



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

Deputy Chief Stephen Downing (Ret.)

Los Angeles Police Department
Long Beach, CA



Stephen Downing began his 20-year police career in a squad car and finished as a deputy chief of police. As Commander of the Bureau of Special Investigations at one point, the Administrative Narcotics Division was one of the divisions within his scope of authority. His vast experience in law enforcement has led him to the conclusion that the War on Drugs can never be worth the human and fiscal costs.

Stephen spent twelve years assigned to operations in South Central Los Angeles. He is a veteran of the Watts riot and its aftermath, which gave birth to the first community-based policing programs in the country. His assignments covered a wide range of roles including patrol, criminal investigation, narcotics, vice and organized crime intelligence. The Commands he held in the LAPD include: Captain of Detectives, where he established homicide investigation techniques still in use today; Commanding Officer of Juvenile Division, where he established and published a file that brought an end to abuses in state probation subsidy programs; and Commanding Officer of Southwest Area, where he designed and implemented the first functionally integrated police operation in law enforcement aimed at combating gang activity - a program that became a national model.

Downing is an expert on issues related to police militarization, civil asset forfeiture, and corruption and internal affairs. His interviews and original writings have appeared in numerous local, state, and national outlets.

Law Enforcement Action Partnership is a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice reforms that improve public safety. With 150 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews.

For event bookings, contact Speakers@LawEnforcementAction.org
For media, contact Media@LawEnforcementAction.org

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