



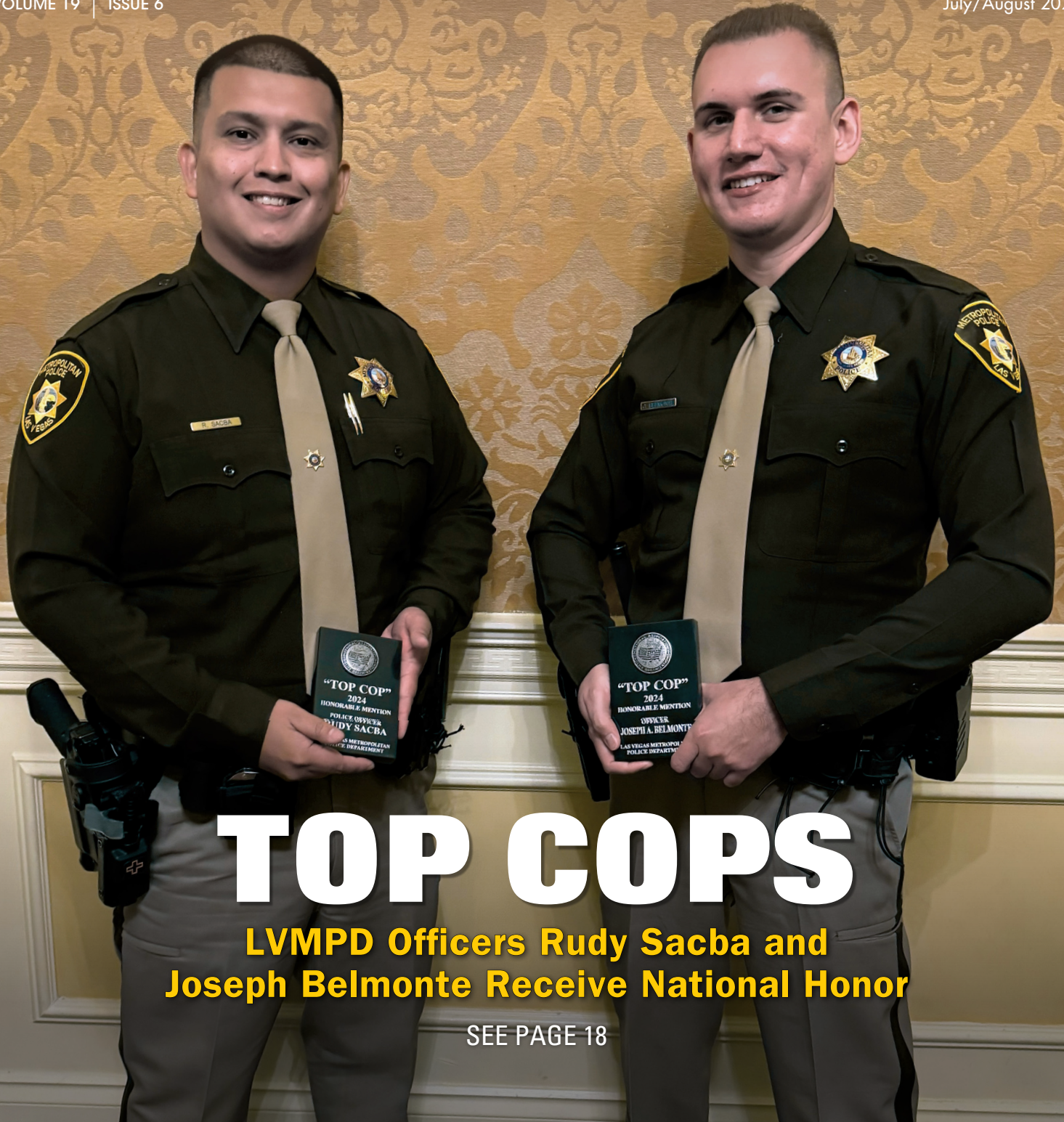
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Representing Las Vegas Metro Police Department Officers and Deputy City and Municipal Court Marshals

VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 6

July/August 2024



# TOP COPS

**LVMPD Officers Rudy Sacba and Joseph Belmonte Receive National Honor**

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**CONTENTS**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President's Message	4
Understanding Workers' Compensation	6
The Force Investigation Team	7
The Future of Law Enforcement	9
LEAF Scholarships Eligibility Deadline for 2025	10
Why Police Officers Need to Participate in the Political Process	11
Texting Machines	12
Let's Talk About Narcan	14

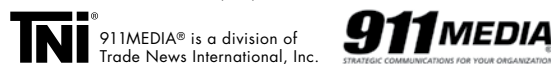
**FEATURES**

Calendar	11
Retirements	15
Body-Worn Cameras and Recording Phone Calls	16
LVPPA Vegas Beat Contest	17
Remembering Fallen Heroes and Saluting Top Cops	18
Pre-Planning	20

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# President's Message

**DETECTIVE STEVE GRAMMAS, PRESIDENT**

As we approach the hot summer months, I want to reflect on some of the amazing achievements of our Association. One of the most important topics of conversation around the LVPPA is membership. I often wonder what our membership numbers look like for the LVPPA. Understand that we are a right-to-work state, which means no one is forced to be a member of this, or any, association. With that said, we currently maintain a 96% total membership rate! That is an amazing number considering that officers are not forced to join, and we currently have over 3,500 officers with the LVMPD alone.

I believe this is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of the men and women associated with the PPA. From our office staff to our legal team to our delegates, our Board of Directors and finally our Executive Board, I task all of them P# 4702 to give everything they have, 24/7, to the men and women who pay their dues to be members of this Association. I often feel bad about the many hours of family time and personal time that I ask our team to give up, but not once has any of them complained. I am, and you should be as well, extremely thankful for the team that I have assembled here at the PPA.

In the last year, we have increased the success and visibility of the delegate position within the LVPPA. These men and women are on every shift and in every area of this agency, offering support and keeping the Executive Board

up to date on current issues affecting our officers. We are being told more and more that our officers are contacting their delegate for assistance and are happy with the results. Thank you to all those delegates putting in the time to make the LVPPA better every day. If you are an active officer and are interested in becoming a delegate, just reach out to your elected Board member or any of us on the Executive Board.

We have also organized many events for our members and their families. Not only have we taken great strides to be your collective bargaining group and legal defense, but we also try our best to run events to bring the more benevolent side of the Association to you and your family members. These events have proven to bring our officers together in a fun and safe environment to enjoy the company of their friends and families. I thank our team for always having new ideas for events for our folks, and I thank our membership for trusting our team to deliver an amazing experience for them.

