THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Mónica Muñoz
(619) 531-2675

COUNTYWIDE POLICY REGARDING OFF-DUTY OFFICER INTERVENTION

(San Diego) The San Diego County Police Chiefs' & Sheriff's Association today announce the release of a countywide policy which addresses the conduct of officers when they encounter suspected criminal activity while they are off duty.

This is the first policy of its kind in the county of San Diego. The policy was written through a collaborative effort between the San Diego County Police Chiefs' & Sheriff's Association and local community groups.

The policy indicates that off-duty peace officers should first consider contacting the appropriate law enforcement agency so that on duty officers or deputies can respond. Off duty officers are encouraged to be good witnesses to any criminal activity they become aware of. The policy further indicates that the totality of the situation should be taken into consideration before an off duty officer decides to take action. A copy of the policy is included on page two of this news release.

A news conference on this topic is scheduled for today, Friday, May 4 at 11:30 a.m. at SDPD headquarters, 1401 Broadway Street. Chief William Lansdowne, Chief Rick Emerson representing Chula Vista Police and the SD County Police Chiefs' & Sheriff's Association (current president) and Dr. Cleo Malone of the Coalition for Justice will be available for interviews.

San Diego County Police Chiefs' & Sheriff's Association

"OFF DUTY INTERVENTION POLICY"

Law enforcement officers, whose on duty employment involves performing police functions, retain full power and authority to act as peace officers when off duty. Prior to taking law enforcement action, off duty peace officers who observe or who are told of criminal activity, shall first consider contacting the appropriate law enforcement agency and have on duty officers/deputies respond. Off duty peace officers should, if possible, make mental notes of the criminal incident and attempt to be a good witness to the event.

In determining whether or not to intervene the off duty peace officer should consider the totality of the situation. In a case where action is considered necessary, to prevent death, the possibility of death or serious bodily injury, significant property damage or loss, the off duty peace officer should consider the offense involved, the difficulty that being off duty tactically and operationally presents, and/or other factors as articulated and observed by the off duty peace officer.

If an off duty peace officer intervenes in the criminal conduct, he/she must, if reasonably possible, identify themselves, their agency and their intent to stop the criminal conduct. Any law enforcement action taken by the peace officer will be governed by the policies and procedures, rules and regulations that apply to on duty personnel.

When outside the limits of their jurisdiction, but within the state of California, off duty peace officers may assist any law enforcement officer who appears to be in need of immediate assistance and may assist in the prevention of the commission of any crime involving the immediate danger to persons or property, or of the escape of the perpetrator of the offense.

Off duty peace officers outside the state of California, do not have police officer powers/status and therefore have only the rights and obligations of private citizens of that state.

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