

**12/30/24** Veteran NYPD officer Jeffrey Maddrey has served as the agency's chief for one year. But he just tendered his resignation. According to a high-ranking subordinate's recently-filed complaint, Maddrey pressured her for sexual favors in exchange for overtime. And when she ultimately complained, he allegedly retaliated by accusing her of overtime abuse, then suspended her without pay. It's not the only such complaint. A police captain accused Maddrey of a years-long binge of pressuring her for sex.

**12/19/24** An official review of more than 500 traffic stops by New Jersey State Police that ended without a ticket or any other enforcement action revealed that over 25 percent were tinged by apparent favoritism. In many cases motorists presented "courtesy cards" given them by troopers. In others they spoke of being personally acquainted with an officer. And some drivers even "flashed a badge." Overall, reviewers found a "two-tiered system" where motorists with even "tenuous" ties to law enforcement were apt to get a pass.

**10/22/24** In an October 2023 lawsuit, California DOJ accused the Vallejo Police Dept. of a "pattern and practice of excessive and unreasonable force, using enforcement strategies that disproportionately impact people of color, and performing unconstitutional stops, searches, and seizures." A settlement agreement has since supposedly put correctives in place. Some relatives of persons killed by Vallejo officers have also received cash settlements. But the ACLU now demands that nine Vallejo cops who misbehaved but escaped sanctions be investigated by the State for potential decertification.

**10/17/24** In June DOJ issued a "[patterns and practices](#)" report that accused Phoenix police officers of using excessive force and discriminating against minority residents. And while DOJ and Phoenix continue negotiating the terms of a settlement, the lawyer for a deaf Black man with cerebral palsy just released officer bodycam footage of a violent tangle in August, where two Phoenix officers repeatedly punched his client and jolted him with a Taser. Tyron McAlpin committed no known crime. He is charged with resisting and assault. (See 8/20/24 update)

**9/10/24** In December 2018 former Torrance, Calif. police officers Matthew Concannon and Anthony Chavez opened fire when Christopher Mitchell, who was in the driver's seat of a reportedly stolen vehicle, supposedly reached for a gun on his lap. It turned out to be an air rifle with a cut-down stock. Then-D.A. Jackie Lacey cleared them. But last year, her replacement, progressively-minded George Gascon, had them indicted for manslaughter. And while defense lawyers call the prosecution "outrageous," a judge just refused to dismiss the case. Both ex-cops face up to eleven years in prison if convicted.

(See 4/14/23 update)

In August 2023 Border Patrol agents caught Amanda Mancera with “nearly four kilograms of fentanyl and 216 kilograms of cocaine” in her vehicle. She had passed through a border checkpoint that Border Patrol officer Jesse Garcia had asked to work. An indictment now alleges that a major drug trafficking ring had paid Garcia and fellow officer Diego Bonillo “thousands” for each drug courier they let through. And they profited handsomely, buying expensive cars, taking expensive trips and shopping at exclusive retailers despite their conventional salaries. Both are being held without bail.

8/28/24 He was once the cop’s union rep. And now he’s a Federal prisoner. John Baca, a then-Inglewood, Calif. police officer, thought that he was meeting with just another customer for the cocaine, heroin and fentanyl he had been stealing from the evidence locker and taking from suspects during traffic stops. But it turned out to be an undercover agent. And the profitable, years-long sideline that got him that Ferrari and a flush bank account morphed into a guilty plea and a 30-month sentence. A helper in his business, Gerardo Ekonomo, has also been charged.

8/22/24 According to the *Washington Post*, six New Orleans police officers have been convicted of abusing children since 2011. Former cop Robert Vicknair “spent months grooming” a teen to whose home he was sent to investigate a sexual assault. Hired despite a prior conviction for battering a juvenile, he eventually confessed to visiting and “groping” the 15-year old while on duty. Vicknair drew a 14-year term in 2023; he died in prison a few months ago. Federal jurors just ordered New Orleans to pay his victim \$1 million.