To close out this message, I want you all to know how much I have appreciated being the president of the LVPPA. I have been able to do some amazing things as a police officer, but nothing I have done can compare to how much I have loved being your president. My elected term ends this year, and, with the blessing of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors, I hope to be re-elected and remain your president until the end of my career. I plan on spending the next few years not only advancing our Association as we have been doing, but also grooming the next group of Executive Board members to make sure that when I leave, we are still in good hands.

Thank you all again for your membership and your support, and please stay safe. **VB**

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# Understanding Workers' Compensation

## CORRECTIONS OFFICER SCOTT NICHOLAS

Vice President

As a follow-up to my last article, I want to share some additional information and some reporting requirements.

Prompt reporting is the best way to get your claim accepted. One of the most common reasons for a denial is that the timelines for the injury or exposure were outside the reporting requirements. In most cases, officers say they felt like they hurt something during their shift but thought it would feel better in a day or two, so they failed to report it, only to find out a week or so later that they suffered an injury that requires medical attention — maybe even physical therapy or surgery. Now, on top of being on modified duty and facing the potential loss of income from lost overtime, they will also be out of pocket for the co-pays and deductibles associated with rehabilitation.

So, if you feel like there is something hurting you or you “tweaked your knee” or some body part during a call, or just about any way that is *sudden and violent* during work, then document it on a C-1. If you are unable to complete the paperwork, have a supervisor or a dependent complete a written notice that an injury occurred during the course of employment.

This *must* be reported within seven days of the incident.

The second step in getting your claim accepted is seeking medical treatment. In addition to the initial reporting requirements, you must seek medical treatment within 90 days of the incident. Your claim will likely be denied if you do not meet these standards. You will have this documented on the C-4 form.

Here are a few examples of claims that get confusing.

PTSD claims: Anyone who has had a career with the Metro knows we go to some horrific crime scenes. We never know how these crime scenes affect us during our careers, or maybe they don't affect some people at all. The point is, when do you document this on a C-1 form? My suggestion is to err on the side of caution and fill one out every time. This could be for a traffic accident, a homicide, a sexual assault case involving a child or even a murder at CCDC. Whatever the situation, it is important to have documented the call. If you chose not to document the call within the seven days because you are not feeling like you are immediately affected, it might be OK, because technically you might not feel the effects of the call for months or even years — and when you do seek treatment, the clock starts at that time, so you would still be covered if you identify the call or calls that are troubling you. Most of the calls you go on are easy to find, but as years pass you may struggle to remember when the situation occurred or even the year it occurred. It is up to you, but I would document each call just to be sure.

Lung claims are a little tricky under the heart and lung bill as well. Lung issues can take years to develop, and it may be hard to identify which call caused the lung illness or injury, so if you are involved in any type of situation that could potentially cause a lung illness or injury, you should document it on a C-1 to protect yourself in the future. You must show what caused the illness or injury. For example, perhaps you stopped for a traffic collision with a burning vehicle and inhaled a lot of smoke helping a citizen, or maybe you walked into a home where someone was cooking meth and were exposed to toxic air without proper gear. These are just some examples P# 7171 to think about so that you will be covered in the future if you were not affected immediately.

If anyone has questions or concerns regarding a workers' compensation claim, don't hesitate to contact me or a PPA rep to help you understand the process.

Health and Safety is committed to helping our members work through their claims and has assured the PPA that they will continue to work with our members so they won't have to hire an attorney.

CCMSI seems to be easier to work with these days, and when you are not represented by an attorney they can speak directly. There are a lot of cases where CCMSI just needs more medical records or something answered, but by law they can't just pick up the phone and call you or ask you any questions. Once you have an attorney, you are at the mercy of the attorney returning phone calls or getting the information from you to give to them, etc. At the end of the day, some cases may require hiring an attorney, especially when there is an appeal or a denial. Ask yourself this question: If you file your paperwork in a timely manner and your claim is accepted, why would you pay an attorney thousands or tens of thousands of dollars? I have never seen an attorney turn down the potential to make some easy money, so slow everything down and give Health and Safety an opportunity to work for you. If a time comes when we see that our members are not getting the service and help they deserve, I'll be the first to put them on blast.

Thank you for your membership. Please be safe. **VB**



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# The Force Investigation Team

## POLICE OFFICER BRYAN YANT

Sergeant-at-Arms

The Force Investigation Team (FIT) was created in late 2010 to take over the Department's role in investigating officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths. In the past, the Homicide section would investigate these cases for the agency and, in the case of officer-involved shootings, present the findings at a Coroner's Inquest hearing as well as an internal Use of Force Board. Now their role is much different, as FIT only focuses on the criminal aspects of the investigation and the Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT) was created to handle the administrative investigation.

Presently, FIT consists of Captain McKenzie, Lieutenant Damon Young, Sergeant Michelle Iacullo and Detectives Marc Colon, Scott Mendoza, Andrew Ubbens, Gilberto Valenzuela, Robert Chavez and Todd Fasulo Jr. They are tasked with investigating officer-involved shootings, uses of force with substantial bodily harm, and in-custody deaths in the field and Clark County Detention Center, as well as cases where an officer is the victim of a violent crime and/or is substantially injured.

During an officer-involved shooting investigation, FIT's role is to investigate the event from the criminal aspect. If you are the shooting

officer, you will have all the rights afforded to you as a normal citizen and under the Police Officers Bill of Rights, NRS 289. We will be present with our team, the bus and, most importantly, an attorney for you. You will have the opportunity to speak with your attorney, and they will advise you on the legal process, your rights, what you must do regarding the investigation and what you may or may not choose to do regarding the investigation and the attorney's legal advice. We will then guide you through the rest of the process for the rest of the day or night regarding the investigation of the officer-involved shooting scene by FIT. If you are a witness officer to an officer-involved shooting, you will be required by policy to provide FIT with an interview at the scene regarding your knowledge of the facts and circumstances of what occurred. You will be able to review your body-worn camera footage prior to your interview. A PPA representative will be with you during this interview and it will be recorded. CIRT will also respond and conduct a joint but separate administrative investigation. This also applies to low-lethal deployments under the designated yardage for their use to fall into deadly force and deadly force PIT.

