

Happy summer to you all! What a busy season it has been! Between the opening up of businesses to a softer shutdown, and everything in between. Right now, everything from professional to school sports is up in the air- and the fall semester of school is starting in a distance learning setting. Among all the changes of the pandemic- we are patrolling the streets, investigating crime, keeping the Superior and Civil Courts safe, processing evidence, dispatching calls, and ensuring the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office continue to run like a fine-tuned machine. This time of year, staffing means balancing summer vacations and ensuring we all get the time off we need to decompress and unwind. Downtime is important in the stressful world of police work, and I hope you are all enjoying some great memory making-despite the evolving world and constant changes.

The labor front has been no different. The past month has been filled with various court rulings on a number of issues that impact the workplace. Supreme Court decisions have been handed down on pension, which I will address later in my article. We are still waiting for a dismissal on an ongoing lawsuit against the FDSA. In addition, we are also waiting on the State Supreme Court to grant a review on the right of movement grievance we filed and were successful on back in 2015. With a difference of opinion between county counsel, FDSA and Sheriff's Office – the varying decisions have taken the issue to the highest court in California to now make a final ruling.

#### **VOTE NOW FOR THE RETIREMENT BOARD SEAT**

Deputy John Robinson is running for re-election for his board position as your Safety Trustee for FCERA. John is in his third year and end of his current term. In 2017, John defeated the three-term sitting Trustee by just three votes. The landslide is proof *every* vote counts. This position is the direct link for members with safety retirement to the retirement board. John's principles are simple. No unnecessary spending of your retirement dollars- including trips to foreign countries and across the United States. John stands for transparency for the members. During his term and current campaign, he has mailed out three postcards, outlining some of his accomplishments, along with his personal information for any and all of you to get in contact with him. John is an outstanding voice for safety as our Trustee.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR BALLOT FOR JOHN ROBINSON AND MAIL IT BACK INTO THE ELECTIONS OFFICE. IF YOU ARE DOWNTOWN AND WANT TO DROP IT BY THEIR OFFICE- THAT IS PERMITTED AS WELL.**

#### **IMPROVING POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

During the last PORAC board meeting on June 15, 2020 – PORAC elected to enact its Committee on Public Relations to deal with the anti-enforcement sentiment throughout California communities. Each region in PORAC needed a representative. FDSA is in Region 2, and it was decided that I would be representing the region on this committee. Since June 29, we have been meeting once a week via Zoom for two hours at a time putting in the work to get the message out. The committee has been named:

#### **United for Positive Reform**

This group has many stakeholders coming on board to carry the message. The mission statement is as follows:

*“United for Positive Reform is a coalition of organizations and community members committed to establishing constructive relationships, finding common ground and generating commonsense solutions for effective systemic change. Through education, communication and collaboration, our mission is to promote a more transparent and accessible vision of law enforcement that supports public safety while including diverse voices and addressing the need for meaningful and sustainable reform.”*

I encourage all of you to check out the website; [www.united4positivereform.com](http://www.united4positivereform.com)

The logo being used is:



This is the time in our career, where we can organize and make our voices known to the public. This is going to be a long-winded process and something that each of us knows will not happen overnight. There are still demonstrations throughout our communities showing the anti-law enforcement sentiment. However, we are better than stooping to the level of some who are asking local lawmakers to defund our police. As crazy as it sounds, some jurisdictions are entertaining cuts and movement of money from law enforcement to other local services.

When I speak to our elected officials, I remind them the verb “Defund,” means exactly how it sounds – get rid of, stop, no more money, abolish, not necessary, do away with. The term has been at the forefront of discussions from activist groups and some national media outlets. In addition, some politicians around the country are also throwing around the idea of slashing funding for police services. The problem is with the word, defund is that it’s all rhetoric. It’s meaningless scare tactics by groups who want to put fear into the public, the silent majority and elected officials.

Our Fresno County Board of Supervisors have been clear on this issue. Defunding police is a non-starter for Fresno County. Due to this stance and bold statement, social justice groups have been and will be continuing to try and seek seats within the county to occupy.

Under the United for Positive Reform, we will bridge the gap, that some citizens feel is there. We want people to understand the job we provide to the public, at the same time understanding the cause and effects of this job as well. Nothing is easy, clear and cut, or absolute as we know. But with education, partnership and a willingness to learn, we in law enforcement, can encourage the public trust that they may have lost.

I will be updating this group as more is released throughout the upcoming months.

I also want to let you all know, some of the topics I discussed in my opening paragraph will be discussed in the upcoming months of my newsletters.

### **PENSION DECISION**

Briefly on the Alameda Retirement decision. In summary, the courts ruled that, in fact, the California Rule is what it is. A promised benefit at the time of hire date is still guaranteed. One of the many

questions that remains is, did the high court rule that the benefits can be changed without anything going to the bargaining table, or by legislative pen swipes? Our lawyers at Messing, Adam and Jasmine are continuing to go through the decision to sift through the fine print. I have received various inquiries on the decision from both active and retired members of the DSA. The decision was extremely lengthy. The analysis given initially was very quick and off the cuff. Now the deep dive from many different firms will begin. As the analysis comes out, I will be sending updates to all of you outlining what this all means for ALL of us in the pension system.

In closing – please continue doing the jobs you all do, make sure you do take time away to recharge and reenergize yourselves. Do not ever hesitate to get in touch with me. I am here for all of you. I appreciate those of you who call and ask those questions or just call to catch up.

Stay safe and healthy everyone!

Eric