8/20/24 DOJ and the City of Phoenix are working out the terms of a settlement to the Fed’s findings that during a 34 month period beginning in 2016 Phoenix officers engaged in “patterns and practices” practices that violated citizens’ Constitutional rights. To that end, Phoenix PD created an unprecedented webpage that lists each of the 100-plus episodes cited by the Feds and provides basic information, including place and time, administrative outcomes, and links to official documents and bodycam footage. (See 6/14/24 and 10/17/24 updates)

8/14/24 Six police officers from two neighboring Northern California communities have been Federally convicted - one at trial, five through guilty pleas - for conspiring to defraud their agencies. Two cops from Antioch (pop. 115,000) and four from Pittsburg (pop. 77,000) claimed to have earned bachelor’s degrees. In fact, they had hired a third party to complete online courses on their behalf. Their unearned “raises and financial incentives” carry penalties of up to twenty years in prison. (See 7/25/23 update)

**8/13/24** A Federal indictment accuses two former L.A. County Sheriff's deputies, each in their sixties, with acting as paid "enforcers" for a Chinese tycoon. And in that capacity, they allegedly used their badges and positions to coerce the man's Chinese business partner into relinquishing a "multimillion-dollar" share in a rubber-chemical manufacturing firm. During their "visit" to the victim's home, conducted under guise of a police operation, they held the family captive for several hours. Two former members of the British and Australian military services were charged as co-conspirators.

**6/14/24** Capping an inquiry that began in August 2021, DOJ has concluded that the City of Phoenix and the Phoenix Police Dept. have engaged in "a pattern or practice" that violates the Constitution and Federal law. Officers are accused of using excessive force, including unjustified deadly force, of discriminating against the homeless, against persons in a mental health crisis, against Black, Hispanic and Native American citizens, and against individuals "engaged in protected speech and expression." Negotiating a court-enforced settlement is the next step. (See 8/20/24 update)

**4/8/24** More than *thirteen-million* bucks. That's what New York City has set aside to recompense residents who were forced by police to remove religious head coverings. This settlement was brought on by a lawsuit from two Muslim women who had to remove their hijabs for booking photos after their arrests for violating protective orders. Those incidents took place in 2017, and the policy was discontinued four years later. By that time, "thousands" of persons of various religions had been affected.

**3/12/24** Pittsburgh police will no longer respond to calls other than "in-progress emergencies." Chief Larry Sciroto told reporters that short-staffing requires they cut yearly call volume about 75%, from 200,000 to 50,000. [According to Pittsburgh PD's portal](#), complaints about criminal mischief, theft and harassment will be handled by a "Telephone Reporting Unit". But officers will still respond to calls "where a suspect may be on scene, any crime where a person may need medical aid, any domestic dispute, calls with evidence, or where the Mobile Crime Unit will be requested to process a scene."

**1/15/24** In June 2019 former L.A. County deputy sheriff Andrew Lyons impulsively unleashed a volley of rifle fire, killing an unarmed 24-year old man whom he and his partner were trying to arrest. According to the *L.A. Times*, the thirty-day jail term (and two years probation) Lyons just drew after pleading guilty to assault with a firearm is "the first time in roughly two decades that an L.A. County law enforcement officer has been sentenced to jail or prison for an on-duty shooting." Lyon's colleague, Christopher Muse, who also fired his gun, was not charged. He was suspended for 30 days. (See

3/4/22 update)

**11/6/23** Three off-duty U.S. Park Police officers and a civilian were drinking in a Virginia apartment when one of the cops decided to prank shoot another. But when he pulled the supposedly unloaded gun's trigger the pistol fired, killing his colleague. Officer Alexander Roy, 25, has been charged with voluntary manslaughter and is being held without bond.

**10/19/23** A just-released DOJ report, "Recruitment and Retention for the Modern Law Enforcement Agency" offers recommendations for dealing with the current "crisis" in recruiting cops and keeping them on the job. Its suggestions include "reconsidering" hiring standards "to better reflect modern police work", and targeting "diverse candidates" and persons who would not usually consider embarking on a law enforcement career. [Report](#)

**10/16/23** Seventeen sworn Broward County, Florida deputy sheriffs, including eight assigned to law enforcement and nine working detention, were charged with multiple Federal felonies for obtaining nearly \$500,000 in PPP loans by falsely asserting that their businesses and employees had suffered financial harm because of the pandemic. Charges include submitting false information, falsifying tax returns, and committing wire fraud. [DOJ news release](#)

**9/28/23** In 2018 Long Beach, Calif. police officers Dedier Reyes and David Salcedo filed erroneous accounts about a gun recovery, leading to the arrest and brief jailing of an innocent person. While their superiors and the D.A. initially chalked it up as an innocent mistake, in 2021 a reformist D.A. charged both with perjury and filing a false report, and they were fired. That case just came to trial. Agreeing with the defense that their clients had made an "honest, reasonable" error, jurors acquitted both ex-cops. (See 7/29/22 update)

**8/22/23** "Learn More & Help Restore Liberty With The CSPOA Posse." [That's the plea](#) of the "Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association," a group of about seventy sheriffs that was formed in 2011 to promote "Red" causes. Deeply skeptical of America's "soviet-style mainstream media," it supports the rights of gun owners and criticizes the "vote fraud" and "rampant...institutionalized corruption" that supposedly besets our land. CSPOA also advances sheriffs' presumed rights to refuse to enforce Federal laws and any others they consider unconstitutional or unjust.

