or the Mayor, encourage them to go in, or at least call in, and promote retaining the retired officers. If you have contacts in the media, present the case to them. Media disclosure of the potential for increased costs to the City for this plan could result in a public backlash against LAPD taking these over.

We also need to start preparing a legal challenge to the LAPD taking this over and excluding us. Don Winslow and several other non-LAPD officers successfully challenged LAPD from excluding them from employment in a court decision. We need to pursue a similar course. We have an attorney willing to do that for us. But we need to invest in that strategy so it is available to us. I am asking each and every retired officer who wants to continue working these movie jobs for at least another year (\$10,000 to \$100,000 depending on how much you work), to invest no less than \$250 this week to retain the attorney for this effort. The LAPD take-over seems to be very much closer than we thought. Lieutenant Ray Garvin has been given the direction to assemble his team within the next two months in preparation for their implementation of contract services. We now believe that the October general meeting of retired officers working movie jobs that Duran has told us he has planned will be the announcement that retired officers will no longer be allowed to work movie jobs in the uniform of the Los Angeles Police Department. We have a very short window of opportunity to try to counter this. Step up now with at least \$250 or prepare to stand-down permanently from movie jobs. Write a check to MPOA Legal Defense fund and mail it to Bill Page.

For those of you who may not have received the email today from Gene Peterson after he met with Commander Cansler, I am copying it below.

Information since the BBQ has changed!

I (Gene Peterson) had a meeting with Cmdr Cansler, Personnel Division yesterday (8-6-08). The object was to determine if several rumors about LAPD speeding up the process of implementing "contract services" was true. The Cmdr advised me that 6 months ago Deputy Chief Jim McDonnell went back to the City Council and convinced them to again include the officers working movie jobs back into the "contract services" program (NOTE: they have already had 6 months to get their plan in place!). I asked the Cmdr what the retired officers status would be, and he stated, that once "contract services" is put into place **NO RETIRED OFFICERS** would be working in the LAPD uniform, **NONE!** When I inquired what the timetable to put "contract services" into place, he stated, PRD is still working on how to make the necessary adjustments; but that he doesn't know as they have not told him their progress. (Right) I

asked about the City Council's request to meet and confer with the retired officers prior to starting "contract services". He stated that nothing is completed and there may still be changes made.

Sorry guys but the inside contacts information that the implementation of "contract services" has been accelerated and a comment from Duran that in September he has "something special" to tell us makes me believe unless you get another job-career planned and set up soon, you may just be RETIRED on that income.

The fight is going to take money! If we are successful in obtaining a restraining order, it may give us another year, that investment hopefully **up to \$1,000 per member**, could mean another \$60-100,000 in your pocket for that years work. If you don't invest, and we can't afford the legal fees, does 2-4 months sound good to you? It's here guys, if we stick together and **ALL work** together we have a chance.

I think we all need to become pro active. I've started to contact the city council, all the productions I work for, and any news source that will listen. If everyone calls the news, the council, the police commission, the mayor, the governor, civic groups and let them know that the departments' actions are going to cost revenue for the city. City and other jobs are going to be lost, after all, why shoot in the city of LA since there are no advantages to it, just road blocks. **Talk to people**, anyone and everyone, let them know what LAPD is trying to do, how it will affect their pocket books and the impact on police resources being used to support filming instead of crime prevention.

One of the companies I used to work for was ELS. Duran determined although they had permits from the city for crowd and traffic control and had film, video and still photographers cover the events they were not an allowed job. His rational the LAMC section that allows us to work film jobs is titled "work at commercial film locations", that's the title. His determination was that they are not creating a product they are just a "news even", thus not an authorized job. However if they actually purchased a "film permit" from Film LA then it would be an admissible job, even though that was the only thing that changed. Duran went to the ELS production offices and told the owner that they could no longer use retired officers to work the events. NOW the bad part! ELS had an event planned on Hollywood Bl yesterday and needed 4-5 officers to assist for a street and sidewalk closure. They called Hollywood division since the event was being held there and requested off duty active officers to work the event, there were none available. They called Duran, he gave them the name of the officer handling the Hollywood bowl and they tried that and never received a return phone call. Another call to Duran and he told them he doesn't provide officers that it was their responsibility. No officers arrived; they closed Hollywood Bl and the sidewalk and had the event. Eric Garcetti (President of the city council) was the main dignitary, a representative from Swartzenegger's office, and several other city officials attended, they were all disturbed by the lack of police presence. They have been contacted for comments.

ELS put on an event at the "Rock Walk" Guitar Store on Sunset for the Motley Crew. Again Duran was contacted in an attempt to obtain officers to work the event since they had been told not to use retired officers. After 8 calls to Duran and Hollywood division for assistance to manage the crowd, Hollywood finally had to send 5 ACTIVE, ON DUTY officers to control the situation, thus taking them out of the field for over 2 hours. Yes, the system works.

Help, the Legal Defense Fund needs to be funded; don't just talk about the problem DO something. This is not just for me, because I still really want to keep working; this is for every one of us that are not ready to retire. HELP!

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