

General Manager

From: General Manager [pbarty@peaceofficers.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 12:16 PM
To: 'General Manager'
Subject: FW: P.O.C.'s Position Regarding Furloughs
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.jpg; image004.png; image005.png

Officers:

The letter attached below was hand delivered to the Governor's staff during an hour and a half long meeting regarding Peace Officer furloughs and possible layoffs.

It is important that if your department plans on furloughs of your positions, you get a copy of this to your management heads and let us know so that we can concentrate our efforts there. It is apparent from our discussions with the administration that general funded agencies are likely to be harder hit than those that are special funded, but that the department of finance will likely try to raid special funds to close the budget gap as well. Recommendations for furloughs, and possible layoffs, will be made by your department heads and acted upon by the Governor – so it is critical we identify management that is not supportive and build our case against layoffs and furloughs.

We believe that any resolution to the budget is unlikely until after the legislature and administration see what a bailout plan from the new Obama administration entails in the way of State monies. California is likely to receive money for education and healthcare from the federal government. However, this will not close the entire gap and so we are likely to see the Governor call for a special election to vote on sales and other tax increases because of party politics. As you may know, California is one of the few states to require a 2/3 vote of the legislature, in each house, in order to pass a budget. Any Republican who has voted for them in the past has been defeated in their next election, and any budget deal that Republicans are likely to agree to, with spending cuts that take place in the future, will make an agreement with the Democrats unlikely – which is the reason that voters will most likely be called to make the decision.



PEACE OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA e - MEMO

To : All Sworn Peace Officers
From : The P.O.C. General Manager, Paul B. Barty on behalf of Bob Orange, P.O.C. President
Subject : Furloughs
Date : Wednesday 21st January 2009

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95818

January 9, 2009

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

Peace Officers of California (**P.O.C.**) respectfully request the opportunity to address you or your staff regarding impending Peace Officer personnel decisions, such as furloughs, and the negative public safety outcomes that will result.

In economic downturns, history clearly demonstrates that as the disparity in wealth amongst the population grows, crime will increase – and simply put: the need for Peace Officers is going to increase, not decrease, as wages become depressed and unemployment increases. Furthermore, any perceived “budget savings,” which might ‘appear’ through the reductions from savings resulting from reduced enforcement will never actually occur because they will lead to indirect revenue losses through damage to the economy because of increased crime, thus resulting in lost revenue to the State.

It is important to understand that although many of our positions are in excess of 30% vacant (on paper), but that the actual vacancy rates are even higher because many departments have simply deleted unfilled positions, skewing the real numbers. As you are aware, these cuts started under the Gray Davis administration and have only continued through recruitment and retention policies that are currently being fostered by management personnel, many of whom have no criminal justice or law enforcement backgrounds. Enforcement should balance the desired level of abatement as well as enforcement and fines. Current practices are not economically sound.

For example, recently your administration added 2 positions at the Department of Corporations (where Davis had laid off the entire workforce or nearly 2-dozen investigators), and it is a matter of record that one of those officers worked on a case where two people were arrested recently in connection with \$350,000,000 in real estate fraud within San Luis Obispo County. Should we cut back these investigator’s hours when it is lack of enforcement that has allowed white-collar criminals to vaporize \$9-trillion of worth from our housing markets? How much of this situation could and should have been prevented by good enforcement?

All in all, there are more than 50 peace officer classifications within **P.O.C.**, and all have a story to tell: Justice Special Agents who perform duties such as tracking down Sexually Violent Predators and work undercover gang and drug investigations; ABC Investigators who regulate the 75,000+ retailers and an alcohol industry with \$23-Billion in revenues in California alone (but barely 100 Investigators to police them); Fish and Game Wardens who are at pre-WWII staffing levels in the midst of closing salmon fisheries and demonstrably increased poaching; 30 Investigators at EDD who oversee \$42-Billion in State revenues and \$13-Billion in State benefit payouts (where fraud is rampant); Insurance Detectives who save taxpayers millions and millions every year; and, of course, the list goes on and on!

We can be partners in creating a stable California, which is in everyone’s long-term interests, but we need to be engaged to help. It goes without saying that **P.O.C.** appreciates the gravity of the economic situation that affects your ability to administer the State. Most of our positions are paid for by special, not general, fund monies. We would like to work with you to create reliable revenue streams. There are various revenue-generating enforcement efforts that can be stepped up in this precarious time, but not if you side-line your police with unpaid time-off. This will foster the opposite of your intentions, while endangering a citizenry that is suffering enough already. Stepping up enforcement in anticipation of a crime increase will produce cost savings, while protecting Californians. Law enforcement is one vital service that cannot be reduced without jeopardizing the core function of government – to provide for the public safety, health and welfare of its citizens.

We look forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss these important issues. Please feel free to contact our General Manager, Paul Barty, to schedule a meeting at 916-266-6449 ext. 101.

Sincerely,

Bob A. Orange

Bob Orange
President
Peace Officers of California

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