

Message from the Sheriff

The population of Los Angeles County grew to more than 10 million people for the first time during 2004, a milestone that no other county in the United States can claim. Protecting the life, health, and property of these residents is the job of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, a daunting task, to say the least. Yet, even in the face of a second straight year of draconian budget cuts, the brave men and women who proudly wear the tan and green uniform of a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff, supported by our great professional staff, have performed superbly in the ongoing fight against crime.

We face challenges unique to this area. Our landscape is as diverse as our population. At any one time, we will have deputies patrolling the coastal beaches, in the sky, on city streets, along mountain roads, even in the water. At the same moment, detectives from Homicide, Arson/Explosives, Safe Streets, Family Crimes, and Vice may be initiating or completing another investigation. Coupled with the sixty or so courthouses that must be opened, the dozens of transportation buses on the road, and the 17,000 inmates that must be housed and fed each day, and you have some idea of the immense pride I feel overseeing the finest Sheriff's Department in the land, a Department that performs every assigned task unflinchingly.

Our effort to secure new revenue through Measure A resulted in 60% of the County voters voting "yes." This message of support will challenge me and my fellow police chiefs to offer the voters another opportunity to increase the hiring of more deputies and police officers.

Meeting the increasing demands of the growing population will take a strong dose of leadership, foresight, and plain, old hard work. The Department continues to be a leader in every aspect of law enforcement, and I will ensure the trend continues.

I want to thank and congratulate every member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for yet another year of exemplary service.

Lee Baca, Sheriff

