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COOLEY BLAMES GARCETTI IN SCANDAL.

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As the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart scandal continues to grow, **District Attorney** candidate Steve Cooley on Monday blamed incumbent Gil Garcetti for failing to spot the bogus arrests and wrongful criminal prosecutions before innocent victims were put behind bars.

“Let me be very clear. Garcetti bears full responsibility for oversight in failing to detect the worst Los Angeles Police Department corruption scandal in over 50 years,” Cooley said.

A spokesman for Garcetti responded to the accusation by calling Cooley out of control and desperate.

“The attacks (against Garcetti) are getting shrill and more desperate- sounding,” said Garcetti campaign spokesman Bill Carrick.

Some 27 months before rogue-cop-turned-informant Rafael Perez began detailing how he and other LAPD officers framed innocent people, a **deputy district attorney** dismissed a case because he had doubts about Perez's testimony, Cooley said.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Kraut detailed his reasons for dropping the drug charges in a June 1997 memorandum to his superiors.

When asked recently about Kraut's move, Garcetti first denied knowing about the matter. He later said the memorandum remains confidential because it is part of the ongoing probe into corruption at the LAPD Rampart division.

“(The) case should have been a moment of awakening for the county's chief public prosecutor. But he was asleep at the helm,” charged Cooley, a head **deputy district attorney**.

Since last September, more than 30 criminal convictions have been set aside as a result of the Rampart investigation. Further, about 20 police officers have either been fired, suspended, or have quit after being connected to the scandal.

Cooley also blamed Garcetti for disbanding the **District Attorney's** "roll-out" program, which sent an investigator and prosecutor to the scene of all police shootings.

Carrick countered that the roll out program was canceled due to budget cuts by the Board of Supervisors, not Garcetti.

Also on Monday, **District Attorney** candidate Barry Groveman expressed similar disdain over Garcetti's management of the police scandal.

"Garcetti is afraid of shedding light on his own negligence. That's his top concern," said Groveman, a former county prosecutor.

"He hasn't come to terms with the fact that this is a crisis," Groveman said. "He has to move much faster, dedicate much more resources to it and respond to the concerns that the public has."