

**10/26/23** More than 300 cases filed by L.A. County prosecutors are up in the air as LAPD investigates allegations that the two officers behind the arrests made numerous illegal stops and stole from suspects. Both have been apparently recommended for termination and face internal hearings. Like problems may extend to thousands of cases filed by the other fifteen officers in a since-disbanded anti-gang unit.

**9/5/23** Spurred by complaints that officers were turning off bodycams to conceal abuses, an LAPD inquiry (since joined by the FBI) of the Mission division's gang squad has turned up evidence that officers may have been stealing from persons they stopped. And even planting Apple AirTags in their vehicles, enabling them to be subsequently tracked without need for a warrant.

**8/28/23** LAPD internal affairs detectives served search warrants on the lockers of several officers assigned to the agency's Mission Division gang squad. Members of that unit, which is said to chronically use (and overuse) pretexts to make traffic stops, supposedly switch off their body cameras during their interactions with citizens, then turn them back on once they're done or have made an arrest.

**1/9/23** Chicago P.D. shut down its gang database in 2019 after the city's inspector general confirmed citizen complaints, some delivered through a lawsuit, that the 134,000 persons it included, mostly Blacks and Hispanics, had been carelessly selected. In 2021 the IG found that police had made little progress fixing things. CPD then announced a surprise relaunch last October. However, its new civilian overseer, the Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, stepped in, and for now the database is on hold.

**4/29/22** Lacking proof of "specific intent of falsifying evidence," the L.A. County D.A. dismissed charges against two LAPD officers who had been accused of falsely asserting that persons they stopped were gang members. Only one officer-defendant remains, and his case is also being "reevaluated."

**4/19/22** Three LAPD officers whom a judge recently cleared of falsely asserting that persons were gang members are suing LAPD for targeting and demoting them. Two other officers against whom the D.A. recently dropped charges are also suing. They claim there was a "de facto quota system" for identifying and arresting gang members and supervisors punished officers who didn't measure up. A judge's ruling that "self-admitted" gang membership doesn't require a verbal admission has left only three officers facing criminal charges out of the thirty-one initially accused, and these only because they allegedly filled out cards about gang members who didn't exist.

**2/9/22** Two weeks into a preliminary hearing for three LAPD officers charged with falsely asserting on field interview cards that the subjects of a traffic stop were gang members, a judge tossed the case. In his view, their notation that each person had “self-admitted” gang membership didn’t require, as prosecutors demanded, their verbal confirmation. LAPD practices made clear that “an individual’s behavior, clothing or tattoos” sufficed, and superiors encouraged officers to use “their expertise and their access to social media and research to go beyond the limited nature of express verbal statements.”

**11/15/21** Federal prison staff and contractors face criminal charges, mostly for on-duty conduct, far more often than other U.S. Justice Department employees. Twenty-eight have been prosecuted so far this year. Accusations include stalking and abusing colleagues and subordinates, sexually molesting prisoners, accepting bribes to pass inmates on exams, and taking cash for smuggling in drugs. In notorious off-duty behavior, an associate warden was charged with murdering her husband.

**11/1/21** To combat racially biased policing, Philadelphia law will soon forbid officers from stopping motorists for “secondary violations.” These include improperly affixed (but still visible) registration documents and license plates, single burned-out lamps, obstructions to view, improper bumpers, no record of vehicle or emissions inspection, and expired registrations less than sixty days overdue.

**9/16/21** In 2020 six LAPD Metro officers were charged for falsely stating on field interview cards that persons they stopped were gang members. Each pled not guilty and is pending trial. Now four more members of the unit are suspected of doing the same thing. One filed a lawsuit last year alleging that a “quota system” pressured Metro’s cops to label persons as gang members. “Minimums had to be met.”

**2/13/21** A surge in shootings and murders has led LAPD to redeploy uniformed “Metro” teams to conduct investigative stops in affected areas. According to Chief Michel Moore, officers are “held to a high standard” and only act when there is “reasonable suspicion” or “probable cause.” So far officers have made 74 stops, arrested fifty and seized 38 guns. But libertarians worry that abuses are inevitable.

