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VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 3

September/October 2011

9/11: A DECADE LATER WE WILL NEVER FORGET




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We've hidden five personnel numbers within this issue of Vegas Beat. If your number is among them and you call (702) 384-8692 to let us know that you found it, you'll win \$50. If you didn't find your number this time, try again in the next issue where we'll hide five more!

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The Las Vegas Police Protective Association is affiliated with the following organizations at the state and national level:

NAPO – National Association of Police Organizations, representing nearly 220,000 police officer members in 4,000 police associations nationwide.

"BIG 50" – An informal association of the 50 largest law enforcement associations in the United States.

SNCOPS – Southern Nevada Conference of Police and Sheriffs



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Executive Director's Message

DETECTIVE CHRIS COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our Salaries, Pensions and Benefits Are Under Attack Across America

I attended the annual National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) conference in Dallas, Texas, this past July. It is probably no surprise to you that the number one topic of conversation was the public's attack on the salaries, pensions and benefits of government employees, more specifically police officers, firefighters and teachers. A panel of speakers from the states that have come under the fiercest criticism so far — Florida, Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey and Wisconsin — was put together to tell us about the problems they have been facing. We learned that the issues were very similar in all the listed states; we also learned that the tactics being used by our opponents were almost the exact same in each of those states. As the conversation continued, it became clear that these are not individual, standalone fights in each state, but a combined effort or attack on the part of several groups. Make no mistake, groups like the Chamber of Commerce and the American Legislative Exchange Council are out to greatly reduce your salaries, pensions and benefits. These are respected, well-run, well-financed groups. The writing is on the wall: If we are to survive these attacks, we must fight with one voice.

After this panel spoke, NAPO offered to host a meeting in October with police union leaders, their public relations people and their governmental affairs people. This meeting will allow law enforcement groups to band together and face this attack with a single voice in these fights. Law enforcement will need to act as one, just as the groups we are fighting do. I believe we already carry great respect. But we will also have to be as well-run and well-financed as our opponents. Police officers are warriors by nature, so there is no doubt we have the fight in us; it is just a matter of whether we are willing to stand together to the very end. This is going to come down to whether these groups of police officers are willing to be very involved in this fight rather than just watching from the sidelines. Most police officers, including myself, are registered Republicans. I don't know if you have noticed, but for the most part, it is the Republicans that are attempting to take away our benefits, both on the national and state levels. It has been the Democrats, for the most part, that have fought to protect our benefits. This makes most cops what some like to call "Reprocrats," meaning we like a lot of the things the Republican party stands for, but we enjoy the benefits that the Democratic party has given us.

Let's talk about how this all affects those of us right here in Southern Nevada. During the 2011 legislative session, the Republican leadership in both houses made it clear from the start that they wanted major reforms to public employee benefits. They introduced many bills that would have hurt your pocketbook. Thankfully, the Democrats controlled both houses and so little to no damage was done to us in this past session. The next big battle for us will most certainly be the 2013 legislative session. Elections are coming up, and currently, the Democrats hold a one-seat advantage in the Senate and a 10-seat advantage in the Assembly. The PPA will be making endorsements in these elections, and we ask that you cast your vote for the candidates we endorse. We will only endorse the candidates whom we believe are willing to help protect your benefits. If you choose to vote for the other candidate, you will be making the job of protecting your benefits difficult, if not impossible. It may take years to get back the benefits that have recently been lost in the states that I mentioned earlier in this article. We cannot let Nevada become one of those states. We must stand together and we must stand strong; we cannot allow another state to fall, or the domino effect may take place. This is not a fight about the benefits we enjoy here in Nevada, or any other state for that matter. It is a fight about protecting the middle class, a way of life. Public employees educate our children; public employees put their lives on the line to protect our communities; and public employees deserve the pay and benefits we have been promised over the years. All I am asking is that you think before you vote and stand arm-in-arm with our friends across America so we can stop this all-out attack on our SALARIES, PENSIONS AND BENEFITS. Now, more than ever, we all need to be safe and fight the good fight. **VB**

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE CONTEST WINNERS FROM THE LAST ISSUE!

Hidden Symbol Contest (\$250)

Michelle Tavaréz, P# 8518

P# Contest (\$50)

Hope Loverme, P# 7143

Todd Robichaud, P# 6605



INSIGHT

Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.

— Albert Einstein



The Right Man for the Job

POLICE OFFICER MARK CHAPARIAN

Assistant Executive Director

I first met our current Executive Director, Chris Collins, about 20 years ago, when he was assigned as a SWAT Officer with Metro. Our paths would cross from time to time on the crazy calls he'd respond to, so I wouldn't have to further risk my butt with a risky entry or a clearly hostile person when we were outgunned. As time progressed and the years passed, I'd bump into him at Foothills Express, where he would be relaxing with friends. Although at that time Chris and I were not close friends, he always treated me with respect and consideration. I always figured Chris as a "cop's cop," and that was why he was always friendly and pleasant to me. Chris held a prestigious position in SWAT, and like many others, he didn't "have to" be nice to a uniformed patrol officer ... but he was!

As many more years passed, I came to know Chris Collins as the Assistant Executive Director of the LVPPA. Chris would come out to briefings and I'd give him hell for this or that. He always took my criticisms and complaints in stride and gave me answers to the questions I fired off at him. I came to look forward to seeing Chris and Dave Kallas come out to briefings in order to hear what was happening at the LVPPA. Chris always carried a calming, relaxed and confident message when he came to speak

to us. I admired that and it stuck with me until I was able to actually work with Chris and his assembled contract committee in 2004.

Since that time in 2004, I have had the pleasure of working side-by-side with Chris Collins in serving all of you, the members of the LVPPA. I certainly can say I have learned a lot working with Chris. Without a doubt, Chris has been a man of integrity, loyalty and passion as he has led this organization in his role as the Executive Director of the LVPPA, a position he won by an overwhelming number of votes in 2006. Chris and the entire Executive Board he has assembled have worked long and hard to overcome challenges presented to our membership. Chris has accomplished many goals and objectives during his tenure as the leader of the LVPPA.

