THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Time: 2300 Hours

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POLICE INVESTIGATE OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN MISSION VALLEY

San Diego Police Homicide Unit detectives are investigating an incident in which an officer fired a shot during the arrest of two robbery suspects in Mission Valley.

At 5:11 p.m., officers responded to a call of a robbery on the south side of Fashion Valley Mall at 7007 Friars Road. A juvenile male victim reported that two males approached him after he got off the trolley and demanded his iPOD. One of the males lifted his red sweatshirt to display what the victim believed was a handgun. The males fled with the iPOD south toward the trolley. A few minutes later, Trolley Security advised over the police radio that the suspects may have taken the trolley to the Mission Valley Mall trolley stop. Officers spotted the suspects in the 1500 block of Camino de la Reina on the north side of Mission Valley Mall and began chasing them on foot. The suspect with the red sweatshirt removed the sweatshirt and threw it into a flower bed. He and the other suspect ran north across Camino de la Reina toward the trolley station.

Just south of the trolley station, an officer confronted the suspects. He drew his duty gun and began ordering the suspects to stop and get on the ground. They did not comply and continued running north toward a bench where a female was sitting alone. The suspect who had shed the sweatshirt had both of his hands down near his front waistband as he ran. As he reached a light pole next to the bench, this suspect spun around and faced the officer. His hands were still together at his front waist band. Fearing the suspect was getting ready to draw a gun from his waistband and shoot at him, or possibly take the female on the bench hostage, the officer fired one round from his duty weapon toward the suspect and continued to order both suspects to get on the ground. The round did not hit anyone and both suspects got on the ground, where they were handcuffed by other arriving officers.

Officers checked the flower bed where the suspect had shed his sweatshirt and found a pellet handgun.

The suspects are both juveniles and their names were not released. They were booked into Juvenile Hall for robbery.

The officer involved in the shooting is a 17-year veteran of the Police Department.

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