



Happy new year. This holiday season once again reminded me how fortunate I am to have the love and support of my family, friends and co-workers and to be a member of the finest police department in the world. We have opportunities and live lives that most of the world can only dream about. But, it isn't always easy.

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.” —Cicero (Marcus Tullius), Roman orator, philosopher and statesman (106-43 B.C.)

However you celebrated the holiday season, I trust that you took the opportunity to count your blessings and express your gratitude to those you love and to whom you are indebted.

You can rest assured that there are many who are grateful for your service and commitment to this city. Mayor Villaraigosa recently attempted to express this gratitude, calling the LAPD operation to end the Occupy L.A. encampment at City Hall the Department's “finest hour.” This statement did not sit well with many of our members who were responsible for the well-planned and excellently executed operation.

The Occupy L.A. movement's “occupation” could have been better managed or even prevented had the protesters not been encouraged to stay in the first place. We appreciate the recognition for effectively doing what we train and prepare to do, but we can't help but wonder how that money could have been better spent if our City leadership had been more proactive in preventing the occupation rather than encouraging its growth during its destructive two-month run.

The mayor's statement diminished the often-overlooked and unrecognized exemplary work performed daily by LAPD officers. Our “finest hours” are not the hours that culminate after weeks of planning, training and logistics as 1,400 Los Angeles police officers assembled to undo what our City leadership has created — although all of that was done well and deserves acknowledgment.

Our finest hours occur at all times of the day and night, usually without notice and frequently at great risk to our members. Our finest hours are when we are responding to the calls and needs of the citizens of this city, sometimes alone or with a partner, a small squad in our calling to protect life and property. Most of our citizens don't really know the number of incidents that might just as easily end in property loss, injury or death if not for fate and the training, commitment and heroic actions of Los Angeles police officers.

This year will present a new set of challenges for us, both as individuals and as a union.

While many believe we are heading into an improving economy, there are others who expect another year of economic difficulty. But, no one is expecting a slingshot back to the good old days. We can expect the economic stresses to affect people's (including our own) behaviors and attitudes. We can expect our City leadership to be surprised that their inability to prioritize spending in a shrinking budget results in a “surprise” deficit. And, we can expect that our families and friends and the citizens of this city will need us if they are to remain safe and maintain their quality of life.

I am grateful that we will face these challenges together and that I am a member of the finest police department in the world.

Let me know what you think, accept responsibility for your actions and hold me accountable. It's why I'm here. Contact me at (213) 251-4586 or via email at [tylerizen@lappl.org](mailto:tylerizen@lappl.org).