



Mission of the LAPPL

The mission of the Los Angeles Police Protective League is to vigilantly protect, promote and improve the working conditions, legal rights, compensation and benefits of Los Angeles police officers.



One of the vents located in Southeast Detective area.

Mold at Southeast Area

LAPD officers protect the residents of Los Angeles day in and day out. But who's there for them when things occur beyond their control? It's obvious not the City of Los Angeles' General Services Division. Recently, I received several complaints that numerous officers at Southeast Area have respiratory and other ailments. Several months ago, a few detectives, after comparing notes, took it upon themselves to test the air vents for mold, and mold was discovered. Not only is there mold now, but there are dead birds and bird droppings attached to the clean air system. It

is known that inhaling this could cause issues. On Nov. 15, the City sent out a company called A-TECH to test the vents. Their report was vague at best. The company acknowledged mold spores, but indicated in the conclusion of the report that they believed that a microbial health hazard did not currently exist in the area tested. My question: Are you a medical doctor? And if not, why are you concluding what is or is not a health hazard? Southeast Area has dozens of vents throughout the station that were not tested and has visible mold present. That was a subpar investigation at best.



One dead bird that's attached to the clean air system at Southeast Division, and another dead bird is nearby. The vent in the training unit has bird feathers inside the vent.

In a formal letter dated Dec. 23, the LAPPL informed the City of the health concerns and the deplorable working conditions at Southeast and requested that the City take immediate action, including the removal of the mold and all mold-damaged material at Southeast. We asked that the City formulate a remedial action plan to access and correct all areas of Southeast that may contain mold exposure. In an email, the City responded that they would commence cleaning the vents on Jan 30. Are you kidding me? Over two months after these conditions were reported? I am not claiming to be an expert in this field, but even I know that mold comes from a source (water) and cleaning the vents with “bleach and water” as stated by the “professional” will only put a Band-Aid on this issue. You need to get to the root of the problem.

Press conference

As I write my article, I am appalled at the lack of response and the lack of urgency from the City in regards to the unsanitary working conditions that Southeast officers have endured for far too long.



LAPPL General Counsel Elizabeth Silver Tourgeman along with four Directors at the press conference.

On Dec. 18, after no immediate response from the City and after several calls from Deputy Chief Phillip Tingirides, Captain Alfred Pasos and Captain Al Neal to the City to get this situation rectified, the LAPPL held a press conference. Among other requests, the LAPPL requested that a full toxicological study be conducted of the Southeast Station to determine the extent of the health risk to those that work there and for the City to provide immediate medical screenings of all personnel at the station to determine the extent of their injuries. You would think that having 115 officers and detectives come forward with medical issues, possibly caused

by the physical environment our officers work in, would create a sense of urgency or alarm for the City. It has not.

What is even more shocking is the Department's statement to the media when interviewed about the mold at Southeast Area.

"While we understand the mold spores levels do not pose a serious health risk, we are working with the Los Angeles General Services Department to remove it from the building."



Detective III Donna Wheeler at the press conference.

Really? Only a medical doctor can make that determination. The expectation of Los Angeles police officers is that when there is visible mold in the vents, and implied health conditions possibly due to those vents, that the Department takes this serious and does everything they can to get to the root of this issue as quickly as possible. Is that too much to ask? Apparently so because the cleanup has not commenced. The LAPPL will conduct its own testing from a qualified professional to get to the root of this issue and to determine if mold or other environmental issues are creating health conditions for our members.

We also believe that other stations also have environmental health issues. So today is the start of our work to bring these hazards to life and to compel the City to protect the employees it expects to protect the public. If your division has the same or similar working conditions, please don't hesitate to contact me at JerrettaSandoz@lappl.org or call me at (213) 545-4903.

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December 23, 2016

Mr. Thom Brennan
Los Angeles Police Department
Facilities Management Division
201 N. Figueroa St., Suite 280
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: SOUTHEAST DIVISION/MOLD

Dear Mr. Brennan:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, I am writing to you with reference to an acknowledged mold presence in the detective area of the Southeast station. As a result of complaints by several officers at the station, the City contracted with A-Tech Consulting Inc. to perform an inspection of the area and to make recommendations they felt appropriate to remedy the problem.

In a report dated November 22, 2016, A-Tech reported that several different molds do exist in the detective area at the station, but the level of mold spores did not constitute a microbial health hazard. A-Tech did note, however, that surface levels of mold spores are present and elevated at HVAC registers in the detective area which could result in increased fungal activity and acute exposure of the ambient air if certain precautions are not taken to remove the mold spores. Various recommendations were made by A-Tech to remove the mold which are detailed at pages four and five of their report.

The LAPPL may request an opportunity to retain its own independent expert or firm to perform a thorough inspection of the station to verify and/or inquire into the findings of A-Tech. Until then, I am requesting that the City of Los Angeles take immediate action, including the removal of the mold and all mold damaged materials at the station. I would request the City formulate a remedial action plan to assess and correct all areas of Southeast that may contain mold exposure. This would include, but not be limited to, an inspection of the entire HVAC system in the entire station, not just the detective area. This action would also include decontamination of all registers and duct work as necessary. Further, as the A-Tech report stated, since mold may exist beyond the detective area, we are requesting a full inspection by a certified expert in all other areas of the station to insure the safety of all personnel.

I am also requesting that any and all material removed or replaced during the decontamination process be preserved to insure that it can be properly analyzed by appropriate experts. Finally, I am requesting that A-Tech be advised to retain and preserve all samples obtained during their inspection so those samples may be verified for accuracy.

The LAPPL believes the presence of mold spores presents an immediate danger to all those personnel presently assigned to Southeast station. It also presents the risk for long term health issues for those who have been exposed to the mold including past and present employees. For those reasons I would request the City act promptly to resolve this issue. Failure to act in a timely manner may constitute serious and willful misconduct by the City should any Southeast employees suffer injury as a result of the mold exposure.