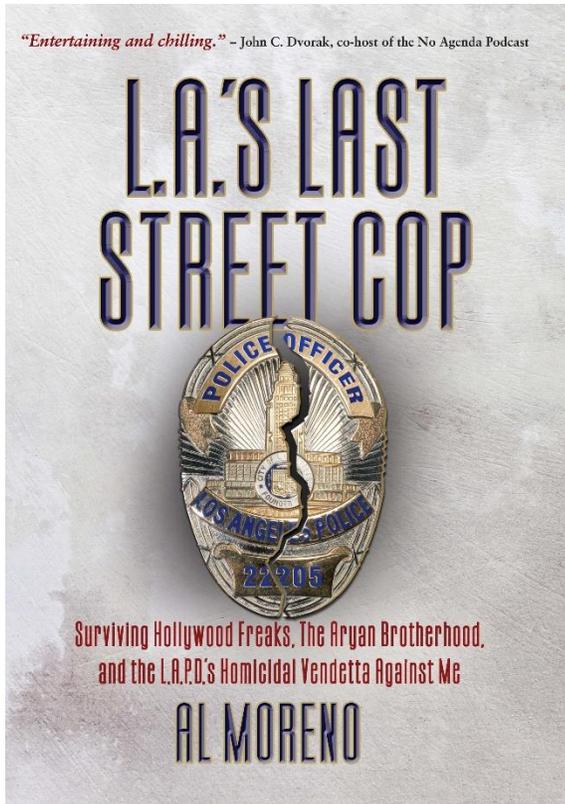




L.A.P.D. Officer Survives Gang Wars and Shootouts Only to Be Targeted for Murder While His Department Looked Away

Whistleblowing on L.A.P.D. Corruption Sealed His Fate



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Media Connect
Stephen Matteo 212-583-2776 stephen.matteo@finnpartners.com
Brian Feinblum 212-583-2718 brian.feinblum@finnpartners.com

How could one of the largest police departments in the United States step back and do nothing as an ex-con from the Aryan Brotherhood came after one of its own officers? In *L.A.'s Last Street Cop: Surviving Hollywood's Freaks, The Aryan Brotherhood, and the L.A.P.D.'s Homicidal Vendetta Against Me* (Highpoint Lit; May 4, 2020) author Al Moreno paints a chilling picture of official retribution for his whistleblowing on Los Angeles Police Department corruption. He lived to tell this tale but learned that even a life-saving cop doesn't have a shield big enough to protect him from a few bad guys in the Department wearing the same uniform.

Moreno had overcome tremendous odds to achieve his dream of becoming an L.A.P.D. officer. He was one of 12 children raised in a 874-square-foot, three-bedroom home in the gang-infested streets of Florenai-13/Watts

with a neglectful ex-con father who didn't even attend his graduation from the police academy. As a child, he suffered from a rare childhood disease, Legg Calves Perthes, which required the use of crutches and metal braces for four years. If that wasn't enough, he was a poor student in grade and high school due to an undiagnosed case of dyslexia and dyscalculia (learning disabilities in processing language and math). He dropped out of high school his senior year and was arrested three times, drifting from one meaningless job to another until he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1968 at the height of the Vietnam War.

Upon returning home, Moreno went on to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming Los Angeles Police Officer, but was disqualified nine separate times for non-existent medical conditions. After fighting the erroneous disqualification for five years he finally succeeded and entered the L.A.P.D. academy in August of 1975 at 29 years of age. His Mexican heritage made him a groundbreaker, since in those years the Department generally was not hiring women and people of color.

Once he became an officer, Moreno accelerated in all his assignments and in five-and-a-half years earned an unprecedented 71 commendations. Because of his superior street cop acumen, he was one of 40 police officers selected from the ranks of the entire L.A.P.D. to launch what became the nation's premiere specialized gang unit, CRASH (Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums). Within a year, he led his colleagues in the number of arrests, and had been frequently commended for his uncanny ability to control and arrest heavily armed suspects without the use of lethal force.

And Then Came the Fall...

Officer Moreno's troubles began when he challenged his unit's commander for underreporting the true number of gang-related crimes in the city. His commanding officer administratively transferred him out of the specialized gang unit to a street patrol assignment in another division. Moreno filed and won a grievance and was returned to the CRASH. It was around this time he reported the corruption of his commanding officer to the bureau commander. Two of the four sergeants in the CRASH unit verified Moreno's allegations and there was going to be an investigation. As Moreno describes it, "heads were going to roll." But then two incidents occurred within a two-week period, destroying the life and career he had built. Before long, he was targeted by both the L.A.P.D. and an armed, violent ex-con from the Aryan Brotherhood who vowed to murder him.

Praise for L.A.'s Last Street Cop

"Probably the most entertaining and chilling police tale you'll read this year. An incredible romp, surprisingly well-written, fast paced, and serious page turner." – **John C. Dvorak, co-host of the No Agenda Podcast**

"If you love a street-gritty crime drama set amidst one man's heroic rise and fall, this is the book for you. Cinematic in its sweep and tragedy, it also happens to be true – told by police officer who was in the middle of all these events. Sometimes life itself is more compelling than fiction." – **Paul David Walker, Fortune 500 leadership coach and author**

"Al Moreno's commitment and dedication to the citizens of Los Angeles were always at the forefront of his service, but he also had a compassionate side for the victims of gang violence, and at times for the criminals he encountered. When one mentally ill suspect came at him wildly swinging an axe, Al made a split-second decision to shoot him in the legs instead of fatally to the torso. The suspect's father later thanked Al in court for not killing his son. It's all here in this book!" – **Frank R. Flores, retired L.A.P.D. Sergeant**

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