



Friday, January 21, 2011

- (1) On Wednesday, January 19, 2011, one or more LADWP employees removed the electric meter, union connections, and inserted a tamper-proof plug on the City water supply end, on private property, without knocking on the door, or ringing the doorbell to notify the owner and residence inhabitant(s) of the property that this water meter and water supply would be disconnected. Both photos prove or show clearly that this water meter is on private property. The LADWP has easement rights only, meaning any utility work to be done, such that the property rights of the owner are violated, mandate that the owner be notified immediately, and prior to actually performing such work. A water, power, and/or any telephone utility company and its worker(s) must ring the door bell, knock on the door, etc, to notify the owner, and/or the properties inhabitants before doing any utility related work on private property.
- (2) The supervisor(s) for the LADWP power system side know this. Prior to disconnecting the LADWP overhead electric utility service at my residence on Thursday, July 22, 2010, an LADWP supervisor, this supervisor being Caucasian, was accompanied by other LADWP power utility worker(s), and an armed (black) LADWP security guard, to notify Michael L. Lofton and my Mom, Mrs. Esther M. Lofton, the only inhabitants at this residence, of their intention to disconnect electric service from our residence. This was done prior to any LADWP employee entering the school yard to climb the 45 foot utility pole that is in the left rear of the backyard of the above residence before disconnecting the overhead electric power terminations at the pole. Both my Mom and I expressed that this was wrong for the LADWP to hold the income belonging to a former

employee of the LADWP without cause, this income being retirement income, and that this would have a direct impact on the ability of Michael L. Lofton to make electric utility bill payments. Both the power system supervisor and his co-workers understood, but stated were only here to do our job. In light of the foregoing these LADWP electric utility workers were denied access by Michael L. Lofton and Mrs. Esther M. Lofton, to use our backyard and use the LADWP easement right on this property to access the utility pole that rests on our private property. The power utility pole was accessed from the LA Unified School playground the adjacent property at the rear of this residence.

- (3) [Subsequently, I made use of a Homelite Generator to supply power to the refrigerator, other appliances, a few duplex outlets, and lighting for almost a month](#), in hope that the LADWP retirement section would resolve this serious issue. Supplying gasoline for this generator became a financial burden, and since the LADWP, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, nor [2nd District Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas](#), did not resolve my retirement earnings and other issues (Los Angeles Superior Court cases [C895188](#) and [BC 385899](#)) this left me no other recourse but to climb the utility pole to reconnect power to our residence. On Thursday, January 27, at the Stanley Mosk Los Angeles Superior Court, at 8:30 A.M., these issues will be addressed in court, so that this civil matter, so that all parties received what is due and earned, my retirement property rights and Mr. and Mrs. Leon E. Lofton, Jr. family rights, being inclusive.

I called the LADWP West Water yard trouble section today, Friday, January 21 at (213) 367-5665, and Linda Urbina responded to the call. I expressed my dissatisfaction with the manner in which LADWP utility water workers disconnected the main water meter and inserted a tamper-proof plug on the City water supply end, on private property, without ever knocking on the door, or ringing the doorbell to notify the owner and inhabitants of the property that this water meter would be disconnected. I also stated that my Mom is 80 years old also lives at this residence, and that the LADWP continues to hold my retirement benefits without cause. It should be a no brainer to anyone with any sense that to hold the income belonging to a former employee of the LADWP without cause, this income being retirement income, would have a direct impact on the ability of Michael L. Lofton to make utility bill payments.

Linda Urbina (Latino) understood this, and passed this on to her immediate supervisor, Mr. Greg Williams, being black like me. I related the same information to Mr. Greg Williams. Mr. Williams stated that the LADWP has an easement right to remove this water meter, because it is LADWP or City. In response I stated although this meter belongs to the LADWP it is installed on private property, and that the LADWP must notify the owner, the owner's representative, and/or the inhabitant(s) of a private residence on the day that work is taking place. The owner of this resident is Michael

Lofton. In response I stated that my Mom also lives at this residence and that she is 80 years old. Should the act of removing a utility supplied water from the property result in a serious illness or death, I will hold the LADWP/City of Los Angeles liable. I also stated the easement rights of the LADWP (or any other utility) do not give the LADWP complete authority to violate real property rights, without the consent of any owner. To do so is a Constitutional violation, and that respect for the Constitutional/private property rights/interests of the owner take precedence over any easement right of the LADWP on private property.

The fact that the LADWP holds the retirement benefits of a 30 year, and age qualifying LADWP employee did not register at all with him. Nor did it register with Mr. Greg Williams, that this property is private property, and the LADWP must contact the owner before removing this water meter and cutting off city supplied water on private property.

How well I know the correct procedure. As a Senior Electrical Mechanic, one of my duties was to make prior arrangement for a outage, for any work, with the owner, and/or a responsible party to the owner before electric service can be disconnected, before cutting any electric service flat, disconnecting the leads from any LADWP transformer that supplies power to private property, or any other form of LADWP utility work performed on private property. In addition, should there be a problem with the owner of the property, to access the property to remove a service or to perform LADWP related work, I was directed by LADWP supervisory personnel to contact LADWP legal division. Infringing upon the property rights of an owner without contacting the owner is a serious matter, so much so, that the Constitutional rights of the owner(s) if violated

may result in civil liability to the LADWP and/or the City of Los Angeles.



[This is but one more experience that shows or proves that black people in a position of responsibility](#), such as Mr. Greg Williams, LADWP Water Utility Supervisor, Ms. Tanya Franklin, LADWP Customer Service Representative Supervisor, [2nd District Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, and/or others](#), have no regard for the property rights/Constitutional rights of U.S. born Black people.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Lofton