FIT also responds to use-of-force investigations where the subject

*Continued on page 8*



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receives substantial bodily harm from an application of force. Typically, the investigation has two parts: the scene and the hospital. FIT will respond to both locations. The PPA will as well, with our team and attorney. FIT will conduct their investigation in the same manner as an officer-involved shooting. If you were the officer who used force, you will be labeled the involved officer. Again, if you are a witness officer, you will be compelled by policy to provide a statement to FIT after you have reviewed your body-worn camera and will be accompanied by a PPA representative. CIRT will also respond and conduct their joint administrative investigation.

An in-custody death in the field will be handled very similarly to an officer-involved shooting. We are seeing more and more of these events where subjects are committing suicide in the presence of officers on barricades. But regardless of the manner or cause, for an in-custody death in the presence of officers FIT will respond. FIT will work diligently to review all available body-worn camera footage to determine the scope of their investigation and how they label officers based on their actions in the event. FIT carefully weighs the available evidence and will make the determination if an officer is involved or just a witness in the event. If you are labeled involved, it does not mean that you had anything to do with the death of the subject. You could have handcuffed the subject after a struggle and the subject died in our custody. You will, again, have all the rights and protections as in an officer-involved shooting, and we and our attorney will be there to advise you. If you are a witness officer, again, you will have to provide FIT with a statement at the scene with a representative after viewing your body-worn camera. CIRT will also respond and conduct their joint administrative investigation.

An in-custody death at CCDC is very similar to an in-custody death in the field, procedure-wise. The differences are that the scene is typically much smaller and contained to a cell or module, there may only be a few

immediate officers who responded and there should be a plethora of video available. As with any investigation, FIT will begin their investigation and review all available evidence. Typically this will all be done on the 12th floor of CCDC. After FIT's initial review, they will start to conduct interviews based on their needs and interview all witness officers. You will be able to review video evidence with us prior to your interview. If FIT determines the need to label any officer as involved, that officer will have all the same rights as any involved officer by policy and law. We will be present during the process with you.

Lastly, FIT also responds to scenes where officers have been the victims of violent crimes in the line of duty. These could be injuries sustained because of the subject's use of force, the subject ramming an officer's patrol car, the subject pointing a firearm at an officer, etc. FIT will vigorously investigate these cases and utilize any other investigative bureau they need to apprehend and charge the subject through their team of district attorneys. This is an area where FIT excels and takes great pride in helping investigate and charge criminals who attack our officers. They will have all the resources available to them from the agency to be utilized in their investigation.

I would like to highlight FIT and the lengths that they, as well as NEAC PD, went to on a recent case. This is a fresh case, so I will not go into detail on it; however, FIT and PD did an amazing investigation and put a violent criminal in jail and hopefully prison for a lengthy time. The event unfolded as two traffic officers observed reckless street racers and attempted to stop them. One of the vehicles attempted to run a traffic officer off the road and fled. A short time later, the subject was apprehended at his residence. NEAC PD and FIT were granted a search warrant for the residence and ultimately found a large quantity of narcotics, a firearm and a large sum of cash. Thankfully, our officer is OK and wasn't seriously injured. Thanks to the hard work of the patrol squads working that night, PD and FIT, this subject is not out on the roads victimizing our officers and the community we serve. **VB**

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# The Future of Law Enforcement

## CORRECTIONS OFFICER MYRON HAMM

Director of Corrections

I recently spoke to a member of the LVMPD Explorers program and an aspiring future officer in this community. I asked this young man why he wanted to be a police officer. His response was: "Well, I have grown up in a cop family and I have always admired my dad, and when I watched certain events unfold here in my city I was amazed at how the officers with LVMPD handled each incident." He mentioned 1 October, the UNLV shooting and the murder of Officer Truong Thai as the incidents that stick out in his mind.

He stated, "Forget about my dad being a police officer for a moment — I figured I want to do my part to help people." I mentioned to him that we are only human and we can't help everyone. He then stated, "My goal is to help one person and possibly change their life, and if I can help just one person or give them comfort, then I figure I will be doing a good job."

These statements are coming from a 16-year-old young man who believes he can make a difference within his community. He did not mention wanting to drive a car really fast, shoot a gun or make a lot of money. The thing that stood out about our conversation is that he truly believes he can make a difference. I have to admit that it is refreshing to speak to a teenager who

believes that and is willing to put in all the hard work to get to that point.

In this day and age, I do not think it is popular among young people to aspire to be an officer. When I tested for this Department 25 years ago, there were 500 people testing. I remember being on the track at Clark High School at 7 a.m. and then moving on to the written test. I spoke to a guy who informed me that it was his fifth time testing.

We are at a critical time in our society. Years ago, finding qualified candidates was easy. Now it has become more difficult due to the change in attitudes toward law enforcement. I can only hope that this younger generation really believes that they can make a difference in this world. It has become incumbent upon us to really explain to our kids the need for good people to do this job. A famous American once said, "Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on." **VB**

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# LEAF Scholarships Eligibility Deadline for 2025

## CORRECTIONS OFFICER DANIEL COYNE

Treasurer

Every year, the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (LEAF) gives out \$30,000 in scholarships to deserving immediate family members of PPA members. These scholarships are paid for out of the LEAF account and not the PPA account. I would like to explain the criteria to be eligible for a LEAF scholarship, so there is no confusion.

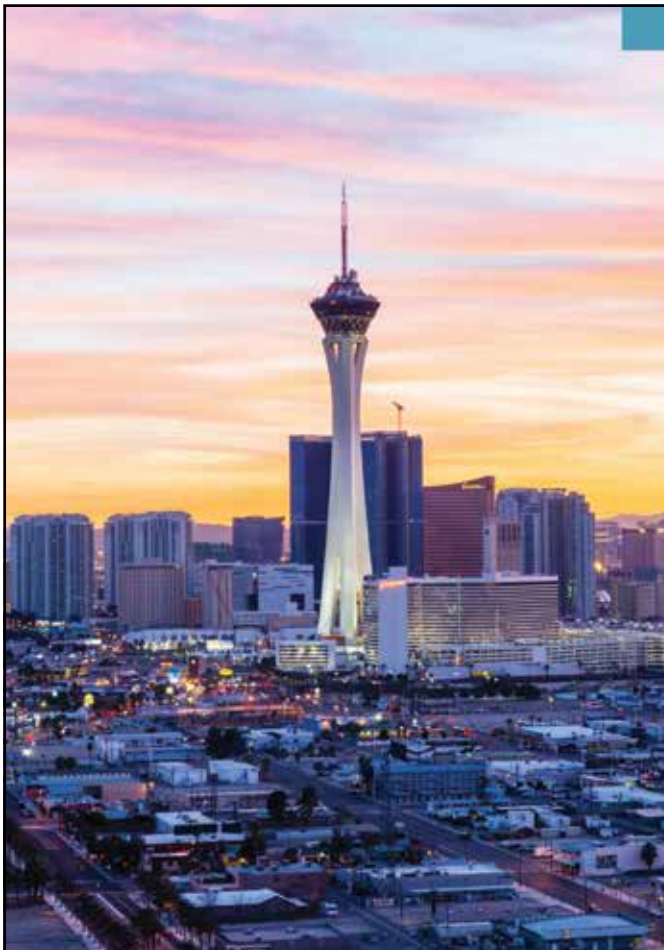
To be eligible to receive a LEAF scholarship, the recipient must be an immediate family member of a PPA member who donates recurring payroll deductions to the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund or makes monthly recurring donations through the LEAF website, [leafcharity.org](http://leafcharity.org). The recipient also must be a high school senior heading into college or a trade school. To be eligible for the 2025 LEAF scholarship, you will have to be donating to LEAF by the cutoff date of July 31, 2024. To donate, please fill out the LVMPD Payroll Recurring Deductions Sheet (see page 22) under the "Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (LEAF)" slot, making sure you check the "Recurring" box, or go to [leafcharity.org](http://leafcharity.org), click "Donate" and select the option to donate monthly. Make sure to email or thousand-mile your payroll deduction form back to payroll. If you have any questions on how to do this, please reach out to me.

