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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN FERNANDO POLICE ANNOUNCE POLICE ACADEMY PRIDE RUN IN MEMORY OF OFFICER JESSE PADEREZ ON JANUARY 9th, 2017, 8:30 AM

San Fernando, CA – The San Fernando Police Department will host the graduating police recruits of the Rio Hondo Police Academy on January 9th, 2017, beginning at 830am, as they run their pride run throughout the City of San Fernando Streets.

Every police academy graduating class runs an extended run for pride before their graduation in celebration of successfully completing the police academy. The San Fernando Police Department is honored the Rio Hondo Police Academy has chosen the City of San Fernando for this police recruit graduating class Pride Run. This is the first time the City has been chosen for such a run. The Pride Run will be extra special because it will be run throughout the City in memory of fallen San Fernando Police Officer Jesse Paderez, who died in line of duty on July 17, 2002.

Officer Paderez' family will join the San Fernando Police Department to honor Officer Paderez' memory and we are asking the public to line the streets along the route to show your respect for the memory of Officer Paderez as well as to show your support for the fine men and women of the graduating police academy who are choosing to join the noble profession of law enforcement. Along with these recruits, professional staff and officers of the San Fernando Police department will run parts or all of this route.

In addition honoring the memory of Officer Paderez, the recruits will be running to raise money for the Special Olympics of Southern California and to raise awareness related to inclusion and understanding of people with intellectual disabilities. A Special Olympic Athlete will join the recruits and the runners will carry the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch lit with the Flame of Hope. The Flame of Hope symbolizes courage and celebration of diversity that represents the spirit of the Special Olympics.

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Chief Anthony Vairo said, "We are truly honored to be hosting this Rio Hondo Police Academy Pride Run for the first time. More importantly, we are grateful Officer Jesse Paderez' memory is being honored in such a special way. I worked with Jesse and he was a cop's cop and a man of integrity and honor. I am so pleased his family can join us and has allowed this event to honor his memory and also to raise funds for

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San Fernando Police Announce "Torch Run" to Benefit Special Olympics

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such a special cause. In these very difficult times for law enforcement, the community's support means so much and in San Fernando we are truly blessed to work for and with such a great community."

The public is encouraged on January 9th, at 8:30am, to come out to honor Officer Paderez' memory and support the Academy Recruits and City's police officers and personnel. Chief Vairo said he truly hopes the city's residents and business community will come out to line the streets to support the recruits as they run in memory of Officer Paderez.

Streets where the run can be viewed include along Park Avenue in front of Recreation Park, throughout the Mall on San Fernando Road, the Civic Center near the police station, courthouse and City Hall, as well as along San Fernando Mission Boulevard between San Fernando Road and O'Melveny Street as well as along Brand Boulevard between O'Melveny Street to Hollister Street. The run will also pass by the school yards of Morningside Elementary School, San Fernando Elementary Street School, San Fernando Middle School on the bike path and St. Ferdinand's School along Hollister Street, in hopes the children will come out and witness the run and cheer on the runners.

To actually donate to the running team, you can go to the website for the Special Olympics at <http://sosc.kintera.org/scvtvfundraising/riohondo>

For more information on the run, please call Sergeant Irwin Rosenberg at 213-494-9960.

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