**12/5/20** Nine more criminal convictions based on the testimony of the three LAPD Metro officers facing charges of lying about gang membership have been tossed. That may just be a start, as the D.A. has reached out to “more than 750” defendants in cases where these officers were reportedly involved.

**12/1/20** NYPD’s Independent Monitor just released its eleventh report. Federal monitoring was imposed in 2013 to reform NYPD’s use of stop-and-frisk. There were 11,238 stops in 2018 and 12,958 in 2019, with the increase most likely due to better reporting. Of the 310 most recent stops reviewed by the monitor (2019 4th. Quarter),

121 led to a frisk and 116 to a search. Reasonable suspicion and/or justification was articulated for 74% of stops, 85% of frisks and 87% of searches. (Report, pg. 12)

**11/17/20** A new LAPD policy requires that officers who seek to perform consent searches must either gain permission in writing or verbally on bodycam video. Officers must also explain, among other things, why they wish to search and what they seek to find, and after searching, describe what they found.

**9/3/20** L.A. County prosecutors have so far dismissed seven adjudicated criminal cases that were solely based on the testimony of the three LAPD officers who were charged for falsely labeling persons as gang members. One was the 2016 conviction of a man who denied tossing a gun but ultimately pled guilty. He lost his job and became homeless. His probation was nearly up when the conviction was tossed.

**8/12/20** In the *Los Angeles Times*, a profile of two brothers, Gadseel and Jose Quiñonez, who are among the persons the three LAPD Metro officers are accused of falsely labeling as gang members. Both are employed, and neither was ever in a gang. They've given their stories to internal affairs.

**8/3/20** Five L.A. residents who claim that LAPD officers falsely labeled them as gang members have sued the city. One is a former state corrections officer who said she lost her position over the label. Another said officers made up his gang membership to boost their claim that he had committed a shooting. But video showed he had been elsewhere and he was acquitted.

**7/28/20** "Hundreds" of cases investigated by the three LAPD officers accused of lying about field interviews are under review. "More than 750 defendants" are being notified; incarcerated persons are getting priority.

**7/10/20** A massive [criminal complaint](#) charges three officers in LAPD's Metro unit with falsifying official records by falsely claiming that persons they had stopped were gang members or associates.

**6/16/20** NYPD's elite plainclothes anti-crime units, which aggressively targeted armed criminals in the city's most violent areas, are no more. Criticizing them as a spin-off of the "stop and frisk" approach, Commissioner Dermot Shea is reassigning their 600 officers. But the city's police union sees the move as a political sop. Anti-crime officers have been involved in some controversial shootings, including the 2018 killing of Saheed Vassell, a well-known oddball, after he pointed a pipe pretending it was a gun.

**2/13/20** Lawsuits and challenges by two dozen individuals who allege that they were wrongly entered into Cal Gangs has led LAPD to remove them from the statewide gang database. Police insist that they're properly using the system. But the State AG has opened an investigation.

**2/3/20** Critics claim that California's Cal Gang database sweeps too wide. Governor Newsom and the A.G. apparently agree. But their proposal to tighten how police label gang members - say, not on clothing alone - are opposed by law enforcement. Its "solutions," though, are being criticized by activists for creating "loopholes" that supposedly keep race and economics in the driver's seat.

**2/1/20** An in-depth inquiry by the *New York Times* concludes that chain pharmacists "racing to meet corporate performance metrics" pose a danger to consumers. Forced to do more with less, they make errors filling prescriptions and badger physicians for refills so they can dispense large quantities of medication, needed or not, all for the sake of a buck.

**1/24/20** LAPD Chief Moore has ordered a Board of Rights hearing for one of the twenty Metro officers being investigated for purposely misidentifying stopped persons as gang members. Such hearings are a required step in the firing process. He has also referred that officer for prosecution.