I get a lot of questions from our members who are unfamiliar with what LEAF is and what it does. Well, the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund is a charity that is run by the PPA. LEAF's main goal is to financially support the children of our fallen officers throughout college. The Fund pays for the college tuition, room and board, books and fees of the children of PPA members who are killed in the line of duty. The fund also pays for birthday, Christmas and graduation presents until these children are 18 years old.

Recently, we have been exploring different revenue streams to financially strengthen this fund, with the main goal of being able to pay off the mortgages of any future fallen officers who are killed in the line of duty. I pray we will never have another officer killed in the line of duty again, but if we do, it is my goal to be able to relieve that financial stress for their family.

Between increasing funding through recurring payroll deductions, the Police vs. Fire football game and our generous corporate donors, I believe we will be able to meet our goal in just a few years.

If you would like to know more about the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund or how to donate, please reach out to me. **VB**



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# Why Police Officers Need to Participate in the Political Process

**OFFICER JOHN ABEL**  
Director of Governmental Affairs

Police officers play a critical role in maintaining law and order in society. As members of law enforcement, they are tasked with upholding justice, protecting communities and ensuring the safety of citizens. However, their influence extends beyond the streets they patrol. Police officers also have the power to shape the future of their profession and the communities they serve through political engagement.

Police departments often face resource constraints that can impact their ability to effectively respond to crime and emergencies. During election season, police officers can advocate for increased funding, staffing and resources for law enforcement agencies. By engaging with elected officials and policymakers, police officers can highlight the importance of investing in training, equipment and technology to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of policing efforts.

Participating in the political process is vital for police officers for several reasons. First and foremost, the laws and policies that govern law enforcement are often crafted and decided upon by elected officials at the local, state and federal levels. By being politically active, police officers can advocate for legislation that supports law enforcement efforts, enhances public safety and addresses the needs of both officers and the communities they serve.

Furthermore, being politically engaged allows police officers to have a voice in the decision-making processes that impact their profession. By actively participating in elections, officers can support candidates who understand the challenges and complexities of law enforcement and who are committed to working collaboratively with officers to address these issues effectively.


Moreover, political engagement empowers police officers to shape the public perception of law enforcement. By participating in community events, engaging with local leaders and advocating for policies that promote transparency and accountability, officers can P# 16350 build trust and foster positive relationships with the communities they serve. This, in turn, can help improve community-police relations and enhance overall public safety.

In addition to advocating for legislative changes and fostering community relationships, political engagement can also benefit police officers on a personal level. By staying informed about political developments, officers can better understand

how changes in laws and policies may impact their work, their rights and their livelihoods. This knowledge can empower officers to take proactive steps to protect their interests and advocate for their needs within their departments and communities.

The law enforcement profession faces public scrutiny and criticism, particularly during times of social unrest and political polarization. During election season, police officers can defend the integrity and professionalism of their colleagues by speaking out against misinformation, stereotypes and negative portrayals of law enforcement. By actively participating in political debates and discussions, police officers can shape public perceptions and promote a more nuanced understanding of the challenges and complexities of policing.

Ultimately, being politically active during election season is not just a responsibility for police officers — it is an opportunity to effect positive change, shape the future of law enforcement and strengthen the bond between officers and the communities they serve. By engaging in the political process, officers can contribute to a safer, more just society for all. The law enforcement community and our families represent a large portion of the voting populace in Southern Nevada, so it is incumbent upon us to take an active role in the political process and ensure our families and extended families do as well. Please take our LVPPA political candidate endorsement list with you when you vote and give it to your extended family members as well. **VB**



## CALENDAR

<b>July 4</b>	Independence Day
<b>September 2</b>	Labor Day
<b>September 5</b>	General Membership Meeting, 5 p.m.*
<b>October 25</b>	Nevada Day LVPPA Trunk or Treat
<b>October 31</b>	Halloween



\*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.



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# Texting Machines

**OFFICER GREG STINNETT**  
Secretary

The advancement of technology has made our career field easier and harder at the same time. Communication now can be instantaneous. We have evolved from a cop pushing a sled having to stop at 7-11 to use their phone to a beeper to a cellphone, Nextel chirp phones, FaceTime and so on.

As cops, we are always looking for ways to make the job easier and streamline communications, sometimes to our detriment. The Nevada Revised Statutes specifically address the requirements of police agencies regarding the use of mobile-issued devices:

NRS 289.827 Requirement for law enforcement agency to adopt written policy concerning use of issued mobile devices; approval of certain mobile applications by law enforcement agency for official use on mobile device prohibited.

1. Each law enforcement agency shall adopt a written policy setting forth standards of conduct for the use of any mobile device issued by the law enforcement agency to any peace officer employed by the agency for use by the peace officer while performing official duties.
2. In addition to including rules for the appropriate use of a mobile device by a peace officer while performing official duties, the written policy

adopted by a law enforcement agency pursuant to this section must:  
(a) Establish which mobile applications are approved for official use on a mobile device; and

(b) Prohibit the use of any mobile application that is not approved for official use on a mobile device.

3. A law enforcement agency may not approve for official use on a mobile device any mobile application that uses end-to-end encryption or any other means with the intent to avoid the creation, retention, or lawful discovery of records or data relating to the communications of a peace officer.

