



Keeping Informed



Police Officer RAMON ESPINOSA, Treasurer

The last couple of months, I have been vocal about Comprehensive Industrial Disability (CID) Management and the City of Los Angeles workers' compensation administration. I will not slow down on this issue anytime soon. Last month, I wrote and spoke about one of our retired members whose heart surgery approval was delayed for seven months. Following my call to CID Management, surgery was approved and the surgery went well. Our member's spouse called and thanked me personally for intervening.

This should not have occurred. There is a severe disconnect when it comes to caring for an employee (not to mention a human being) and what the City believes to be cost savings. Fellow Los Angeles Police Protective League Director John Mumma has written extensively about the legal settlements the City continues to pay out annually. Well, the City can stand by for additional workers' compensation lawsuits and potential disability pensions. This is all due to the lack of care and treatment for our members. I am helping an officer who requires follow-up care after his surgery, and delays are causing a much slower and painful recovery. This officer wants to get back to doing his job. He is not the type to be a permanent light-duty officer, nor does he wish to be pensioned off.

I have confirmed with CID Management that it will accept your emails as your form of communication between all parties involved when it comes to your injuries. Keep a solid trail of email correspondence between yourself, your doctor, City Workers' Compensation Administrator Dawn Alvarado (Dawn.Alvarado@lacity.org) and your TriStar adjuster so that nothing gets lost and all are held accountable for your recovery. Remember, no one cares about you more than yourself, so be active and informed about your recovery efforts. There are times that your own doctor fails to do his or her necessary part when it comes to your treatment, as I have learned from some of our members.

I have learned that the state has a new Division of Workers' Compensation administrative director named Rosa Moran, who is planning to review and update the state's "confusing and cumbersome rules for utilization review." She has stated, "The bottom line is they do need to be revised, and I'm going to be working on them." This won't happen overnight, but it's a small light, right?

So where are we? CID Management tells me that the "spirit of the law will be their priority now versus the letter of the law" when working with our membership. You can be the judge of that and keep me informed. Talks will continue and progress seems to have gained some ground. To those who have called to thank me, a warm "you're welcome" back at you. I am here to assist in any way I can.

Your trademark

During the August 2 delegates meeting, I informed the delegates that the LAPRAAC board had negotiated the badge permit and trademark to the City in exchange for money already set aside for the Academy from Prop Q, which voters approved years ago. I also said that the LAPRAAC board failed to inform the membership of their intent. What I did not tell you were the specifics involved. Days following that delegates meeting, I was told I was putting out false information. On August 5, I emailed LAPRAAC Vice President John Incontro, who was claiming I was wrong. I asked for the facts so that I could share truthful information. He contacted me on August 7 and said his response would be in the form of a letter from LAPRAAC, which would be placed on the LAN system with the signature of the new LAPRAAC president. The letter, dated August 4, was placed on the LAN system on August 8 and is also included here.

Bottom line, LAPRAAC is giving away a potential moneymaker for the Revolver Club (why else would the City want it?) and transferring LAPRAAC-owned buildings to the City (because LAPRAAC can't afford to keep up on improvement of your buildings? I'm thinking poor management of dues money), all because the City threatened to take away our Police Academy if they didn't negotiate away the trademark (which the Revolver Club leases for \$1 a year from the City).

Your League is looking into the legality of this deal and waiting for it to be addressed by the City Council. At the time of this writing, this issue has yet to be calendared.

Feel free to contact me with your concerns at ramonespinosa@lappl.org. ❖