There is so much work done behind the scenes, and most members have no idea that Chris handles calls and addresses issues 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's hard to even have lunch with him without a phone in his ear or without him talking about a current dilemma and how he is going to fix it or deal with it. Chris has elevated our national status with the National Association of Police Organizations through his involvement as the Sergeant at Arms for that organization. Chris has developed relationships

(continued on page 18)

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Generic v. Brand-Name Meds: Are They Really the Same?

CORRECTIONS OFFICER THOMAS REID

Assistant Executive Director

What is a generic drug? A generic drug is a chemically equivalent, lower-cost version of a brand-name drug, often costing about 30% to 85% less than the brand-name medication. A brand-name drug and its generic version must have the same active ingredient, dosage, safety, strength, usage directions, quality, performance and intended use.

Are generic drugs as safe as brand-name drugs? Yes, they are the same in many respects: Generic and brand-name drugs must meet the exact same standards for effectiveness, safety and quality.

Are generic drugs as strong as brand-name drugs? Yes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires generic drugs to have the same quality, strength, purity and stability as their brand-name counterparts. Generic drugs are thoroughly tested to make sure their performance and ingredients meet the FDA's standards for equivalency.

Do generic drugs take longer to work? No. Generic drugs work in your body in the same way and in the same amount of time as brand-name drugs.

Are brand-name drugs manufactured in better facilities than generic drugs? No. Both brand-name and generic drug facilities must meet the same standards; the FDA won't permit drugs to be made in substandard facilities. The FDA conducts about 3,500 inspections a year to ensure that these standards are met. In fact, brand-name drug manufacturing facilities are linked to an estimated 50% of generic drug production. Manufacturers frequently make generic copies of their own drugs or other brand-name drugs, and then sell them with a generic name.

What is the price difference between generic and brand-name drugs? In 2010, the average price of a brand-name drug was \$182.50, while the average generic prescription cost \$35.22. In addition to the savings on the price difference, there is also a significant savings on your co-payment for using a generic drug over a brand-name drug. There is no co-payment if you use a generic drug. If you use a branded drug (that has a generic equivalent) at a \$25 co-pay, it will cost you \$300 per year.

Why do some generic drugs look different from their brand-name versions? All drugs have inactive ingredients, such as dyes, fillers and preservatives. These ingredients often determine the size, shape and color of the drug. Trademark laws do not allow a generic drug to look exactly like its brand-name version. A generic drug must duplicate the active ingredient and it must be equally effective, but the color, shape and other inactive ingredients may be different.

If generic drugs are just as good as brand-name drugs, why do generics cost less? When a drug company develops a new drug and submits it for FDA approval, it is given a 20-year patent, preventing other companies from selling the drug during the life of the patent. As a drug patent nears expiration, any drug manufacturer can apply to the FDA to sell its generic version. Because these manufacturers didn't have the same development, research and testing costs, they can sell the drug at a discount. Once generics are allowed, the competition keeps the price down. In the United States, about 50% of drugs taken are generic. The Health Trust generic fill rate is about 75%. This means that the zero co-pay our Trust offers its members is a real benefit to your wallet and to the cost the Trust pays for your generic medication over a brand name.

What Popular Brand-Name Drugs Are Coming "Off Patent" for 2011/2012?

Brand Name	Generic Name	Indication/Use	Expected Date
Zyprexa	Olanzapine	Schizophrenia	October 2011
Caduet	Amlodipine/Atorvastatin	Hypertension/Cholesterol	December 2011
Lipitor	Atorvastatin	Cholesterol	December 2011
Seroquel	Quetiapine	Schizophrenia	March 2012
Avapro/Avalide	Irbesartan; Irbesartan/HCTZ	Hypertension	March 2012
Lexapro	Escitalopram	Depression	March 2012
Provigil	Modafinil	Narcolepsy	April 2012
Plavix	Clopidogrel	Blood Thinner	May 2012
Lunesta	Eszopiclone	Insomnia	July 2012
Actos	Pioglitazone	Diabetes	August 2012
Singulair	Montelukast	Asthma/Allergy	August 2012
Detrol	Tolterodine	Overactive Bladder	September 2012
Diovan	Valsartan	Hypertension	September 2012
Geodon	Ziprasidone	Schizophrenia	September 2012
Viagra	Sildenafil	Erectile Dysfunction	October 2012
Lidoderm Patch	Lidocaine	Pain Management	November 2012

This list is purely based upon upcoming patent expirations, and other factors (e.g., new indications of use, legal action, etc.) will affect whether or not these new generics are actually launched at the time of the patent expiration date. Source: Envision Rx Options (August 8, 2011).

What is the bottom line on generic drugs? Although they may look different from their brand-name counterparts, generic drugs are safe and effective. As always, any medication changes must be discussed with your physician and pharmacist.

If you have any questions about this article or other health insurance questions, please call Thomas Reid at (702) 384-8692, ext. 219. **VB**

INSIGHT

The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand in times of challenge and controversy.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.



Almost Through the Summer

POLICE OFFICER PAUL BIGHAM

Secretary

Wow, can you believe we are almost through with summer? The time has sure flown by. The LVPPA Metro Charities has been to a few events this year. We have also been calling all of you who are giving payroll deduction donations to the LVPPA Charities so that we can get your T-shirt size and send you a T-shirt as a token of our appreciation for your contribution.

There are some upcoming events that you may want to be aware of. At some of these events, we will have our LVPPA Charities tent set up and will be selling shirts, coins, etc.



The first event is the K-9 Trials. This should be a super program. They will be putting on the 20th Anniversary K-9 Trials this year. The event will be held at the Orleans Hotel and Casino October 21 to 23, 2011. There will be a variety of events over the three days, including explosives and narcotics detection, building and area searches, tactical obedience and handler protection. At the end, awards will be given for top dog, top agency and first through fifth place in the various events mentioned above.