Number 3 is critically important. *At no point* should any LVMPD supervisor ask or order you to install and utilize an end-to-end encrypted messaging application on your Department-issued cellphone, as it is illegal. That would be an example of an unlawful order. If you ever encounter this issue, please contact us immediately to address the issue in real time.

Regarding your personally owned cellphone, *do not* use your personally owned cellphone for work-related business, period. It is poor practice. *Do not* install and use end-to-end encrypted messaging applications for work purposes on your personally owned cellphone. By doing so, you could potentially lose your device and or the contents of your device to the discovery process in litigation.

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If any supervisor orders you to do this or suggests that you do this on your personally owned device, tell them *no*. That, too, is an unlawful order. The department does *not* expect you to use your personally owned cellphone for work purposes. Always remember, when using your Department-issued cellphone for text communications, *never* text a message that you would not want to read out loud to a jury during a trial. Communications on your work cellphone are *not* private.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. Stay safe and thank you for your membership. **VB**

## CONGRATULATIONS

*to the contest winners from the last issue!*

**May/June**

### Hidden Symbol Contest (\$250)

Gustavo Rios, P# 8917

### P# Contest (\$50)

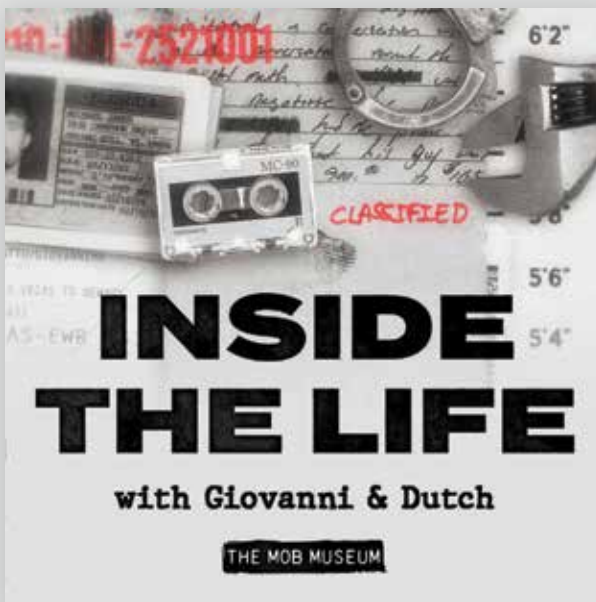
Nicklaus Bachman, P# 6222

Antonio Lourenco, P# 5198

Martin Mountafov, P# 18525

## EDITORIAL POLICY

1. Opinions expressed in *LVPPA Vegas Beat* are not necessarily those of the Las Vegas Police Protective Association.
2. No responsibility is assumed for unsolicited material.
3. Letters or articles submitted shall be limited to 500 words and must be accompanied by writer's name but may be reprinted without name or address at writer's request.
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.



Inside the Life is a **new podcast produced by The Mob Museum**, the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement. It is hosted by two former elite undercover agents, Giovanni Rocco and Dutch McAlpin. Their stories of infiltrating everything from the American Mob and outlaw motorcycle gangs to the cartels will leave you stunned. This podcast will give listeners a one-of-a-kind look into the inner world of organized crime, featuring guests who have lived on both sides of the law, risked it all and emerged to tell the tale. Inside the Life promises to be a thrilling and educational listen for those interested in organized crime, law enforcement and true crime.

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# Let's Talk About Narcan

**ROBERT GLOWINSKI**  
Director

Greetings, I hope this finds everyone well. At a recent Board of Directors meeting, we discussed the amount of time it is taking officers to receive Narcan replacements. The conversation then transitioned into how much Narcan we should be administering in the field and whether we can dispense too much. The conversation concluded with an opinion from the Executive Board that the Narcan you carry is intended for you and your partner. You should conserve your supply of Narcan in case you or another officer are exposed or show signs and symptoms of an exposure. Since this meeting, I've obtained some answers from Health and Safety regarding replacement and some information from the heroes at the local fire department regarding use.

Let's start with replacement. According to Health and Safety, the turnaround time for processing a replacement OD kit is one day. The clock starts ticking once Health and Safety receives your report-of-use form via thousand-miler or email. The replacement kits will be sent to you via thousand-miler. In theory, if you administer a dose of Narcan in the field on your Monday and you submit the report-of-use form by the end of your shift, you will likely have your replacement kit before you start

your weekend. If you hand-deliver your report-of-use form to Health and Safety, they will provide you with your replacement kit while you are at their office. Additionally, each area command is responsible for having a Narcan liaison who should have access to spare kits at the area command. Health and Safety believes the liaison should be able to issue you a spare. Full disclosure: The list of Narcan liaisons is grossly out of date. I counted five liaisons who are now retired. If you are a liaison, you should consider updating this with Health and Safety.

During the previously mentioned Board meeting, an officer stated they were recently at a call for service and a member of the fire department informed the officer we should not be giving more than two doses of Narcan. I followed up at a local fire station. Fortunately for me, I was able to catch the firefighters in between their grocery store run and their pickleball game. The fire department is adhering to the guidelines put forth by the Southern Nevada Health District. How do I know this? Because the EMT didn't initially have an answer, he looked it up on his phone for me. He went directly to the SNHD website, which stated that if a person displays the signs of an opioid overdose, you should administer one dose of Narcan. If there is no improvement within five minutes, administer a second dose. Most information available supports the "two doses if necessary" protocol.

**GET ELY-VATED**

08

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The CDC — you may remember them from their chart-topping hit “COVID-19” — recommends providing a second dose after two to three minutes. The amount of Narcan you use may depend on the strength of the opioid, the presence of fentanyl or one of its analogs, and the amount of time it takes medical to reach you.

Why does the Executive Board believe Narcan is allocated for you and other officers? The same reason we believe your tourniquets and trauma kits are meant for you and other officers. Your safety and well-being are paramount to us. Although we all signed up to help people, you can't help them if you are sick or injured. Think of it as if you were on an airplane; prior to taking off, the flight attendant broadcasts instructions stating that if the cabin loses pressure, you should put on your oxygen mask before helping other passengers put on theirs. In the event you respond to a scene in which there may be an exposure, you need to make sure you can take care of yourself before taking care of those already exposed. In addition to an actual exposure, the concern of potential exposure may add to the anxiety and chaos of a scene.

