



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

**County of Los Angeles**  
**Sheriff's Department Headquarters**  
4700 Ramona Boulevard  
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



January 23, 2008

Mr. Michael Cherkasky, Esq.  
Kroll & Associates  
900 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Cherkasky:

**RE: FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE PLAN**

This letter is an expression of my concern for the current proposal to require financial disclosures by gang and narcotic's officers who work for the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Sheriff's Department experienced one of the most notorious incidents more than 15 years ago wherein 26 deputies were convicted of skimming hundreds of thousands of dollars seized in drug enforcement operations. Each convicted deputy served time in the federal penal system.

The Sheriff's Department's response to this corruption upon early detection was to engage in a covert operation with our federal partners. Appropriate evidence for successful prosecution required the skillful use of investigators, informants, wire taps, stings, search warrants and forensic science.

More important, the Sheriff's Department instituted tight protocols to ensure that future abuses could not occur. For example, under the Department's procedures, the seizure of small or large amounts of drug dealer dollars during raids is fully controlled by a special money security team that is not tied to any other duty during the seizure. Videotaping of all entry related activity further ensures that no form of corruption will go undetected.

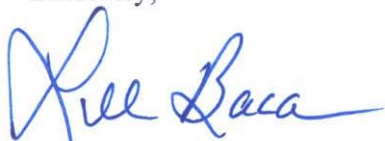
These policies and practices have proven successful in stopping this very serious criminal activity that we are so familiar with.

*A Tradition of Service*

Public trust is the most important tool in protecting the sanctity of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, Civil Rights, and human rights. Financial disclosure is presumptive after the assumed commission of a crime by a police officer. It is not proof. An officer who is legally financially successful could have an easier time hiding stolen assets than one who is not. Moreover, the not-so-clever corrupt police officer will likely spend their ill-gotten money on material things such as trips, cars, gambling, motorcycles, etc., that would not be readily detected in financial disclosure documents. In our case, most of the stolen money was scatter spent by the deputies.

The key to prevention is adopting the policies used by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Enclosed is a copy of the Sheriff's Department's policy entitled Narcotics Bureau Order 3-3. Pages 6-9 specifically address handling of United States currency.

Sincerely,



LEROY D. BACA  
SHERIFF