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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN FERNANDO POLICE RECEIVE GRANT FOR DE-ESCALATION TRAINING

SAN FERNANDO, CA – The San Fernando Police Department (SFPD) is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$91,845 Community Policing Development (CPD) grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (DOJ-COPS).

This grant approved by the DOJ COPS program includes the acquisition of an advanced state of the art virtual reality training system. Virtual training systems are being used by police agencies and at regional training centers throughout California to reinforce the principles of de-escalation and to educate officers on use of force options in dynamic real life situations while training in a safe environment. Virtual Reality Training systems have been acquired by the California Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST) Commission to train officers throughout the State of California at regional training centers but are often unavailable to small agencies due to limited space, high demand and the system cost. Acquiring this system and implementing this training under this grant assures the SFPD complies with and exceeds training standards set forth by the California Legislature as required by SB230.

According to Lieutenant Irwin Rosenberg, “Training the department’s officers utilizing this advanced technology will undoubtedly enhance their de-escalation skills allowing them to maintain the SFPD’s commitment to the highest standards of police accountability in public safety service while also reinforcing our understanding for the sanctity of life.”

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Page 2 of 2

This new tool will also be invaluable in strengthening the SFPD's community partnerships by making it possible for trained department instructor personnel to conduct demonstrations of the training to community stakeholders, including elected officials, faith based leaders, community-based organizations and Neighborhood Watch members, business watch members, as well as members of the local media. Lieutenant Rosenberg said, "Having this unique ability to educate stakeholders will create a better understanding of the challenges faced by our officers in the dynamic situations they often face and will further demonstrate to community partners our commitment to providing training that emphasizes de-escalation and treating everyone with dignity."

The U.S. DOJ is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. As emphasized by the U.S DOJ, law enforcement plays a vital role in each of these areas through developing and maintaining meaningful relationships with all segments of the their communities and working in partnership with those communities to provide crime prevention, intervention, and response services and resources.

The San Fernando Police Department shares these commitments and values with the Department of Justice.

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