Shortly after the K-9 Trials, there will be the Police Officers Riding 4 Kids (P.O.R.K.) Charity Run and motorcycle event. This event is scheduled for October 9, 2011. It will begin at the Three Angry Wives Pub located at 8820 W. Charleston Boulevard, and you can actually register there on the day of the event from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., if you have not preregistered. During the ride, stops

will be made at Timbers, Lucky's, Sunset Pizzeria and Mountain Springs Saloon. Proceeds from the ride will benefit the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation.

We would also like to thank those of you who gave to the Charities through the United Way. We just received a check from the United Way, which we greatly appreciate. As a P# 6888 reminder, though, you can bypass the United Way and give directly to the Charities through payroll deduction. This way, the Charities gets 100% of the money donated. When it goes through the United Way, that organization takes a large percentage of the money donated for its administrative costs.

Finally, the PPA is selling 9/11 10th anniversary coins, pins and badges that can be ordered through the PPA. Proceeds from the sales will go to the Charities. An order form is included on page 17 of this issue or can be picked up in the PPA office.

If you want to donate to the LVPPA Metro Charities for our fallen officers' families, you can do so by payroll deduction. There is a form on page 16 of this magazine you can fill out and send in, or get a payroll form from work. This is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and can be written off on your taxes. Alternatively, one-time donations can be made directly to the Charities at the LVPPA's office. Hope to see you at one of these upcoming events. **VB**

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A Tough Economy and Adding to a Top-Heavy Department

CORRECTIONS OFFICER KENNETH LOCHNER

Treasurer

I've heard from a lot of line officers recently who believe that the Department has been and continues to be "top heavy" with a disproportionate number of managers and supervisors. These same officers believe that the number of promotions needs to be reduced. While there have been some changes — such as the undersheriff position not being filled, the captain position in Human Resources being left vacant, etc. — it sure seems as though promotions are continuing despite the freeze on hiring new officers.

The number of rank-and-file corrections officers that have retired from January to July 2011 is 16, and the number of rank-and-file police officers that have retired during this same time is 26. This number is significantly higher than it was just eight months ago.

Now, let's compare this to what is going on with the sergeants and lieutenants. The number of corrections sergeants that have retired from January to July 2011 is nine, and the number of corrections lieutenants that have retired in this time period is four. The number of police sergeants that have retired from January to July 2011 is 14, while the number of police lieutenants that have retired in that time period is seven. In comparison, there have been eight corrections sergeant promotions, three corrections lieutenant promotions, 20 police sergeant promotions and 11 police lieutenant promotions. Here is how the numbers line up:

	Line Officers	Sergeants	Lieutenants
C.O. Retired	16	9	4
P.O. Retired	26	14	7
C.O. Promoted		8	3
P.O. Promoted		20	11

When you look at the numbers, you can see that on the corrections side for sergeants and lieutenants, the promotions about equaled the number of retirements, while on the police side, there were more promotions for sergeants and lieutenants than retirements. On the other hand, the line officers retiring are not being replaced. While we do have an Academy currently in progress, it is being funded by Department of Transportation monies, and the officers hired with this money are to work the new terminal that is being built at McCarran Airport, so these new officers are not really replacing those lost through attrition. We do have three captain position vacancies and an assistant sheriff position vacancy that I would hope the Sheriff would not fill, as he did with the undersheriff position. However, the rumor is that he is going to fill at least the assistant sheriff position and possibly add others, which brings to mind, WHY, in this DOWN economy, does our Department keep promoting? Then, OUR Department comes to the unions asking for concessions to fund these promotions, build the new HEADQUARTERS and SUBSTATION and pay millions a year to keep a new jail facility open but empty on the backs of the line officers and other unions.

When you look at all of this, also keep in mind that the supervisors have negotiated a 25% gap between a topped-out officer's pay and a topped-out sergeant's pay. There are additional built-in gaps in pay as you go up the scale of ranks. Does it make sense to replace all these supervisors at a time when the Department would otherwise be experiencing some savings with all the senior officers retiring? Many of you have asked us at the briefings why the Department can't just let attrition take care of some of the budget problems. Unfortunately, I don't have an answer for you.

I have attended training seminars with union leaders and command staff, and recently the discussions centered on how bad things are economically and how it will likely be another 24 to 36 months before things are any better. Knowing this, we need to change our business model and how we operate — we need to be more efficient, cost-effective and tighten our belts. I know we, as members of this Department, have willingly done this over the last few years. What I find hard to believe is that the Department has moved forward with promotions, not to mention certain projects and programs that seem to actually have increased the METRO budget on the backs of Department members and citizens. It seems it would make better sense when the Department feels a project or program is necessary to find a way to fit it in the business plan and the operational budget of Metro that already exist. Alternatively, if there is no money, then the project or program should be put off for another time, when the economy is better and the monies are there to build it, promote or whatever.

By the time this article is published, the rumors will have turned to reality, and we will either have even MORE management or NOT. We all will see. One thing I will tell you is that Metro as a whole is top-heavy, from the rank of assistant sheriff on down to sergeant. The model needs to change to meet the situation and the times. **VB**

INSIGHT

If I have the belief that I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it at the beginning.

— Mahatma Gandhi

Visit our website at www.lvppa.com.

You can also contact our webmaster at webmaster@lvppa.com.



Want the Law Changed?

DETECTIVE MICHELLE R. JOTZ

Director of Governmental Affairs

Since the 76th Legislative Session ended on June 6, 2011, a handful of laws have already taken effect. Many more will be effective starting October 1, 2011. I've received a little bit of feedback from some of the membership about some laws that you like and you believe have been improved, and a tiny bit of feedback about laws that you do not like. The process to get a law passed is extremely lengthy and truly needs to start NOW!

Once an idea for a new law or a change in a law is formulated, someone must draft proposed legislative language. Once the language is drafted, a sponsor must be located. This sponsor is an existing legislator (state senator or assemblyperson, or in some cases, a state agency) who is willing to put his or her support behind the proposed law. This isn't always as easy as it might sound. Many of the laws that are proposed are very controversial and could potentially impact a legislator's re-election bid. Even if it is the right thing to do, some legislators aren't willing to risk that bid. We've been relatively lucky where this is concerned, and although we were unsuccessful with some of our proposed bills, we even had Assemblyman P# 9487 Hambrick sponsor our proposed changes to the statute regarding the current coroner's inquest process. Even having a sponsor doesn't guarantee that a bill will ever be heard. Legislative leadership and committee chairs often weed out bill draft requests that they do not want to see passed, and those are never even heard at all.

