

Help us keep the Long Beach airport safe.

International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers Lodge 947

For over 50 years, the protection of the airport is handled by the City of Long Beach Special Services Officers (SSO's). The SSO's are full Peace Officer's under California Penal Code 830.33 (d). Special Services division are specially trained officers who provide law enforcement services to the airport, marina's, the port/harbor, city hall, Long Beach jail and the Long Beach City college. The Special Services officers upon hire are sent to local police academies (with exception of the LBPD academy).



Policing at an airport is different than patrolling urban streets. It demands more patience, and intimate knowledge of airport operations and a customer service attitude that balances security and business interests. This is the reason that the SSO Airport Peace Officers use the Community Policing Philosophy because it promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime at the Long Beach Airport.

Currently the Special Services Officers at the Long Beach Airport patrols Airport property in uniform and

plain clothes to deter criminal activity, trespassing and other acts that would affect commercial aviation; Patrols a commercial airfield to ensure compliance with safety, security and vehicle laws, rules and regulations; Responds to reports of security breaches, violations of security regulations and trespasses; Responds to law enforcement calls for service; Supports the passenger and baggage screening processes by assisting the Transportation Security Administration; Conduct preliminary assessments of unattended or suspicious articles; Receives and releases lost and found articles; Provides general and aviation related information to the public, airport tenants and employees; Provides escorts on the airfield operations area for dignitaries, construction crews, representatives of the press and other law enforcement agencies; Conducts security assessments of airport property; Works closely with employees of other divisions from the City of Long Beach to resolve common security issues; Conducts perimeter patrols to ensure the integrity of fencing and gates; Conducts foot patrols of airport terminal buildings to ensure compliance with security



regulations and to deter criminal activity; First responder to airplane crash or other emergency incident involving large numbers of victims; File a wide variety of reports including crime, arrest, incident and injury reports; Conducts preliminary and follow-up investigations; Interviews witnesses and suspects to obtain information for reports and investigations; Makes arrests and transports arrestees to appropriate jail facilities; Books and catalogs evidence; Testifies in court; Notice of violation citations for violations of California Penal, Vehicle, or Public Utility Codes; Issues administrative citations for violations of the Airport Rules and Regulations; Responds to emergencies and takes immediate action of crowd control, reduces the impact of security breaches and other aviation related incidents; Conducts traffic control and enforcement on foot, or in a vehicle. Develops alternatives for resolving disputes.

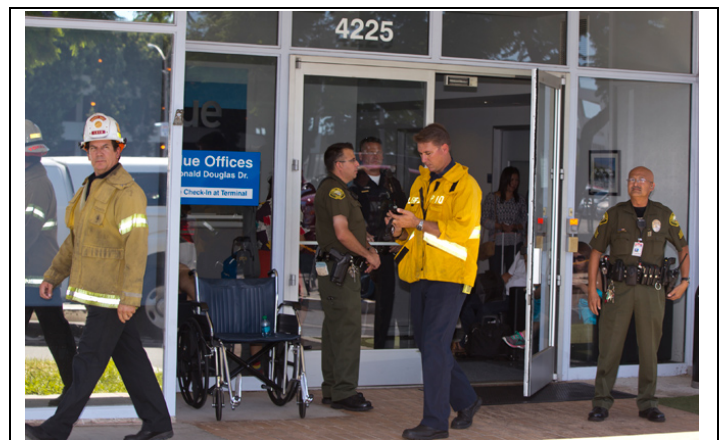
Chief Luna wants to change all that. With the Integration that has been proposed by the Chief, the airport SSO Peace Officers will only help with the traffic flow coming into the airport. If a resident of the city, airport tenant, or a traveler needs help that is law enforcement related (rape, robbery, assault, active shooter), these SSO Peace Officers will not be allowed to help you, even if it's committed in their presence. They would have to notify Long Beach Police Dispatch and wait for the arrival of a Long Beach police officer. On 04/23/2019, City council asked the City Manager and the Chief of Police "How many hours of training do SSO's at the airport have?" The City manager's response was "I don't know".

My question is how can you say they will receive more training than they have, when you don't know how much training they currently receive. Chief Luna is also planning on reducing the current training of the SSO Peace Officers from 1000 plus hours to less than 100 hours. Did you know that in the State of California, the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology requires Cosmetologist receive 1600 hours, Barbers receive 1500 hours, and Manicurist receive 400 hours but the officers that protect one of our city's critical facilities will receive less than 100 hours of training, which is below P.O.S.T minimum training requirements."

The Chief of Police said the SSO's at the airport would receive better training than what they receive now. His statement is untrue! This was not a misstatement of fact. The Chief did not tell City Council the truth. And the

community is supposed to believe that after the Integration the airport will be safer.

Richard Suarez; *"I believe that the statements that were made to the council, that somehow training is going to be between 30 and 60 hours. This is a deficiency of their current training. The current P.O.S.T (Peace Officers Standards Training) training is a minimum of 660 hours, this training that was imposed by this city for these SSO's. Taking that away training and taking their authority away is an injustice, and we believe will create a weakness in security. I am speaking going forward, I am not speaking currently. I believe that the airport is safe today. I don't believe that it will be safe if you we reduce training from 660 hours to 30 to 60 hours. They also want to take away our arrest powers even though it was just said that they will continue to have arrest powers, no they will not continue arrest powers. They will have to call 911 and wait for a Long Beach police officer."*



Chief LUNA wants to put more LBPD officers at the Long Beach airport despite the fact LBPD is already spread thin. There are not enough cops on the streets. Why would Chief Luna want to do this? Money, that's why! This way the LBPD can charge the city to provide services, which are already being provided efficiently by the SSO's and are less costly than LBPD Officers. That means more cost to the taxpayers. Contact City Council (562) 570-6801 and let them know that you do not support this integration.

