



1616 BEVERLY BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES CA 90026-5711 T: 213 977 9500 F: 213 250 3919 WWW.ACLU-SC.ORG

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

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.

Chief Operating Officer

Heather Carrigan

Managing Attorney &

Manheim Family Attorney

for First Amendment Rights

Peter J. Eliasberg

Development Director

Lindsay Rachelefsky

Director of Investments &

Gift Planning

Harold Gunn

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.

Director of Finance &

Administration

Brenda Maul

Director of Program Support

Elizabeth Schroeder

Sincerely,

Ramona Ripston
Executive Director