There is a lot of lobbying behind the scenes where we meet with legislators and explain to them why these bills are extremely important to our membership, whether by passing them or by killing the bills. Sometimes it is important to our membership to kill a bill. An example of that is the "clean needle bill." This would have removed hypodermic devices from the list of illegal narcotics paraphernalia. Anyone would be permitted to possess hypodermic devices, whether for narcotics use or not. Our argument was that it was better to discourage illegal/illicit drug use than to make it easier for people to obtain and possess needles. We are also concerned that legalizing the possession of hypo devices would increase the number of needle sticks sustained by officers. So, rather than working to pass a bill, I worked to kill a bill. This lobbying requires that I meet with not only the committee members, but also with the entire legislative body (whether Senate or Assembly) to tell them why this is harmful. This process is done for each and every bill we support or oppose.

Frequently, we work to amend bills to make them more palatable. Those amendments require all that same lobbying. It is important to do much of the lobbying prior to the session ever beginning. It is also useful to be able to ask candidates and legislators how they feel about specific laws when they are seeking PPA and SNCOPS endorsements while running for office or re-election.

All of that being said, the sooner that we are able to start working on the passage of a bill or amending of a law, the better off we are. If you have been thinking about a law that would make your job easier or better, or a law that needs to be clarified to help with prosecutions, please set up a meeting with me as soon as possible so we can get ahead of the game and get the ball rolling. I look forward to your input on the next legislative session. Stay safe! **VB**

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A Somber Anniversary, a Call to Service

DETECTIVE DARRYL CLODT

Sergeant-At-Arms

I think I will forever remember where I was and what I was doing when the terrorist attacks took place in New York City, Washington, D.C., and over Pennsylvania. We all have days we will remember: births of our children, deaths in a family, presidential assassinations. Some are happy, some are sad; they exist for all of us. Some days of note have such an impact on us that they literally are the reason we are who we are or we do what we do. As we approach the 10-year anniversary of this awful day for our country, we also have great things to be thankful for. I think, in my mind, one of the tops has to be the capture and rightful killing of Osama bin Laden. Coming from a position in counter-terrorism before the PPA, it pleased me to know that we got him. It is great to show that the power and might of our armed forces are as good as they are portrayed to the world, and for sure it knows it now.

Another huge thing that sticks in my mind is the tragic loss of Pat Tillman. Here you have a star athlete who gives up millions of dollars to join the United States Army, no doubt triggered by the attacks of 9/11. To answer the call to public service is no doubt a monumental decision. I must thank you all for the decisions you have made to serve this wonderful State and City. As you all know, it does come with a price. Let's talk about that for a few minutes.

Well, we can all say that we have to be at work all the time when the majority of the world works eight hours a day and then goes home. We don't always know that at the end of our shifts we will go home. Yet, we all signed up for this role and do a great job in it.

I recently read an article written by Daniel G. Bogden, United States Attorney for the State of Nevada. In his article, he says people like you all have three character traits that drive you to your work. First is courage. The commitment you all made to stand together to provide a safe place for us all to live in. Second is the ability to take risks. After all, we all risk a lot just putting that uniform on. Just ask around to some of the younger officers, who, after being on the street less than a month, have been involved in deadly force situations. Last is the promise to do the right thing and to try and make a difference in the place we call home. This City we all call home is a safe place to live because all of you put the effort into making that a priority. And for that I say THANK YOU!

We here at the LVPPA wanted to come up with a way to recognize all you do and remember a somber anniversary. We have proudly and happily partnered with Jimmy Smith, who designed a badge commemorating the 10th anniversary of the September 11 tragedy to be worn with pride as we answer a call to public service. **VB**

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Welcome to the Jungle: Looking Back Fondly and Forward Eagerly

KIRK HOOTEN

Director of Communications

Well, it's not quite a jungle, but I have recently chosen to jump into the very challenging world of the LVPPA. And I thought dealing with hardened cartel drug lords was difficult!

In all seriousness, I am thrilled to be able to come to the LVPPA as a permanent member of the Executive Board. The current climate in perceptions of public employees and the ongoing national financial crisis have made the role of the LVPPA even more important. The growth of our Department and the continuous scrutiny our members are under as law enforcement professionals have created possibly the most difficult working conditions we have had in many years. We are not only fighting for the day-to-day rights of our officers, but also for the rights of our profession and all civil servants. I am fortunate to join such a well-oiled machine, and I am reminded on a daily basis how hard the staff here works on all our members' behalf.

As far as introductions go, I have never been one to ramble about myself or my accomplishments, but realizing that I have been tucked away in a dark corner of Metro as a member of the Vice/Narcotics Bureau for the last 14 years, many, if not most, of you wouldn't know me if I walked right up to you. So here goes:

I was hired by LVMPD in February 1994. Having come from a professional sales background, it was a tremendous eye-opener to be in a suit on a sales call one week and have some lunatic with a booger in his nose and bad breath screaming at me the next week. As everyone did, I just kept on about my business and graduated with a great group of men and women in July P# 8521 1994.

I worked patrol for the next three years, all on graveyard, and spent a year at NWAC, a year in the penalty box at the Airport and, finally, a little over a year at DTAC working for Sergeant Kent Kirk. Many of my greatest memories came from those early years on graveyard. Those years were truly the embodiment of the advice I took when confronted with the decision to leave my previous career and join LVMPD. The father of one of my closest friends in high school was a lieutenant at LAPD. I was talking to him shortly after college and told him I was considering police work and asked his opinion. His response was profound and echoed in my ear many of the nights on graveyard. The quote was "Police work is awesome. Where else are they going to give you a gun, a badge, a fast car and tell you to go out and play with 10 of your closest friends each night?" Now, looking back on it, those may be the most accurate words in describing my career in its entirety!

