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Chair
Jarl Mohn

May 2, 2007

President
Douglas Mirell

Chief William Bratton
Los Angeles Police Department
150 N. Los Angeles St., Rm. 619
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Chairs Emeriti
Danny Goldberg
Allan K. Jonas
Burt Lancaster†
Irving Lichtenstein, MD†
Laurie Ostrow†
Stanley K. Sheinbaum
†DECEASED

Dear Chief Bratton,

On Tuesday L.A. police officers bullied marchers and media in an ugly show of force. By all reports, including those from police, the daylong demonstration was largely peaceful. Yet police brought a day of hope for thousands of immigrants to a shocking end.

Chief Executive Officer
Ramona Ripston

The ACLU calls for a thorough investigation into the police decisions to declare an unlawful assembly and to use rubber bullets, batons, and other force on members of the press and protestors. We support your initial call for inquiry and ask you to publicly commit to an investigation that is complete, transparent, and open.

Legal Director
Mark D. Rosenbaum

Chief Operating Officer
Heather Carrigan

The ACLU is concerned that the police department is replaying its history of responding to protestors with bad choices and flawed policies. Seven years ago, the ACLU sued the city on behalf of members of the media attacked by police during their coverage of protests of the Democratic National Convention. The 2001 settlement of *Crespo v. City of Los Angeles* required that when police declare an unlawful assembly, they make reasonable efforts to designate a press area from which members of the press may observe and document the police action without fear of dispersal and establish a press liaison who can inform journalists of the designated press area.

Managing Attorney &
Manheim Family Attorney
for First Amendment Rights
Peter J. Eliasberg

Development Director
Lindsay Rachelefsky

Director of Investments &
Gift Planning
Harold Gunn

Director of Finance &
Administration
Brenda Maul

Director of Program Support
Elizabeth Schroeder

The ACLU calls for a full investigation to determine if these procedures were followed during Tuesday evening's action. As in 2000, we will investigate all claims of civil liberties violations during Tuesday's march and work to end a history of police actions that threaten to silence the hopeful message of thousands and damage the integrity of a free media.

Sincerely,

Ramona Ripston
Executive Director