Department policy 10.275, Medical Supplies and Equipment, discusses the use of Narcan. Under the Opioid Overdose Kit section, the policy initially states that members of the Department are trained in the use of Narcan to reduce the number of fatalities within the community. The policy later states the OD kits “allow authorized users to respond to a member who appears to be experiencing an opioid overdose after an accidental exposure.” Even though the policy discusses caring for injured persons and rendering first aid (6.300 Protecting Crime Scenes and Rendering Aid), the P# 16383 common theme is to summon medical attention. While it is likely a citizen purposely ingested the substance that caused their OD, there is no guarantee you are not at risk of exposure. Are you willing to take that chance?

I'm sure this opinion will ruffle some feathers. Within days of sharing our view at the Board meeting, we received calls from supervisors seeking to confirm our stance. Our answer was simple: Our members come first. This is a dangerous profession. Just because you may be injured while

doing your job, that doesn't mean you have to be injured. We mitigate risk every day when encountering violent individuals; why wouldn't we do the same at an overdose event? Why does one danger require greater risk to you than the other? Ultimately, the decision to use Narcan on a citizen is yours to make. You will need to evaluate the circumstances and weigh the risks to you, your partner and the public. I can appreciate that no one wants to stand by and watch as a citizen suffers the effects of an overdose. However, I am certain no one wants to watch the Honor Guard present a crisply folded flag to your grieving family, either. As always, stay safe, and trust your training. **VB**

## RETIREMENTS

4/10/24	Brenda F. Rowland	P# 7396	CO II	21 years
4/13/24	Kevin W. Koval	P# 7781	PO II	21 years
5/2/24	Sam Gusman	P# 9065	PO II	18 years
5/29/24	David M. Summers	P# 5041	PO II	28 years
5/30/24	Jason R. Leavitt	P# 5814	PO II	26 years
5/31/24	Lawrence Gilbert	P# 6513	PO II	24 years
5/31/24	Paul Wojcik	P# 7162	PO II	23 years
5/31/24	Stephen T. Baker Jr.	P# 9136	PO II	18 years
5/31/24	Kevin J. Beck	P# 9629	PO II	17 years



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**DAVID ROGER**  
General Counsel

## Body-Worn Cameras and Recording Phone Calls

NRS 200.620 makes it a felony to record a person's phone call, referred to as "wire communication," without the person's consent or a court order. Are officers committing a felony when a body-worn camera records a citizen's phone conversation? Is it also a federal crime to record the call?

### Nevada Law

In the absence of consent, an officer may apply for a court order authorizing the interception of a phone call. NRS 179.460 makes the application process difficult and requires officers to exhaust all other investigative options before an order will be issued.

Officers may also implement a wire interception when hostages, explosives or barricades are the focus of the investigation. After the emergency, investigators will apply to a judge to ratify the decision to intercept communications.

### Body-Worn Cameras

In 2015, lawmakers were excited to create laws mandating that peace officers wear body-worn cameras. However, law enforcement lobbyists warned that body-worn cameras might also record phone conversations of unsuspecting citizens during interaction with police officers. As a result, the Legislature excluded body-worn cameras from the wiretap statute (NRS 179.425[3]).

**Are officers committing a felony when a body-worn camera records a citizen's phone conversation?**

### Federal Law

Unlike Nevada law, 18 USC 2511 only requires one party to consent to recording a phone conversation. Thus, police



officers who record their own calls with their body-worn cameras do not violate federal wiretap laws.

### LVMPD Policy

LVMPD policy 7.136.1(1) outlines prohibited uses of a BWC as "Any phone calls and/or personal conversations among department members without the knowledge of participants (see LVMPD 8.172, Covert Mechanical Recordings)."

Policy does not prohibit recording phone conversations with non-Department members. Thus, neither state, federal nor LVMPD policy prohibits recording phone calls with citizens.

### Conclusion


Today, police officers may record phone calls with individuals by using a body-worn camera. If you are going to call a suspect, place the call on your speakerphone and activate your body-worn camera. By doing so, at least for now, you are violating neither wiretap laws nor LVMPD policy. **VB**

# Now There Are **500** More Reasons Why It Pays to Read



This issue contains **TWO** ways to win your share of **\$500 CASH**

## Giveaway #1: One **\$250** prize

Members who find the hidden  in this issue of Vegas Beat and register through [www.LVPPA.com](http://www.LVPPA.com) will be entered into a drawing for \$250. You must enter by Wednesday, August 7, 2024, to be considered eligible. Telephone entries will not be accepted. Visit our website for more details.

## Giveaway #2: Five **\$50** prizes

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!

Excludes P#s listed in the Retirement section of Vegas Beat

**Cash is great, but our giveaways aren't the only reasons to read Vegas Beat.**

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- Benefit changes
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**For so many reasons, it pays to read Vegas Beat.**