In September 1997, I went up TDY to Vice/Narcotics as a Vice Detective, not knowing that bureau would be my home for the following 14 years. Vice was a blast. It was the first time I was in a plainclothes assignment, and quickly realized I was much more suited to non-uniformed positions (if you've ever seen me in a uniform, you understand). Of course, the natural progression back then was to go across the hall to Narcotics and see if you could make the cut. Now, 14 years later, I'd say I made it.

I was fortunate to have had a Narcotics career unlike most. I survived the street team years under Narcotics messiah then-Sergeant Joe Lombardo, and was pretty sure we had eradicated all narcotics in Clark County after a couple of years. If you know Joe very well, you know we damn sure tried!

After that, I was fortunate enough to work the next several years on federal task forces with the FBI, ICE and, most significantly, DEA. As a member of the DEA task force, I was lucky to have been involved in several international cases and to have traveled to Denmark, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Thailand in pursuit of those cases. That is not common for a local narc from

Las Vegas, and I cherish those cases and the opportunity I had to work them. It was an incredible feeling to know that your work was having a larger impact than just your local area.

As all things do, the faces and names began to change around the Narcotics Section, and the writing was on the wall that change was coming. When I received an offer from LVPPA Executive Director Chris Collins to join the full-time staff, I jumped at the opportunity. I have been on the Board of Directors for a few years and truly believe in the mission of the LVPPA and embrace the opportunity to be a voice for the officers on many issues. I am humbled by the selfless service our officers provide, more often than not, in the face of scrutiny or adversity.

On a personal note, many of you probably recognize my last name from my better half, Sergeant Cheryl Hooten, currently assigned to Enterprise Area Command. She is the Hooten most Department members are familiar with! I realized that not long ago when I called into dispatch and was recognized as "Cheryl's husband."

In closing, I am honored to be able to serve all the members of this great Association and look forward to meeting many of you for the first time. If there is anything I can do, please don't hesitate to call or email. Ask anyone that knows me — I am rarely at a loss for words! **VB**



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JOHN DEAN HARPER

General Counsel

Odds and Ends Update (and More)

I wrote, last January, about how fast time has flown since September 11, 2001. At press time, the 10-year anniversary will be upon us. Since January, Osama bin Laden has been killed, the United States government nearly went into default, Standard & Poor's reduced the United States government's credit rating and as I write this article, the Dow Jones industrial average has just tanked over 1,100 points in two sessions (reducing approximately \$3 trillion in investor wealth).

Also, the Nevada Legislature was in session and but for a fortuitous ruling by the Nevada Supreme Court regarding the State's ability to take funds from the City, County and other entities may have never reached a budget agreement. The problem is that the budget agreement is yet another Band-Aid failing to address the long-term State funding that relies, in essence, on the vigor of the national economy and the consumer's penchant for traveling and spending money.

As we sit here today, the City of Las Vegas and Clark County have seen an uptick in revenues (still not back to the pre-recession highs), while the City of North Las Vegas and Reno are allegedly one heartbeat away from State takeover. I wrote of uncertainty and taking precautions to make your career, family and health safe and secure, but feel that we are no closer to any certainty of what the future holds than we were in January.

While contemplating the mess that we are in, I wondered, where did all the money go? Immediately after 9/11, the local economy plain stunk. But once people overcame their fears, they came to Vegas to party and dreamers decided to build. Build everything! At the same time, the federal government decided to spend. Spend your money. I researched on the trusty, reliable, accurate Internet and found this interesting nugget: The total cost of the defense spending and homeland security since 9/11 is a staggering \$7.6 trillion.

	Total Spending	2001 Amount	2011 Amount	Percent Increase (Inflation-Adjusted)
Pentagon Base Budget	\$6.2 trillion	\$290.5 billion	\$526.1 billion	43%
Nuclear Weapons	\$204.5 billion	\$12.4 billion	\$19.0 billion	21%
Iraq and Afghan Wars	\$1.26 trillion			
Homeland Security	\$635.9 billion	\$16 billion	\$69.1 billion	301%

Source: <http://nationalpriorities.org/publications/2011/us-security-spending-since-911>.

The above equals about 16% P# 8102 of the 2011 budget. Add in welfare at 11%, health care at 14%, pensions at 16% and education at 14%, and that is where the money went.

Can anyone say that this money was well-spent and it is more important than local public safety? It would be nice if some of that money would trickle down. While at the national level, it is a trillion here, a trillion there, the Association has to battle with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for mere millions.

Contract Negotiations

At press time, the Association's negotiations with the Department were at an impasse and headed to arbitration. On the other hand, the Association did reach an agreement with the City of Las Vegas regarding the Marshals. The Association agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding that extended the current Collective Bargaining Agreement for two additional years. The Marshals agreed to no COLA increase, a continued freeze of step increases and longevity and that they would pay one-half of the PERS increase. Additionally, the Marshals' uniform allowance was "unfrozen" to \$1,375 annually. Lastly, any Marshal hired after July 1, 2011, will have their starting salary reduced 14%.

Many thanks for the hard work of the Negotiating Committee: Harry Mulcahey, Alicia Martino, Mike Yandrick, Dave Compson and Coleen Rauh.

Workers' Compensation

Add this to the strange file. I am not sure why. I am assuming it has to do with the lowest bid. Just when I was finally feeling that the third-party administrator for the Department's self-insurance, Tri-Star, was actually expanding its collective heart, not unlike the Grinch, the Department announced that it is going back to CCSMI as its third-party administrator.

Need I remind anyone of the bushel load of problems our members previously had with CCSMI? My memory is not completely clear, but I recall: 1. Every time-sensitive fax our members sent was "never received"; 2. Favorites were compensated differently than perceived "whiners"; 3. Entire files were "lost"; and 4. The Department's health and safety manager mysteriously "retired" and CCSMI's imbedded employee hurriedly left the Department. Assistant Executive Director Tom Reid put it best when he emailed to me, "I like to think of the change in a song: The Who song 'Won't Get Fooled Again.' Meet the new boss ... same as the old boss." **VB**



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Sheriff's Message

SHERIFF DOUGLAS C. GILLESPIE

I hope everyone is having a good summer and that you and your families are all doing well. In the last article, I discussed where our funding comes from, as well as what the "end fund" balance is. In this article for *Vegas Beat*, I would like to discuss the future of the Department as it relates to reduced revenue and the financial challenges that lie ahead.

