

SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

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Edward D. Mullins
President

December 2011

Robert Ganley
Vice President

Dear Members:

Robert W. Johnson, Esq.
Treasurer

As stressful as this time of year can be for many of us, we have so much to be grateful for. The love of our families and the value of strong and enduring friendships are the greatest gifts of all, so please take the time to realize how blessed you really are.

Vincent Vallelong
Recording Secretary

Gary DeRosa
Financial Secretary

The SBA posted a significant court victory this year when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled in August that sergeants were entitled to overtime wage protections under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). This was based on a 2004 lawsuit filed by the SBA to recover unpaid overtime wages after the City argued that sergeants were exempt from FLSA overtime protections because we were “executives.” As executives, the City argued that our primary duties were management related as opposed to law enforcement related.

Cosmo Lubrano
Health & Welfare Secretary

Paul A. Capotosto
City-Wide Secretary

The joy of that victory was soon dissipated by the internal and prosecutorial witch hunt into “ticket fixing” that resulted in the arrest of numerous police officers, including two sergeants. I have always maintained, and I will continue to maintain, that the actions of all of these officers were by no means criminal.

These officers engaged in a culture that has been going on for decades and reaches to the highest echelons of the department – and beyond. To brand these hardworking and dedicated police officers as criminals is more egregious than the offenses they are accused of committing.

Nothing is more integral to the success of any organization as accountability. That notion is instilled in all NYPD officers on the very first day of training. What is particularly galling is the fact that no one above the rank of lieutenant was implicated in this “scandal.” Using the concepts of accountability, shouldn’t the buck stop at the top?

The SBA will continue to wholeheartedly support everyone involved in this fiasco, and I have no doubt that when all is said and done all of these fine men and women will be vindicated.

It is no secret that we are living in very daunting times. So many people are out of work, Congress has a 9 percent approval rating, and we have a President who I believe divides the country more than he unites it.

As difficult as it might be under such conditions, I urge you all to continue to take pride in the great work that you do as we embark on a new year that is so full of promise. Continue to enhance your legacies as the finest law enforcement professionals in the world, and thank you once again for the honor and the privilege of serving as your President.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season and a terrific 2012.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Mullins".

Ed Mullins
President