

Announcement:

Press Conference: Allen Harris v. City of Los Angeles: LAPD Brutality and Stroke Survivor Speaks After Jury Verdict of \$1,596,000.00 in Compensatory Damages and \$90,000.00 in Punitive Damages

Date: November 13, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Courthouse Steps Los Angeles Superior Court 111 N. Hill Street Los Angeles California

Stroke Survivor Allen Harris Demands Retraction from Chief Charlie Beck of False and Defamatory Statements and Requests LAPD Reforms in Protecting and Serving Disabled Persons

On November 8, 2012, the same day that a Los Angeles Superior Court jury awarded \$90,000.00 in punitive damages against Officer Alex Tellez (and one day after the jury found him liable for battery and civil rights violations, awarding Allen Harris \$1,596,000.00 in compensatory damages), LAPD Chief of Police Charlie Beck issued a News Release containing numerous false statements about Mr. Harris, his family and the evidence in the trial. Chief Beck, the LAPD and the City Attorney's office were fully aware of the falsity of these defamatory statements when the News Release was issued.

Instead of taking appropriate disciplinary action against Officer Alex Tellez for unnecessarily injuring a disabled man, the LAPD has promoted him to the position of a Training Officer. This is a scary prospect for the citizens of Los Angeles as evidence in the trial of the case of *Harris v. City of Los Angeles* showed Officer Alex Tellez and his fellow officers are woefully inadequately trained in encountering and safely detaining physically disabled persons and in employing safe handcuffing techniques.

Our citizens deserve better. LAPD Officers must be better trained in encountering persons with disabilities and must cease causing nerve damage to arrestees and detainees. Proper training must include training officers on updated Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) on these topics.

Instead of taking appropriate steps to assure the safety of the disabled population in Los Angeles and the surrounding community, the LAPD is continuing the cover up it started on day one of Officer Tellez injuring Allen Harris' semi-paralyzed left arm, refracturing his clavicle and causing permanent nerve damage to his wrist. To add insult to injury, the LAPD is now trying

to damage the reputation of Allen Harris, a law-abiding disabled citizen and his family. Any reader of Chief Charlie Beck's News Release would likely conclude that Mr. Harris or his sons were involved in criminal activity. This is blatantly false as no charges were filed against Mr. Harris' sons and the firearms recovered at their home were properly registered, facts of which the Los Angeles City Attorney's office are fully aware.

On November 13, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. Plaintiff Allen Harris and his attorney, V. James DeSimone will speak from the Los Angeles Superior Court Courthouse Steps and demand a retraction of the false statements made against Mr. Harris and his family, appropriate discipline for Officer Alex Tellez, and retraining of Los Angeles Police Department Officers on safe handcuffing techniques and encountering persons with disabilities. Copies of the Judgment on the Jury Verdict in this case and the Retraction Letter sent to Chief Charlie Beck on November 9, 2012 outlining the false and defamatory statements will be made available at the press conference.

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