As you all know, commercial and residential properties in Clark County, as well as in the Southwest in general, have all suffered significant reductions in value. This has led to declines in property tax revenues for all government entities, and there is no relief in the foreseeable future. All the economic indicators are showing that there will not be any appreciable increases to commercial or residential property values for the next three to five years.

In addition to this challenge, the federal government is in a financial crisis as well. How does this federal challenge impact the LVMPD? We are seeing reductions in federal grant funding at levels never before seen. The Department has members assigned to regional task forces, such as HIDTA teams, gang task forces, fugitive task forces and cyber crimes task forces, to name a few. These teams are able to operate largely based on grant and/or federal funding support that will likely see reductions moving into the future. Reductions to grant funding affect not only the police side of our operation, they also affect the corrections side in areas such as the 287G and Secure Communities programs.

On top of these two challenges, I recently received a letter from the respective City and County Managers advising me that Las Vegas and Clark County are projecting that over the next three to five years, they will not

be able to increase funding for our agency above that amount which they gave us this year. This means that if we do not see any more decreases in property tax revenue, the Department will have a little over \$456.85 million to run the Department each year for the next three to five years. As you know from my last article, it is costing us a little over \$501 million to run the agency. We only have enough end-fund balance to cover our shortfall in revenue through the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Having said all of this, I am sure that your question to me is "What are you doing about it?" There are several approaches that we, as an organization, are taking to meet this challenge. First, when there are retirements or employees transfer out of a section, before that open position is filled, we take a critical look to see if the position is actually "needed," not just "wanted." Next, we have embarked on a process to take a critical look at key areas of the Department to see where we can improve efficiency and effectiveness, as well as save money. This process is through the task-force model.

Earlier this year, two task forces were put together, one to look at our plain car fleet and the second to look at cellular telephones. For both of these projects, we asked members from a cross-section of the Department, both commissioned and civilian, to take a critical look at these areas. The vehicle task force contacted other law enforcement agencies, as well as private-sector corporations with large vehicle fleets, to determine best practices with regard to purchasing, mileage, service intervals and types of vehicles needed for specific units. As a result of their work, the Department was able to realign vehicles in our plain car fleet to meet individual section needs so that new cars did not need to be purchased. They also instituted a new report from Fleet that is sent to bureau commanders to help them determine what cars need to be replaced in the future. The savings to the Department was almost \$3.1 million!

The cellular telephone task force looked at the operational necessity of cellphone, BlackBerry and air card lines in order to eliminate those lines that are not essential. Once again, this cross-section of employees contacted both public and private entities to learn best practices to make us more efficient and effective. As a result of their work, the savings to the Department will amount to \$60,000 per year! We are also working on changing our cellular phone contract this year; that will add additional savings.

I continue to meet with elected officials at the local level to discuss the funding of the Metropolitan Police Department. You will not see me publicly challenging City Council and County Commission members. I do not feel that this is the appropriate way to deal with our budget challenges. However, I continue to meet with our local elected officials, as well as CEOs at strip resorts, in order to find solutions to our budget challenges. I have also been in meetings in Carson City, as well as in Washington, D.C., in order to fight for grant funding for law enforcement.

Folks, we are facing financial challenges that we have not seen for 30 years. The last budgetary challenge that we faced was for a short time in the early 1980s. We need to come up with solutions that will get us through the next three to five years. We may need to bridge a \$44 million budget gap by fiscal year 2013-2014, as well as reduce our reliance on the end-fund balance.

We are facing tough challenges ahead, but I know that working together, we can come up with solutions that will see us through these tough economic times. Keep doing the great job that you do every single day, and please be safe out there. **VB**

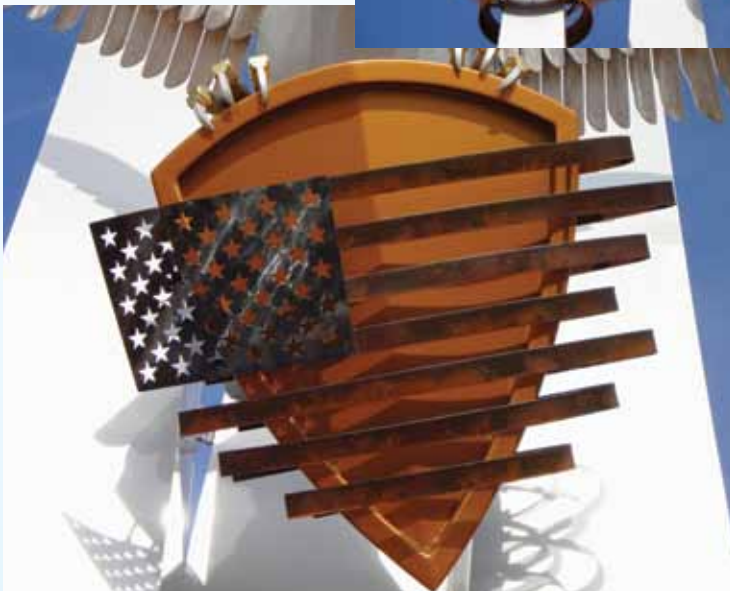
Would you like to proudly display your support for the Police Protective Association?



Visit the PPA to obtain your bumper sticker.