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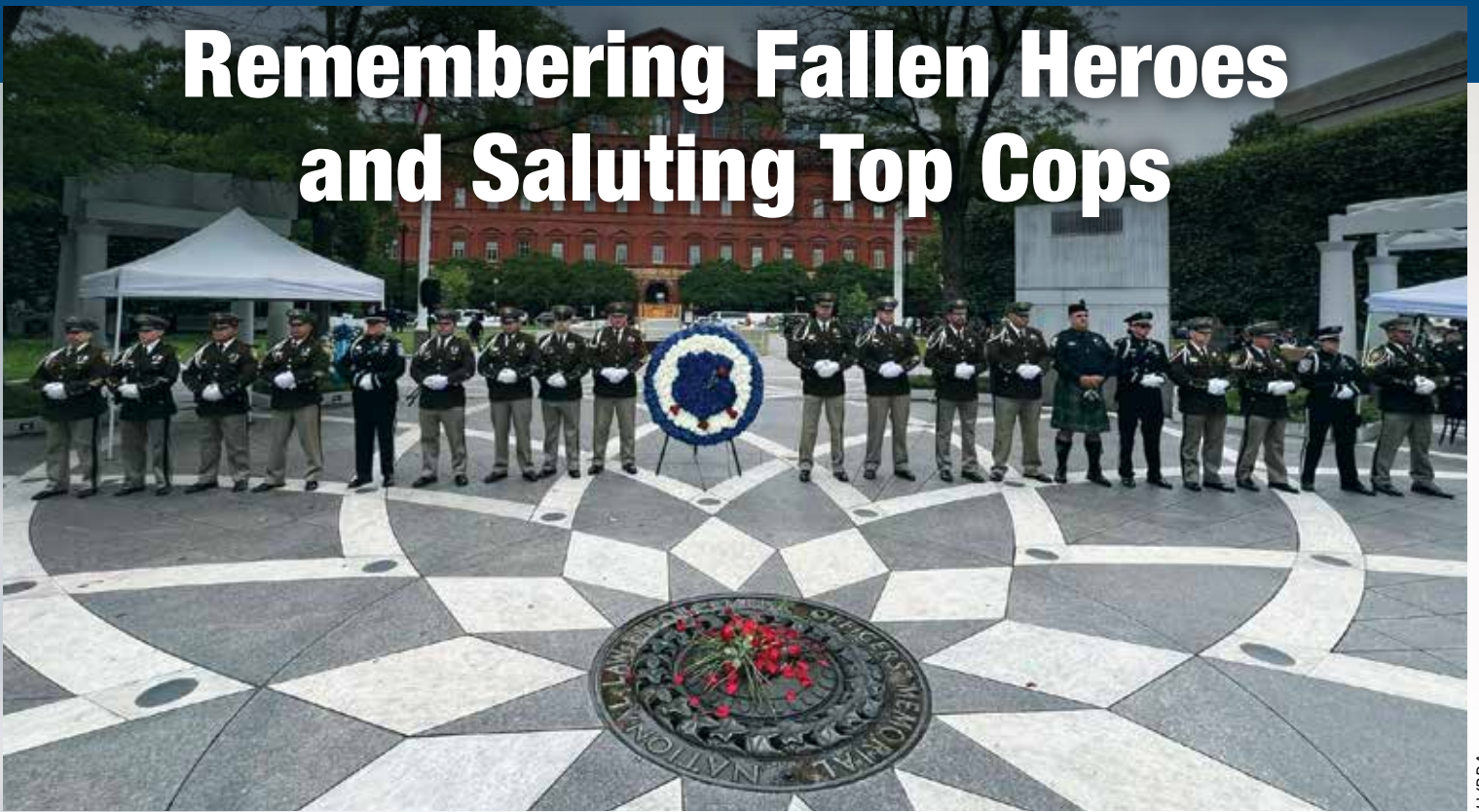
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# Remembering Fallen Heroes and Saluting Top Cops



LVPPA

In May, LVPPA members traveled to Washington, D.C., during National Police Week to pay tribute to our brothers and sisters who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This year, **LVMPD Corrections Officer Victor Antoine Hunter** was added to the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and honored at the Candlelight Vigil and other events. Officer Hunter suffered a medical emergency on September 16, 2011, after responding to a code red

emergency at the Clark County Detention Center. When a fight erupted between two inmates, he ran up three flights of stairs and separated the inmates. Two hours later, he felt ill, clutching his chest and vomiting. A nurse administered anti-nausea medicine and sent him home. He was traveling home, southbound on Main Street, when he hit a vehicle in front of him, spun his tires and crashed into a concrete wall at the corner of Main Street and Bonneville Avenue. He was transported to University Medical Center, where he died. Officer Hunter had served with the LVMPD for four years and was survived by his wife and two children.

This year, LVMPD Corrections Officer Victor Antoine Hunter was added to the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

While in D.C., we were also proud to recognize **LVMPD Officers Joseph A. Belmonte and Rudy Sacba**, who received an honorable mention award at the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Top Cops Awards Ceremony on May 12. Officers Belmonte and Sacba responded to a domestic disturbance incident on August 25, 2023, that began when Sandra Lopez-Ochoa and her brother got into a violent argument over McDonald's dipping sauce. Sandra grabbed her brother, threw him to the ground and began strangling him. Luckily, Sandra's mother was able to help her son free himself from Sandra's powerful grip, and minutes later called 9-1-1 to



LVPPA



report the incident. Belmonte and Sacba arrived at the apartment shortly after the call was made. Belmonte acted as the contact officer and began to calmly speak to Sandra while Sacba stood near the door as the cover officer. As Belmonte continued speaking to Sandra, she suddenly stood up and pulled out a knife, lunging at him and stabbing him in the top of his head. She then turned to Sacba and tried to stab him as well. Sacba was able to raise his service firearm in time and discharge five rounds, fatally striking Sandra and ending the threat. Belmonte received immediate medical attention and thankfully has recovered fully from his head wound. We thank Officers Belmonte and Sacba for their courage and for putting their safety and well-being in harm's way to protect our community. **VB**





# PRE-PLANNING

## WINNING THE EVENT BEFORE THE EVENT



**CHAD LYMAN**  
Director

**P**re-planning can be a key to successfully handling any LEO call, from big to small. Pre-planning is literally defined as when you plan in advance. On critical events, pre-planning — as an individual and with teammates — can make the difference for a well-run call that allows officers to adjust and overcome sudden developments that are almost inevitable in the field. Pre-planning should begin long before the call is handled. It begins in training and prep before the actual call. On the call, it should happen while en route, can be codified in a quick conversation with teammates

upon arrival and on approach to the target, and should continue with ongoing communication with teammates throughout the call.

A key to pre-planning throughout your career will be your individual preparation. Preparation for the individual officer begins with the prefix “pre-,” which means “before.” The individual officer should begin to prepare for the event by being physically fit, mentally and emotionally ready, and tactically proficient. Officers must prepare ahead of time, because the day chooses you. When the moment arrives, the time to prepare, or pre-plan, has passed and reality begins. A reality with no pre-planning or preparation

can be very unforgiving. At best, it ends with the officer physically surviving, but dealing with unintended outcomes. At worst, the officer can lose the encounter, resulting in substantial injuries or even death. This article is not meant to suggest that officers who are on killed on calls in the line of duty are all officers who did not pre-plan. I firmly believe that, despite preparation, sometimes it just is your time to go. However, most critical incidents that go sideways expose a lack of pre-planning before, upon arrival and during the event.

### Before the Event

Pre-planning before is all about training. I consistently champion the value of training consistently over time, a little a lot. Training can be through department in-service, such as AOST, RBT, DT training or the range. Officers can also seek out outside LEO-based training through private resources or LEO training conferences. For this training to have pre-planning value, you need to retain it. I would suggest actually taking notes throughout the training. Effective notes should list the title and date of the training and capture key principles, fundamentals, policies, case law and techniques taught. These notes can be reviewed over time, and the techniques learned can be reviewed over time. You can mentally apply the principles and techniques covered in training to calls you have been on, or calls you mentally rehearse in your mind. Physical and mental rehearsal of training is a critical part of pre-planning for actual calls and should be done routinely throughout an officer’s career. Physical repetitions should be done at least twice a week. Mental rehearsal should be done several times a shift, including active mental rehearsal while en route to every call.

