
From: Los Angeles Citizen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 4:26 PM
To: Police Commission
Subject: BOPC St. Patrick's Day 2026

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LAPD Police Commissioners, Chief Jim McDonnell. the entire LAPD and public,

This letter is being submitted for the meeting taking place on March 17th, 2026, St. Patrick's Day! I would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day! Remember, St. Patrick's Day is a very inclusive holiday and all are considered Irish as we celebrate the legacy of St. Patrick and the Irish and Irish American tradition of service to God, country, family and community!

Today is a good day and most appropriate time to reflect on the Irish and Irish American experience in America! Waves of Irish immigration brought the Irish to the shores of America starting in the 18th century fleeing economic hardship and religious persecution with many impoverished Irish becoming indentured servants. The Great Famine (1845-1852) brought approximately 1.5 million Irish to America escaping the starvation caused by the potato blight! The Irish faced discrimination for ethnic and religious reasons as the sign "No Irish Need Apply" was a blatant affront to the newly arrived Irish looking for an opportunity to work and take part in the American Dream. The Irish performed many hard labor jobs such as constructing the Pennsylvania Canal, working in steel mills, and building railroads!

Eventually, with the advantage of being English speakers and from a land of scholars and poets, the Irish became a major force in American politics, labor unions, police and fire departments.

The Irish made contributions in every field of endeavor and proudly served during the Civil War in the Union Army in the Fighting 69th infantry unit, The Irish

Brigade, serving with distinction and heroism. The Irish Brigade was immortalized in the classic film "The Fighting 69th"(1940) starring James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, Alan Hale and George Brent, a story of courage, cowardice and redemption!

Confronting hardship and discrimination , the Irish overcame many obstacles and eventually became a foundational contributing community in America, especially its cities! So many Irish served in police departments that the Irish Cop on the Beat became ubiquitous in cinema reflecting the reality of police departments in many communities, especially New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities. Having suffered discrimination, starvation, poverty, persecution and injustice the Irish, and especially Irish Catholics, had a toughness tinged with ample empathy for all those who have faced similar struggles!

We all have a heritage and ancestral story which made us who we are today! As an American of Irish heritage I celebrate Irish American heritage month and Irish Catholic heritage on St Patrick's Day! However, in reality, we celebrate our heritage every day continuing to make contributions to our communities, America and the world, remembering the sacrifices our ancestors made to get us here!

Thank you to all the police officers of Irish heritage past and present for their heroic service to all and all Americans of Irish heritage that have contributed in so many ways to our nation, society and the world!

God Bless Ireland and America! E Pluribus Unum and Erin Go Bragh!

Is mise le meas (Traditional Irish Gaelic for “I am, with respect” or “Yours respectfully”),

Steve Reilly