The LVPPA invites all members to help take care of our own. The LVPPA has started a 501(c)(3) charity organization called the LVPPA Metro Charities, Inc. The goal of this organization is to help the survivors of fallen officers. The long-term goal of the charity is to ensure that survivors have the opportunity to go to college. As such, the charity will donate the cost of Nevada state tuition rates to the survivors of fallen Metro officers, to include children and spouses. The charity is off to a strong start, but we need your help and ask all officers to donate. Please look into your hearts and determine if you can give. The back of this form is a payroll deduction form. Just rip out this page, fill out the back with your deduction amount in block 5200 under LVPPA Metro Charities, then send the form in a 1000 miler to the LVPPA for processing. The LVPPA Metro Charities hopes that you will never need this, but will be here when you do. **VB**



LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
PAYROLL RECURRING DEDUCTIONS SHEET

Employee Name	P#	Daytime Contact Number
---------------	----	------------------------

Wage Type	Deduction Type	Deduction Amount	Start Date	Stop Date	
DUES					
5009	Black Police Dues (24 pay periods)				
5010	NLPOA Dues (24 pay periods)				
5007	PMSA Dues (24 pay periods)				
5005	PPA Dues (24 pay periods)				
5006	PPACE Dues (24 pay periods)				
5008	SPA Dues (24 pay periods)				

MISCELLANEOUS DEDUCTIONS					
5405	City Hall Parking (24 pay periods)				
5200	LVPPA Metro Charities (24 pay periods)		ASAP		<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recurring
5403	Police Museum (24 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
5404	Prepaid Legal Svcs. (24 pay periods)				
5400	United Way (26 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
	Other				

LOANS					Declining Amount
4532	Misc. Payback (one time deduction)		Reason:		
5200	PPA Assoc. Loan (24 pay periods)				\$
5220	PPACE Assoc. Loan (24 pay periods)				\$
5210	SPA Loan (24 pay periods)				\$
5410	Purchase Retirement (24 pay periods)	To purchase retirement you must initiate your request through PERS. You may stop the deduction using this form.			\$
5413	Purchase Retirement 2 (24 pay periods)				\$

Employee Signature & PN (Sign name as it appears on paycheck)	Date	Representative Signature	Date

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



Coin Front



Coin Back

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† Commissioned P# Badges can be worn for six months (September 2011 to March 2012) on an officers uniform.

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Assignment _____ Preferred Email _____

Preferred Contact# _____ Alternate Contact# _____

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Number of Coins _____ @ \$15.00ea= \$ _____

Number of Lapel Pins _____ @ \$10.00ea= \$ _____

Number of Coin, Badge & Lapel pin in presentation box _____ @ \$125.00ea= \$ _____

Payment & Order Received By: _____

Total Due \$ _____

- Cash
 - M.O.
 - Check
- Check # _____

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THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

(continued from page 5)

in Washington, D.C., in order for the LVPPA to have the Vice President's ear, the ability to garner a meeting with the Senate Majority Leader and a solid, reliable and productive relationship with the Governor of Nevada! Additionally, Chris has formed a relationship with each and every County commissioner and City Council person, including the Mayor of Las Vegas. I truly have not known a person to work longer, harder or more diligently on behalf of our members than Chris Collins has these last five years as the Executive Director of the LVPPA.

There is more work to be done and projects that need to be completed. There is clearly no better person to lead the LVPPA through the upcoming challenges that we will face than Chris Collins. He is running for re-election this fall, and I am asking all of you to please vote to retain Chris. Chris has the knowledge, experience, dedication, passion and understanding to lead all of us into a bright future. We have made so much progress as an Association on behalf of all of you; let's keep the train rolling and see how many more great things can be accomplished! Good luck, Chris. You have my unwavering endorsement. **VB**

Correction Notation

Please note the following correction: Last issue, we reported on Team Vegas riders who had participated in this year's Police Unity Tour ride from New Jersey to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Officer Mike Brambila is a member of that team and participated in the ride. His name was inadvertently excluded from that article recognizing this team of riders. We would like to recognize and thank Officer Brambila for his participation.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Kathy,

I really appreciate everything you did for Brad and me. Without you, I don't believe I would still have a job. You did great and I can't thank you enough. You have such a wonderful heart.

Thanks again.

Jake Grunwald

Dear LVPPA Staff,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers and the thoughtfulness during this difficult time in our lives. You have shown why we are proud to be members of the LVPPA. Again the flowers in honor of my mom, Patricia, were absolutely gorgeous.

Anthony and Patricia Bianco (P# 6523)

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- October 9 Annual P.O.R.K. Run to benefit the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation
- October 21 – 23 The 20th Annual Las Vegas Police K-9 Trials at the Orleans Arena
- October 28 Nevada Day recognized P# 791

**General Membership Meetings are quarterly rather than monthly. If you need to present something before the Board prior to a regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting, please contact the PPA office so you can be accommodated.*

RETIREMENTS

7/08/2011	Steven J. Morelli, P# 7118	CO II
7/27/2011	Gerald S. Roth, P# 7129	CO II
8/03/2011	John G. Zidzik, P# 3759	PO II
8/16/2011	David A. Reid, P# 3241	PO II
8/19/2011	Ronald E. Miller, P# 3233	PO II
9/08/2011	Darryl Johnson, P# 3594	PO II
9/13/2011	Charles H. Cain, P# 2852	PO II
9/28/2011	James M. Finlay, P# 3825	PO II
12/28/2011	Timothy A. Babcock, P# 2188	PO II



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The LVPPA makes no profit from the sales of Theme Park Tickets; however, our ticket costs are rounded to the nearest dollar

