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State police patrol freeway corridor; some cities object

By Ivan Crosbie,
Staff Writer

State police have taken over patrol responsibility of the Century Freeway Corridor, replacing local law enforcement. However, city and police officials in the Southeast remain unconvinced that state police will be able to provide what they consider "the comparative efficient and responsive standard of local patrols."

Bitter about the loss of a significant portion of their police budgets, officials said that although their freeway protection contracts have expired, their basic responsibility to the area has not been diminished.

The only difference now, they contend, is that they will provide service to the freeway corridor without pay.

The city of South Gate, for instance, which has been providing police protection for its stretch of the corridor since the original contract was signed, has lost its \$40,000 share of the \$1.6 million allocated annually to the cities by the state, said Bruce Spragg, the city's chief administrative officer.

The city of Lynwood, which used to get \$60,000 annually, will not receive it any more. Paramount lost its \$185,000 share. Norwalk's \$85,000 has been eliminated, and so were the shares of the other corridor cities of Inglewood, Hawthorne, and the unincorporated areas of Lomax and Willowbrook.

The only city that has been fortunate enough to have its contract renewed is Downey. The city, which receives the second largest portion of the state's annual allocation, had its contract renewed July 1.

The terms of Downey's new contract, however, have remained consistent with previous years, according to Capt. Jim Shade of the Downey Police Department.

Under the new contract, the city will collect \$257,000 for 1983-84 to provide round-the-clock patrol for its part of the corridor. Shade, who oversees the unit patrolling the area, said his department assigns one officer at a time on a 24-hour basis.

He said that crime in that particular area has been "fairly stabilized," and that "no increase or decrease" in the crime rate has occurred in recent months.

The state police moved into the area July 1. Since then, three state patrol cars containing six officers have been patrolling the 17.5 mile corridor, according to Lt. Aaron Walker of the Los Angeles state police office.

Walker said that since the state troops took over, they have dealt with crime incidents in the area as effectively as any local law enforcement agency.

But local law enforcement officials have expressed opposing views about the state's police efficiency in handling the high crime hidden areas.

To Lynwood Sheriff Capt. Gary Osborn, the number of state officers is "inadequate" to effectively police the area.

Osborn said that prior to the state's takeover, his station alone had seven deputies patrolling the Lynwood section of the corridor on a 24-hour basis.

He said the contract between the cities and the state had called for a total of 47 local officers to patrol the 17.5 mile corridor. Now, however, these officers have been replaced by approximately 10 from the state.

In addition to the replacement of his officers, Osborn sees no clear guidelines established by the state police as to how local residents could contact them concerning incidents in the area.

The captain said that despite the lack of a contract and the uncertainty of reimbursements, his station will still respond to "emergency calls" in the corridor before calling the state police.

Similar words of dissatisfaction were expressed by Spragg, who contends that "very few" of the city's residents would notice a change in the patrol. "They still think that SCPD is patrolling the area and will continue to call us."

Like Downey, Spragg would like to have his city's contract renewed. Efforts toward this objective are in progress.

The city has officially forwarded a letter to Caltrans requesting renewal of its contract. But no response from the state has been received, he said.

Despite their obvious dissatisfaction with the state's decision, officials here are still optimistic that their contracts with the state will be renewed.

Currently, several individual efforts are being made to achieve the goal. Foremost among them is a bill by State Assemblyman Bruce Young.

Young's bill, AB 290, if passed, will authorize the state to continue its contract with local law enforcement agencies to patrol the freeway.

The bill, according to Osborn, has been attached to the 1983-84 state budget. It would become law, he said, when Gov. George Deukmejian approves the state budget.

Another effort is being made by Lynwood City Councilman John D. Byrk, chairman of the freeway corridor caucus.

Byrk is seeking a ruling from U.S. District Judge Harry Pregerson to clarify whether it is the state or the corridor cities' responsibility to provide law enforcement.

EXPERIENCE BEAUTY, PURITY, LOVE Meditation:

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They believe that a new world order is being established that the present world is passing through huge changes, "cathartic changes" and that, ultimately, there would come a world of truth, of beauty, and of purity.

Their ultimate individual objective, they say, is to perfect themselves in preparation for this new world.

They are the Raja Yogis or Brahma Kumaris of Atlantic Boulevard, Lynwood, a new spiritual movement which is beginning to spread roots throughout the city.

According to Brahma Kumari (B.K.) Jayanti, one of the movement's most outstanding and internationally known teachers who visited here recently, "preparing for a future world of beauty, purity and dignity not only helps us for that future goal, but also helps us today, because we're developing qualities now which makes us very valuable persons."

But who would bring about this new world order of which Jayanti speaks?

"We will," she said. "It depends on us. We created this mess, and it's up to us to clean it up."

In addition to "us," Jayanti said humanity needs an outside source to help clean up its mess. "A source of purity, of knowledge, of power who can change us so that we can change the world."

"We can change the world, but we need someone else to change us, and that someone else is God," she said that their understanding

of God is that he is the "supreme being who has all of the highest qualities to their absolute limit, to their limitless extent."

Thus, the whole purpose of yoga, she said, is to establish a relationship with God so that he can influence "us with his qualities which would transform us to inspire a new world."

The Yogini said that the state of the world is determined by the quality of human beings within it.

"Sometimes, I think the word 'hell' is a very apt description of the world today."

"Human beings are really poisoning each other and are unconcerned with even the simplest of human virtues."

"Everything has degenerated to such a low, evil pattern. So as humans change and become divine, we'll have a new world," she observed.

The term "yoga" is an Indian word meaning "the union, or the connection," which connotes a "soul in God." Makes who practice yoga are called Yogis; females are called yoginis, according to B.K. Denise, a member of the movement.

Denise, who has been traveling to various countries to teach and establish new yoga centers, said the movement holds regular group sessions, during the week-days, in which people participate as a part of their daily lives.

"They're not just filling-up themselves with experiences from the world," she said, "but they're also having a balance with an input of inner-experiences."