**8/10/23** Citing examples of previous cases where male officers, including some of high rank, severely misbehaved but kept their jobs, a former high-ranking female LAPD

officer has filed suit. Former Commander Nicole Mehringer and a male Sergeant with whom she was having an affair had been caught, drunk, in an unmarked LAPD car. She was fired; the sergeant kept his job. But a former male Captain who drew Mehringer's scorn (the object of his affair is now his wife, and a deputy chief, to boot) denies there's a double standard: "Sometimes people make themselves into more of a victim than they are..."

**8/7/23** Texas' capital, Austin, is short 300 cops. So its Mayor welcomed the squads of State troopers sent in to help out. That is, until July, when troopers, who were making plentiful stops of Blacks and Hispanics, wore out their welcome by pulling a gun on a father and son during a traffic stop. But instead of pulling them out, as the Mayor asked, the Governor sent in "dozens more." That leaves the capital city with two police agencies. And as the city's police chief remarked, leaves residents feeling "overpoliced."

**7/25/23** Racist texts exchanged by seventeen Antioch (Calif.) police officers over the years [have led to a Federal civil rights lawsuit](#) by four Black men whom some of the messages targeted, and by the son of a man shot and killed by two of the officers who participated in the exchanges. [These messages have also led four Black murder defendants](#) - two were named in the texts - to assert that their prosecution was racially inspired. Their claim has put the criminal case on hold while the judge investigates. (See 8/14/24 and 1/6/25 updates)

**7/18/23** "Go somewhere that respects the work you do and you don't have to beg for a great contract." That's what Sgt. Jerretta Sandoz, vice-president of the LAPD Protective League, the officers' union, advised. And that was one of her milder statements. She's since withdrawn the Facebook post, but insists that it accurately depicts officers' struggles in a hostile political climate. Cops *are* leaving. Replacing them is difficult and recruitment problems keep academy classes small. A \$15,000 signing bonus is planned.

**4/19/23** After listening to a surreptitious tape of their chat, Oklahoma's Governor demanded the resignation of rural McCurtain County Sheriff Kevin Clardy, a sheriff's captain and two county officials for engaging in a racist diatribe against Black persons. On the recording, a County commissioner [suggests going back to hangings](#). "But you can't do that anymore. They got more rights than we got." And the sheriff goes along. [He's since promised to criminally charge](#) the newspaper publisher who purposely left his recorder behind (and turned on) after leaving the meeting.

**4/15/23** A joint Federal-local investigation is underway over the exchange of numerous "derogatory, homophobic and sexually explicit" text messages among seventeen Antioch (Calif.) police officers over a period of several years. Many of the deprecatory remarks

were about Black persons. “I’m only stopping them cuz they black. Fuck them. Kill each other.” [Contra Costa Co. D.A. Report](#)

**4/14/23** Two Torrance, Calif. police officers have been indicted for killing Christopher Deandre Mitchell in December, 2018. Mr. Mitchell was at the wheel of a parked vehicle that was reportedly stolen, and as officers walked up he allegedly reached for his lap. They opened fire. It turned out that Mr. Mitchell had an air rifle. Both officers were cleared by then-D.A. Jackie Lacey. Her progressive replacement, George Gascon, had the incident reviewed by a special prosecutor, who presented it to a grand jury. (See 9/10/24 update)

**4/5/23** California law now requires that the State Peace Officers Commission post information online identifying officers and deputies whose peace officer licenses have been revoked or are under suspension while allegations that could lead to their decertification are investigated. Fifteen officers are presently under suspension: seven for “Egregious or Repeated Acts that Violate the Law”, four for “Dishonesty”, two for “Abuse of Power,” and two for “Sexual Assault.” [Decertification list](#)

And Torrance’s mea culpas continue. In 2020 two (now, former) officers spray-painted a swastika inside a car they impounded. Its horrified owner’s complaint led to an internal inquiry that, among other things, exposed the racist texts. Torrance just paid \$750,000 over the swastika.