The physical and mental rehearsal covered above can be done with a partner or your squad. I have trained above and beyond the department-provided training with partners and eventually on a squad-based level on every assignment I have ever worked in my 20-plus-year career. Cops actually like training that is relevant and effective, and will participate if the training is conducted in a safe manner.

## En Route

When officers are dispatched to a call, they should be mentally rehearsing potential scenarios based on the details of the call. If you are performing a car stop or a person stop, you should be rapidly assessing the stop, the environment and potential scenarios that could happen. Assessment is based on why you are performing the stop, how many people are you stopping, lighting conditions and environmental factors, plus anything else relevant to the officer at that time.

Let's go back to dispatched calls. If I am alone, I am visualizing and running different scenarios through my mind. As I consider different scenarios, I am thinking of needed resources, tactics and training that will lead to favorable outcomes to handle the potential call I have. This is not a process where I turn every call into a STAR protocol or a SWAT callout. I consider the call for what it is to start, but I also consider how will I adapt if the call is inaccurate or goes south at some point. If I have a partner in the car, this is a huge potential advantage on any call I go on.

That advantage is emphasized exponentially if I actually communicate with my partner. We bounce stuff off of one another and quickly run through pre-planning for the call we are going to. We can squander any advantage we may have had by not communicating or pre-planning while en route. In that case, we are simply giving a ride to two cops who are going to a call. It is disheartening to see officers headed to calls jamming out to the radio, or arriving early and parking down the street to wait for cover and jump on their phone to play some game or surf social media while they wait. This time could be used to focus on the call, go over the details, think of training and consider potential scenarios and outcomes. The easiest way to kick-start any event toward a safe resolution for everyone involved (including the suspect) is to start communicating prior to the event and continue coms throughout.

Pre-planning and communication should include potential roles or resources needed, which can vary depending on the call — contact versus cover, lethal versus low lethal, hands-on versus security, etc. Even though initial roles can be “assigned,” a big part of pre-planning is realizing that these roles can change rapidly, or may not be needed at all. Officers need to be flexible and adapt, but having a plan and communicating that plan allows them to get into a mindset that facilitates a trained response and kicks off pre-planning. Officers who pre-plan and communicate handle calls and make adjustments better than officers who don't. If there needs to be an adaptation on the call and someone fills your role or it is not needed, if you pre-planned it is much easier to “find work” and pick up a different role. Preparation, training and communication only matter if you use them.

## On the Scene

If officers do not drive together, they should meet briefly upon arrival and communicate a plan of action. Once again, a key component of any plan is that it can change. We may need to adapt. However, by starting the process and P# 18211 starting communication prior to the event and the accompanying stress and elevated heart rate, officers are more likely to make key adjustments and respond in a trained manner. This leads to favorable outcomes. This meeting can be brief or longer, depending on the call and what is occurring. Pre-planning is not designed to hinder a response or design a “perfect plan.” It is designed to give the officers a coordinated and planned start to the event that gets them on the same page and responding as a team. A pre-planned response executed is better than a perfect plan not executed.

No amount of pre-planning can stop calls from going sideways or differently than planned. Officers have to use force at times based on

the suspect's behavior. Officers must follow law and policy as they choose appropriate force options. A key consideration in analyzing an officer's force is whether the officer felt a reasonable fear based upon the suspect's actions. That reasonable fear is based on the officer's fear of the consequences of their inaction (i.e., the injury or death that may occur to the officer or anyone else based upon the suspect's actions if the officer does not respond to the threat).

An officer experiencing a reasonable fear and choosing a proper response is far more likely to occur if the officer regularly pre-plans for potential scenarios. Pre-planning allows the officer to experience fear based on training and preparation, not just emotion. A reasonable fear based on pre-planning and training is knowledge-based, and much easier to articulate. A knowledge-based fear response as threats arise is far more likely to produce trained and appropriate responses that increase officer safety than a true emotional fear response. If you train consistently and don't pre-plan during calls, you are not getting the true benefit of any training you are undertaking because the suspect may “surprise you” with resistance, leading to an emotion-based fear response.

# TRAIN, PREPARE, PRE-PLAN, COMMUNICATE AND ACT UNTIL YOUR RESPONSES ON CALLS COME FROM A KNOWLEDGE- BASED FEAR RESPONSE AND NOT AN EMOTION-BASED FEAR RESPONSE.

Can you imagine a football team practicing and pre-planning for the game, but then not arriving to the stadium early to meet and not huddling before every play to have a plan? The real key is not the pre-game meetings or huddles. Those are important, because we get on the same page and are thinking about what we are doing, not a game on our phone. The key adjustments are post-huddle, pre-snap and even after the snap through communication. The best defenses talk and communicate throughout the play — run, pass, draw, screen, motion, etc. The best teams practice, pre-plan, communicate, act and continue to communicate. This formula captures the importance of pre-planning and how it can actually be implemented. Whether you are a football fan or not, there is a lot to learn about how to successfully win on everyday police calls.

Train, prepare, pre-plan, communicate and act until your responses on calls come from a knowledge-based fear response and not an emotion-based fear response. Do I still get scared on calls? Sure. But my training, pre-planning and coms create trained actions as a result of my fear, not emotional untrained responses. There are times on calls where I have actually felt really physically scared after it was over, when I thought about what “could have happened.” During the event, however, if we have pre-planned, that is often what comes out when the stress begins. If you are not afraid, this job is not for you. If you are not managing that fear with consistent training, pre-planning, communication and acting, it may not be for you either. **VB**

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Employee Name	P#	Daytime Contact Number

Wage Type	Deduction Type	Deduction Amount	Start Date	Stop Date	
<b>DUES</b>					
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 (all pay periods)				
5008	SPA Dues (24 pay periods)				

<b>MISCELLANEOUS DEDUCTIONS</b>					
5200	Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (LEAF) (24 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
5435	PMSA Foundation (24 pay periods)				<input type="checkbox"/> One Time <input 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				

<b>LOANS</b>					<b>Declining Balance</b>
5411	Employee Reimbursement		Reason:		
5223	BPA Loan (all pay periods)				\$
5220	PPACE Assoc. Loan (all pay periods)				\$
5210	SPA Loan (24 pay periods)				\$
5410	Purchase Retirement (24 pay periods)	<i>To purchase retirement, you must initiate your request through PERS. You may stop the deduction using this form.</i>			\$
5413	Purchase Retirement 2 (24 pay periods)				\$

<i>Employee Signature &amp; PN</i> <small>(Sign name as it appears on paycheck)</small>		<i>Representative Signature</i>		<i>Date</i>



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