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The Latin American Law Enforcement Association Announces that Court-Appointed Monitor Orders City of Los Angeles to Comply with LaLey Consent Decree

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News Editors/Legal Writers

LOS ANGELES--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 20, 2002

The Latin American Law Enforcement Association ("LaLey") announced that the Honorable Ralph B. Dash, Administrative Law Judge, Court-Appointed Monitor, has ruled in favor of LaLey's Motion for Relief under the Consent Decree in the case of Hunter/LaLey, et. al. v. City of Los Angeles. Judge Dash's ruling has not been appealed by the City of Los Angeles, and has not been implemented. The Court's order requires the City of Los Angeles to take certain steps to bring itself into full compliance with the LaLey Consent Decree. The Order also requires the City to pay LaLey's attorney's fees and the costs of the Court-Appointed Monitor.

The LaLey Consent Decree arose from complaints filed by LaLey and other parties beginning in 1990 alleging that the training and promotion policies and practices of the Los Angeles Police Department unfairly discriminated against Latinos, African-Americans and other minorities. The Consent Decree established a mechanism to remedy past discriminatory promotion practices and to provide mentoring and training to assist with the promotion of minority and other police officers to the management ranks.

Commenting on the Court's ruling, LaLey President Detective Art. Placencia stated, "We are pleased that Judge Dash ruled in our favor and that the City has not yet chosen to appeal the Judge's ruling. It is clear the City and the LAPD have not fully implemented the Consent Decree. Latino officers account for more than one third of the LAPD, yet they continue to be woefully

underrepresented in the Department's senior management ranks. By forcing us to take legal action, the City and the LAPD waste taxpayers' funds and demonstrate their lack of good faith." Detective Placencia added, "Frankly, we are very disappointed that the Department chose to ignore the requirements of the Consent Decree with respect to Latino officers. We had expected that the Department would actively support and implement the LaLey Consent Decree, but it has not done so. It is not lost on us that Latinos, who were the driving force in securing the Consent Decree, have benefited the least from it under the prior and current administrations." Detective Placencia concluded, "In light of this ruling and the message it sends, we call on the Chief of Police and the City to affirmatively and actively follow through with implementation of the Consent Decree."

Established in 1968, LaLey was formed by a group of LAPD Latino officers that wanted to create an association committed to promoting the advancement of Latinos in the LAPD. LaLey is a volunteer association, with its success resting on the commitment of its members and supporters. Today LaLey is one of the most prominent associations within LAPD. LaLey's mission is founded on simple commitments -- mentoring and assisting others within the LAPD promotional process and service and advocacy within the community.

For more information on LaLey, please visit the Organization's website at www.laley.org, or request information from LaLey's offices at 213/383-1332.

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