



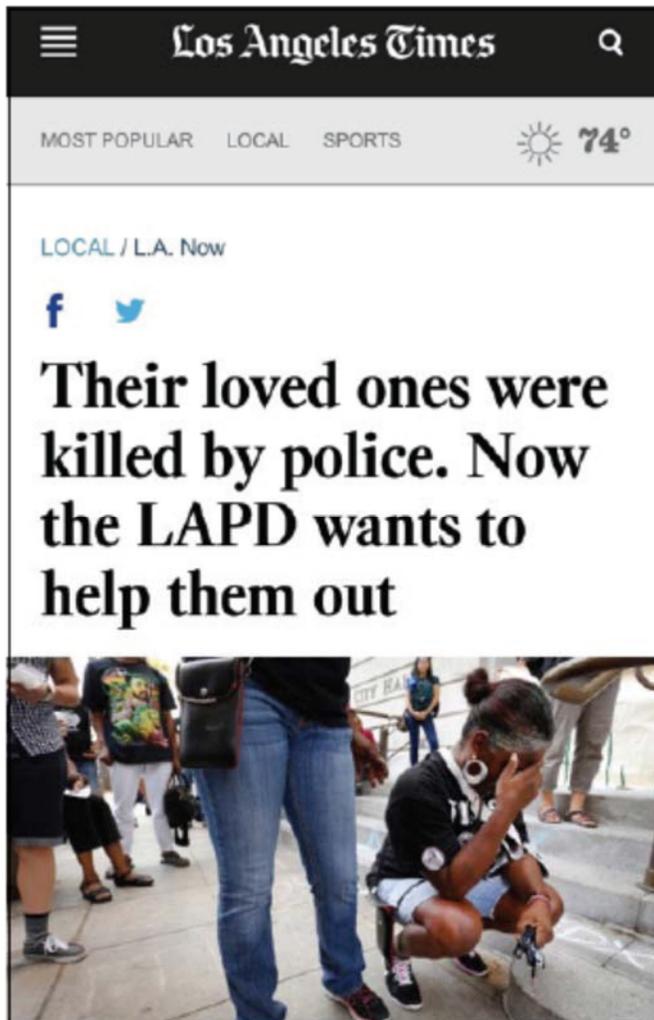
Bullets and flowers

The political machine is churning in the City of Angels. First, we have our former Chief, William Bratton, dragging along his protégé and our current Chief, Charlie Beck, to a sit down/photo op with presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton. Did anyone mention that Bratton is now on the Clinton payroll, working for Teneo Holdings—a company with strong (and I do mean strong) ties to the Clinton Foundation? But this is just business as usual for ol’ Bratton. He left our Department midterm to work for the same outfit that oversaw the consent decree. No ethical violation there, right? Now he is part of the pay-to-play dealings of Washington politics. We already know that Mayor Garcetti has his eyes set on a higher office, and he’s using our current Chief to advance his profile.



Beck on the Clinton campaign trail.

Now, our politically correct Chief has embraced another ill-conceived notion. Let's make sure the families of individuals who attempt to murder one or more of us, then wind up dead because they tried to kill us, have some assistance from the Department. Hence, the Family Liaison Program was born. At a recent Police Commission meeting, in which demonstrators continued to disrupt the proceedings with chants of the names of persons who died after attacking officers or while in custody, President Matt Johnson stated, "These deaths, no matter what the circumstances, are tragic for the deceased's loved ones, friends and community. I believe that there is more we can and should do."



Yes, any loss of life is tragic. But what is being overlooked here is the root causes for such loss. In a recent officer-involved shooting, an 18-year-old suspect shot an officer at the Nickerson Gardens projects, striking the officer in the arm. *Our officer was shot*, and we are still hearing how this poor youth was murdered by rogue cops. We also had a 14-year-old suspect in Boyle Heights shoot at officers and was killed. Of course, there are many so-called witnesses who offer different claims about what they saw or heard, which is the purpose of the administrative investigation. But what about the underlying issue here? We have kids in their teens armed with handguns, who show nothing but disdain for the law. And where do they learn

this? All of these family members who are grieving the loss of their loved ones should take a hard look in the mirror. The prevailing attitude of hatred and attacks on law enforcement, without any condemnation for such conduct, is tacit endorsement. The message is that it is acceptable and these children are encouraged to defy the police and engage in a physical assault as part of a more noble cause. We should be blaming those who are entrusted to raise them! Isn't that part of their duty as a parent? And with the biased media blazing headlines such as, "Suspect shot dead by police was a 14-year-old boy, coroner says," it serves to fuel the fire of animosity and mistrust. How about, "Armed suspect..." *L.A. Times*? So much for accuracy in reporting.

We have a real problem in today's society. Children are armed with handguns, yet there is no public outcry or acknowledgment that they shouldn't be. And lame gun-control efforts will never solve this problem. Any idiot can get his or her hands on a gun. Parents need to accept the responsibilities that come with being a parent and realize that the attitudes they introduce to their children have lasting effects. They indoctrinate their children to hate the police, condone lawlessness and then wonder what went wrong when their child fights or shoots at an officer and winds up dead. A remark heard at a recent Commission meeting was, "Just because someone points a gun at a cop doesn't give them the right to shoot." And these are the attitudes to which we are pandering.

This brings us back to the discussion on the new Family Liaison Program. Within a week of the Police Commission meeting in which this was discussed, the Department LAN had an advertisement for "interested Detective Supervisors, Sergeants and/or Lieutenants for a new, unique, small specialized unit." In addition, "The creation of the new Family Liaison Unit creates an opportunity for the LAPD to demonstrate compassion and to better inform the relatives of decedents about the often complicated and seemingly convoluted investigative and bureaucratic procedures that they often encounter." And Commission President Johnson remarked, "If you hear some of the complaints of family members, of course some of it is that—they want to see the video. But a lot of it is, 'I can't bury my child' because they don't have a death certificate. This will give them a specific point of contact."

And our Chief weighed in, stating although confrontations resulting in death may occur after some type of assault against officers, "we shouldn't hold that against the family." He added, "As I believe to my core, even though the acts of an individual involved directly with the police may have been criminal, that doesn't mean the family isn't grieving," Beck said. "That doesn't mean they don't need information. That doesn't mean that the process shouldn't be explained to them."

Yes, they are grieving, as are all families who lose loved ones. So, what we're now doing is facilitating the red tape and bureaucratic obstacles that we all endure for those who have family members who attempted to murder us. Yes, let's make sure we make their lives easier as they cope with a difficult situation, while other members of our communities who didn't have their loved one engage in lawless behavior (try to kill one of us) must figure it out on their own.

Our civic leaders (term used very loosely here) continue to fail us. When political aspirations overtake what should be their primary objectives, of which one is to serve all members of

our community and not just those with a self-serving agenda, we are headed toward utter chaos. And we are experiencing it now. Beck continues to be used as a political pawn to advance the career aspirations of an all-talk, no-action Mayor, who offers up lip service but nothing in the way of results. Garcetti is so afraid of alienating anyone that he does nothing, thus solidifying votes down the road. And Beck is so unaware of what is going on around him that he merely falls in behind the misguided and uninformed direction of an entertainment lawyer who Garcetti appointed to the Police Commission.

Law enforcement as a whole is struggling on a national scale. Select cities have leaders who oppose the blatant attacks on us, and will stand up for their law enforcement officers. I wish we lived and worked in one.

Watch your back and be safe.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at JamieMcBride@lappl.org or contact me at (805) 208-3103.