**2/27/23** Tomorrow Chicago voters will be electing three-member civilian councils to oversee each of the city’s twenty-two police districts. These councils will help develop and implement community policing efforts and pass on citizen views about law enforcement and crime to city leaders. Council members will nominate seven civilians to a “Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability” that will oversee all of CPD. Frank Chapman, a key civil rights activist, calls this “democracy at the grassroots level.” But police leaders are expected to strongly resist the citizens’ efforts.

**2/25/23** Concerns of “inhumane” jail conditions, the use of excessive force against inmates, and road deputies’ killing of citizens at comparatively high rates - 55 during 2013 to 2021 - were cited by Ray Bonta, California’s progressive Attorney General, as he announced a civil rights investigation into the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department. Requested by the ACLU in 2021, the move was denounced as a “political stunt” by Sheriff Chad Biaco. He nonetheless pledged full cooperation. [Press release](#)

**2/10/23** Prospects seem excellent that many past criminal cases referred by members of Memphis PD’s “Scorpion” unit, which was disbanded after the killing of Tyre Nichols,



will be dismissed. Shelby County's D.A. has promised to review prosecutions that hinged on the testimony of officers now thought to be dishonest or facing prosecution. Hundreds of cases in which they participated are at risk, and defense lawyers are busily gearing up.

**1/16/23** An investigation of a fatal police shooting led to the discovery of years of online chatter among thirteen Torrance (Calif.) police officers that, among other things, "championed violence" against minorities, joked about beating up folks, and derided internal investigations. A dozen of the cops were identified by the *Los Angeles Times* in 2021. A follow-up story reveals that eight are no longer employed by the agency. One who is faces trial for needlessly shooting and wounding a man who had a knife (see 8/5/22 and 4/11/25 updates).

**1/12/23** With LAPD beset by a recent string of officers arrested for drunk driving, the Police Commission [enacted a rule](#) that requires the blood-alcohol level of off-duty officers to be less than .04 if they are carrying a gun. California's BAC level for charging DUI is .08 (see 12/22/21 update).

**1/5/23** LAPD's budget is consumed by personnel expenses. So in 1998 Chief Bernard Parks helped kickstart the [LAPD Foundation](#), a private charity that collects contributions from local notables to fund special projects and equipment. That often draws criticism from activists, including the "Stop LAPD Spying Coalition," which has objected to the use of these funds to buy surveillance gear, drones and robots. But the LAPD insists that the donations are well spent and confer no special benefits to donors.

**1/4/23** A new California law that requires law enforcement agencies to allow public inspection of records of possible officer misconduct has gone into effect. [SB 16](#) applies to all serious uses of force and to "sustained findings" that officers engaged in a wide variety of unsavory behavior, ranging from biased policing to filing false reports. San Diego police have already released "more than 80 investigatory files." Among them is an episode of a police sergeant who was disciplined for a racially disparaging remark.

**12/29/22** Berkeley, California's reputation as a progressive place is in jeopardy as the city council defers making its expected move to install acting police chief Jennifer Louis, a captain, as the agency's permanent Chief. Only problem is, a law firm has confirmed that Louis made sexually harassing remarks to a co-worker, and the *L.A. Times* found other alleged victims as well. Her agency is also dogged by complaints that a supervisor [had imposed arrest quotas](#) intended to make life tough on the homeless.

**12/22/22** Seven off-duty LAPD officers have been arrested for DUI in the past two

weeks. Several were involved in car crashes that caused injuries, and three blew more than twice the legal limit. LAPD announced that it issued a special warning and is offering resources to officers with alcohol issues. But off-duty drunkenness is a reportedly long-standing problem in the agency. One officer is pending trial for murder in relation to a 2017 traffic accident in which his intoxication allegedly cost three lives (see 1/12/23 update).

**9/6/22** NYPD's Special Victims Division, which investigates sexual assaults, [is under Federal investigation](#) for allegedly giving rape victims short shrift. It's being condemned for mishandling the probe of Danueal Drayton, whose release allowed him to resume his predations and murder a nurse. But detectives complain that severe personnel shortages have badly hobbled their work, forcing them to shuffle cases and focus on those with the most promising leads. (See 7/10/22 update)

**8/25/22** As state investigation of their misconduct continues, fifteen Torrance police officers remain under suspension. One-hundred thirteen cases in which they participated have been dismissed, and settlements with victims and their families have run into the millions. Meanwhile the prosecution of former officers Christopher Tomsic and Cody Weldin for [spray-painting a swastika in a citizen's car](#) has revealed yet another trove of "anti-Semitic, racist, homophobic or transphobic remarks" exchanged by the city's cops between 2018-2020 (see 1/16/23 and 4/11/25 updates).