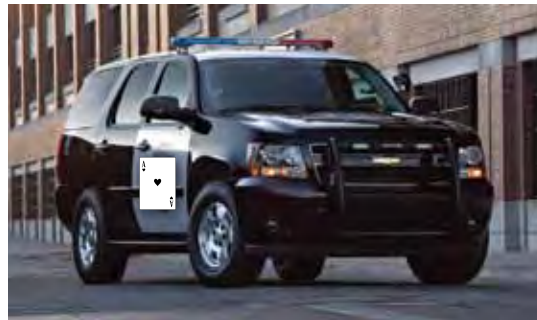
THEME PARK	TICKET	GATE PRICE	LVPPA PRICE
Knott's Berry Farm	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$46.99	\$31.00
	One Day Ticket - Child (3 and up under 48" tall)	\$24.99	\$22.00
	2 and under Free		
Legoland	Two Day Ticket - Legoland Only - Adult/Child 3-12	Adult - \$84.00/Child - \$74.00	\$56.00
	Two Day Ticket - Legoland Hopper - Adult/Child 3-12 (Legoland, Sea Life, Water Park)	Adult - \$91.00/Child - \$81.00	\$66.00
	2 and under Free		
Magic Mountain	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$59.99	\$27.00
	One Day Ticket - Child (under 48")	\$34.99	\$17.50
	2 and under Free		
San Diego Zoo	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$40.00	\$35.50
	One Day Ticket - Child (3-11)	\$30.00	\$27.00
	2 and under Free		
Sea World	One Day Ticket - Adult/Child	\$69.99/\$61.99 one day ticket	\$48.00
	2 and under Free		
Universal Studios	One Day w/6 months free Ticket — Adult/Child under 48"	\$74.00 one day	\$64.00
	2 and under Free		
Wild Animal Park	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$40.00	\$35.50
	One Day Ticket - Child (3-11)	\$30.00	\$27.00
	2 and under Free		



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4. Freedom of expression is recognized within the bounds of good taste and limits of available space.
5. The Board of Directors reserves the right to edit submissions and/or include Editor's Notes to any submitted material.
6. The deadline for submissions to *LVPPA Vegas Beat* is approximately 30 days prior to the issue date.



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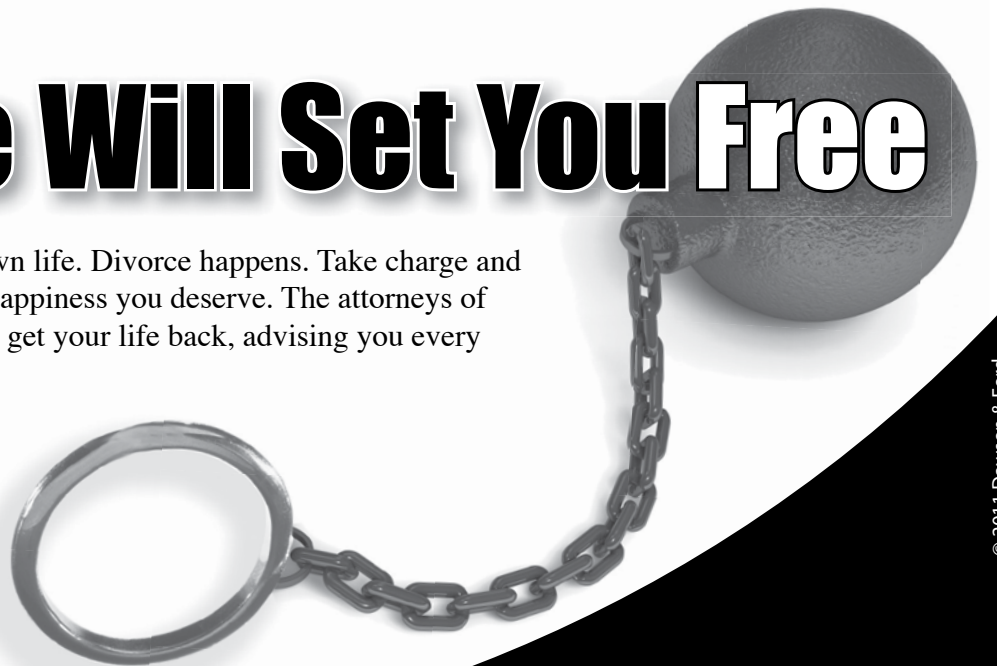
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Family Appellate Law

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WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

JUNE/JULY 2011 REPRESENTATION STATISTICS

LABOR MANAGEMENT BOARDS

	Hearing Date	Alleged Violation(s)	Original Discipline	Decision
	6/9/11	Neglect of Duty; Failure to Perform Duty	8-Hour Suspension	Grievance Granted; Reimbursed for Time
	6/9/11	Diversity -- Harassment and Discrimination		Settlement
	7/21/11	Obedience and Insubordination	16-Hour Suspension	Reduced to 8-Hour Suspension
	7/21/11	Conduct Unbecoming	40-Hour Suspension	Reduced to Contact Report

PRE-TERMINATION HEARINGS

	Hearing Date	Alleged Violation(s)	Original Discipline	Decision
	6/1/11	Conduct Unbecoming; Being Available While on Duty; Truthfulness at All Times; Safe Driving	Termination	40 Hours per Violation
	7/14/11	Accessing SCOPE; Dissemination of Personal Information	Termination	Termination
	7/20/11	Neighborhood Disputes; Harmony and Cooperation; Neglect; Truthfulness	Termination	Termination
	7/27/11	Truthfulness	Termination	Written Reprimand

ARBITRATIONS

All. Violation Date	Hearing Date	Alleged Violation(s)	Original Discipline	Decision
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD COMPLAINTS

Dismissed	Alt. Recommended	Referred to IAB for Review	Concurred w/ IAB Finding	Pending CRB Decision
0	0	2	0	2

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS/USE OF DEADLY FORCE INCIDENTS

Date	Use of Force Board Decision	Inquest Decision
8/27/10	Justified	Pending
11/15/10	Justified	Pending
11/15/10	Pending	Pending
12/11/10	Justified	N/A
12/26/10	Pending	N/A
12/28/10	Pending	N/A
2/15/11	Justified	Pending
2/23/11	Pending	Pending
2/23/11	Pending	N/A
3/8/11	Pending	Pending
3/15/11	Justified	N/A
3/28/11	Justified	N/A
4/3/11	Pending	Pending
4/12/11	Pending	Pending
4/19/11	Pending	Pending
4/27/11	Justified	N/A
5/27/11	Pending	Pending
7/5/11	Pending	Pending
7/14/11	Pending	Pending
8/8/201	Pending	N/A

INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECTION AND BUREAU LEVEL INTERVIEWS

Declined	Represented	Total
60	101	161

ACCIDENT REVIEW BOARD

UNK	Excusable	Non-Negligent	Negligent	Rescheduled
1	1	0	32	6

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