

**From:** P.O.C. Public Information Officer Richard Bergstresser [mailto:pio@peaceofficers.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 11:31 AM  
**To:** Public Information Officer (PIO) Richard Bergstresser  
**Subject:** CSLEA - Out of Touch or Out of Control



## PEACE OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA e - MEMO

**To** : All Sworn Peace Officers eligible to form their own Peace Officer Only Bargaining Unit (BU 22)

**From** : The Public Information Officer (PIO) Richard Bergstresser on behalf of the **P.O.C.** Board of Directors

**Subject** : **CSLEA – Out of Touch or Out of Control**

**Date** : Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009

### THE ECONOMY, CRIME, CSLEA, AND YOU

In their January 22 message CSLEA leadership showed how out of touch with reality they are, or perhaps just how desperate they are. Their tone-deafness to the current climate is another example of how their “relationships long established and constantly nurtured” have led Unit 7 cops to be the lowest paid in state service.

CSLEA claims that “...the vast majority of peace officers ... know that crime mainly stems from criminal conduct not economic necessity.” Really? Is that the best they can do? Are they so willing to belittle P.O.C. that they’ll sell out their own members’ importance in these tough times? The vast majority involved in law enforcement (those not holding down cushy time-release union jobs) see a clear link between the two.

“In a comprehensive survey of possible links between crime and the economy, the Police Executive Research Forum found that 44% of agencies reported spikes in crime linked to the economy.” - USA Today, 1/27/09

“A plummeting economy will increase crime in California, endangering our residents and make it more difficult for communities to protect existing businesses and attract new ones.” - San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, 2/2/09

“Recent research shows that economically motivated crimes like robbery and burglary tend to go up during recessions,” says Richard Rosenfeld, a professor of criminology and

criminal justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. - Parade Magazine, 2/8/09

"People are getting more desperate.....I believe that this could be a reflection of what's happening in the economy." - Cmdr. Tom Fitzmaurice, Redland (CA) PD, 1/29/09

In bad times desperate people resort to crime. Drug and alcohol abuse rise. More fraud is committed, more scams arise, resource crimes rise. The men and women of state law enforcement are the rapidly thinning line between crime and safety. Once again CSLEA has missed an opportunity.

20 years ago state law enforcement jobs were highly competitive, a sought after career - today state law enforcement is too often seen as a career stepping stone. Vacancy rates used to be manageable – today they hover around 25%. California has grown in every way over the last 20 years – why isn't there a greater demand for state law enforcement careers? Why the loss of prestige and corporate memory? How did the State of California get less safe?

20 years ago state law enforcement was highly competitive in compensation with local law enforcement – today working for the state often means having to accept 25% less.

Since 1994, in good economic times and bad, our union has been led by Alan Barcelona. His leadership has resulted in the growing disparity we suffer - the relative value of state peace officers has plummeted under his watch. It really is as simple as that. Retirement, benefits, differentials – things CSLEA touts were received well after industry leaders, and they pale in the face of the most outstanding fact: *Alan Barcelona's leadership led our value to drop over the last 15 years.* The 2006 raises CSLEA constantly crows about only put a dent in the inequity that had been allowed to grow – too little, too late.

That brings us back to the news quotes. CSLEA is obviously wrong when they say that “crime mainly stems from criminal conduct not economic necessity.” Why, then, would they say that? What were they thinking?

It can only be one of two things. Either they really are so tone-deaf as to believe their own nonsense, or they know it to be a lie and don't care. If they really are that tone-deaf they are missing a grand opportunity to promote and bolster your future. If they knew but lied about it, obviously and publicly undercutting the value of state law enforcement in order to strike back at an opponent, they have given up the *right* to represent, promote and bolster our future.

Either way, are these the type of people you want guiding our future?

CSLEA should be building us up and making our case instead of cutting us off at the knees. Barcelona has had his chance – 15 years is enough. A new bargaining unit, new member-driven leadership, and a new way of doing business are long past due. Peace Officers of California offers you new opportunities.

#### OTHER NEWS:

- Over the weekend SEIU announced that they have reached an agreement with the State to have their members take only one furlough day instead of two every month. This will result in SEIU members taking a 4.62% cut instead of the 9.2% cut the rest of us are looking at. SEIU exchanged two official holidays for two floating personal days. The deal also includes small raises for a few employees and locks employee health care contributions at 2008 levels.

Over the weekend CSLEA announced via their website that they were “working with other bargaining units” to protect us from layoffs and that they were working to reduce our furloughs to one a day with one day banked for later use – keeping us at the 9.2% pay cut.

SEIU is making things happen – CSLEA is wondering what's happening.

Join POC Now: [www.peaceofficers.org](http://www.peaceofficers.org)

USA Today article: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-01-26-econcrime\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-01-26-econcrime_N.htm)

Quote from DA Dumanis:

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/feb/02/mz1e2dumanis191449-protecting-crime-fighting-capab/?uniontrib>

Quote from Richard Rosenfield: <http://www.parade.com/news/intelligence-report/archive/economy-down-crime-up.html>

Quote from Tom Fitzmaurice: [http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/ci\\_11587511](http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/ci_11587511)

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