**8/23/22** A bystander video depicts the brutal Sunday morning beating of a South Carolina man by two Arkansas Sheriff's deputies and a Mulberry city officer. Randall Worcester, 27, was tackled to the ground and repeatedly punched and kicked after reportedly resisting arrest for threatening a gas station clerk in a nearby community. Authorities report that the officers have been suspended with pay. Worcester was released on \$15,000 bail. For our brief video excerpt of the encounter click [here](#).

**7/29/22** Last year prosecutors charged Long Beach (CA) police officers Dedier Reyes and David Salcedo with lying about a 2018 gun-related arrest. That case is pending. A judge has now freed another man arrested by Reyes, as doubts have arisen about the officers' truthfulness in that case. In 2010 Reyes shot ex-con Miguel Vargas in the back after saying that Vargas pointed a gun. But Vargas insisted he had dropped the gun. Vargas was convicted and imprisoned, but prosecutors have now dismissed the case. A full review of cases in which Reyes was involved is in progress. (See 9/28/23 update)

**7/10/22** A decade-plus of complaints that NYPD sex-crime detectives "fail[ed] to conduct basic investigative steps and instead sham[ed] and abus[ed] survivors and re-traumatiz[ed] them during investigations" has led DOJ to open a pattern or practices



investigation of NYPD's "Special Victims Division." New York City's mayor, top lawyer and police commissioner have reportedly promised to help.

**5/11/22** An investigation by the *Los Angeles Times* reveals that LAPD did not sustain any of the 1,073 complaints of "biased policing" filed by citizens against officers in 2021. None made the grade in either 2020, when 764 complaints were made, or in 2019, when there were 734. [According to the 2019 report](#), there were 494 such complaints in 2018 and 514 in 2017. None of those were upheld, either. LAPD Commission president William Briggs told reporters that he was "not satisfied" with zero.

[After reviewing](#) "more than 750" complaints over the behavior (mostly, misuse of force) by NYPD officers during the 2020 demonstrations sparked by the killing of George Floyd, New York City's Civilian Complaint Review Board recommended disciplinary action against 145 officers. But NYPD has only investigated forty cases. It waived acting against 23 officers and has only agreed on penalties for ten.

**4/29/22** A California State audit of three city police departments, a sheriff's office and State corrections, which included a review of internal investigations and officer social media accounts, concludes that some officers repeatedly display bias against members of minority groups, both during on-duty interactions and online. But their agencies typically fail to act, either through discipline or training. Agencies should adopt a comprehensive approach to preventing bias, and greater external oversight is recommended.

**4/7/22** In two decisions that seemingly cut against the grain of L.A. County D.A. George Gascon's vow to go after cops who needlessly kill, his office has rejected filing charges in the shooting deaths [of Kisha Michael and Marquintan Sandlin](#) by five Inglewood police officers in 2016, [and of Antony McClain](#) by a Pasadena officer in 2017. Both episodes involved citizens who were armed and uncompliant, and prosecutors concluded that they could not disprove that officers had reasonably feared for their lives.

**3/4/22** George Gascon, L.A.'s progressive D.A., launched a review of past police shootings when he took office in January 2021. So far that's led to two cases. In August 2021 he filed assault charges against Torrance cop David Chandler over [a 2018 incident](#) in which Chandler shot and wounded a knife-armed man as he walked away. And on March 3, 2022 Gascon filed manslaughter and assault charges against L.A. County deputy sheriff Andrew Lyons [for a June 2021 shooting](#) in which Lyons unleashed a volley of rifle fire at a vehicle as its driver, who was unarmed, tried to elude arrest on gun-related charges. (See 1/15/24 update)

**2/19/22** A multi-year internal investigation by the California Highway Patrol has led to the arrest of fifty-four current and former officers at the CHP's East Los Angeles station

for grand theft and fraud. They were charged this week with submitting false overtime claims while providing security for Caltrans workers during 2016-2018. Five of those charged also face other criminal counts. [Complaints](#)

**1/22/22** On January 19 Kiley Swaine, the owner of the vehicle that was allegedly defaced with a swastika by two former Torrance police officers, filed a Federal lawsuit against the city and ex-cops Cody Weldin and Christopher Tomsic seeking millions in damages. In his complaint, Mr. Swaine accused the city of “knowingly tolerating Neo-Nazi/White Supremacist police officers” and of following a “longstanding custom and practice” of ignoring citizen complaints about their behavior. [Civil complaint](#)