

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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San Diego Police Department Receives Equipment, Wellness and Recovery Support from Gary Sinise Foundation

**OVER \$91,000 IN SUPPORT TO SDPD, INCLUDES NEW BIKE EQUIPMENT
AND FOR WOUNDED SGT. ANTHONY ELLIOTT'S RECOVERY**

San Diego – The [Gary Sinise Foundation](#) (GSF), which was established in 2011 under the philanthropic direction of award-winning actor and humanitarian Gary Sinise, who has been a staunch supporter of veterans, first responders and defenders for more than 40 years, provided the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) with new equipment, wellness and recovery needs as part of its mission to support our Nation's first responders, veterans, heroes and defenders.

The details of the new bike equipment to replace SDPD's aging fleet (see below) were highlighted Friday in San Diego's iconic Gaslamp Quarter.

Following the revealing of the new bike equipment, GSF hosted a special Serving Heroes luncheon at SDPD Headquarters Downtown to provide lunch for 300 on-duty officers. The meals of gratitude also kicked off with a special presentation and donation from GSF to [SDPD Sergeant Anthony Elliott, who is recovering from a serious gunshot injury to the head he received on Dec. 7.](#)

"It is nothing short of amazing the work that the Gary Sinise Foundation is doing to support first responders and service members," **Police Chief David Nisleit said.** "The San Diego Police Department is honored and grateful to be the recipient of much-needed equipment and funding that keep our officers

safe and healthy. SDPD is proud to have a partner in GSF that we know will just continue to grow for years to come.”

“First responders are on the front lines of our communities, putting their lives on the line every day to serve and protect their neighbors, including right here in San Diego. We are so honored to support the San Diego Police Department to help them perform their jobs to the best of their abilities with new equipment, to help one of their own recover and to let each member of SDPD know that we are incredibly grateful for their service and sacrifice each and every day,” **said Gib Bosworth, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at the Gary Sinise Foundation.**

Additional details of support from the Gary Sinise Foundation include:

EQUIPMENT

SDPD’s Gaslamp Enforcement Team (GET), also known as the Bike Team, relies on bicycles for their main form of transportation within the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego. The prior fleet of bicycles, most of which are over five years old, have become outdated, displaying signs of wear, including worn parts and dented and scratched frames. The older bicycles also faced challenges such as a low-capacity battery, a siren with low decibel levels, and smaller 26-inch tires causing difficulties when traversing curbs and debris.

The Gary Sinise Foundation purchased 25 new Volcanic Bicycles that will replace the aging fleet. The new bikes, which cost about \$68,000, feature an all-aluminum frame, 27.5-inch wheels for improved maneuverability, reflective stickers for enhanced visibility at night, and upgraded safety features, including a NiteRider light system and a louder siren. Additionally, each bicycle is equipped with a new bicycle rack and marked gear bag to carry patrol equipment and documents. This equipment donation was made in partnership with the San Diego Police Foundation.

“The San Diego Police Foundation is so grateful to receive this generous support for SDPD’s Central Division Bike Team. This equipment will make a huge difference in the safety of every person who lives in, works in, or visits the Gaslamp Quarter,” **said Sara Napoli, President and CEO of the San Diego Police Foundation.** “For 25 years, the Police Foundation has worked with community partners to fund equipment, training, and outreach programs so that our police can do their jobs safely and with excellence. We commend the Gary Sinise Foundation for their generosity and care for those who protect and serve San Diego.”

RECOVERY

GSF provided a H.O.P.E. (heal, overcome, persevere, excel) grant to Sgt. Elliott to aid his recovery efforts, including new equipment or necessary treatment he needs as he continues his amazing recovery journey.

WELLNESS

GSF partnered with SDPD’s Wellness Unit to support the second annual Wellness Day at Sycuan Casino and Resort on March 7, providing wellness resources for law enforcement employees and their families from 36 law enforcement agencies across the state. GSF supported the cost of the event and provided breakfast and lunch for the attendees.

For more information on the Gary Sinise Foundation including its [First Responders Outreach](#) and [Serving Heroes](#) programs, along with its [H.O.P.E. initiative](#), visit www.garysinisefoundation.org.

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ABOUT THE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION

Gary Sinise is an award-winning actor and humanitarian, best known for his roles in CSI: NY, Apollo 13, and his Oscar-nominated performance in the film Forrest Gump as the wounded Vietnam veteran Lt. Dan Taylor. An advocate for our nation's defenders since the 1980s, after 9/11 Sinise began a tireless crusade to support America's military and first responders around the world with handshake tours and concerts with his band, the Lt. Dan Band. In 2011, he established the [Gary Sinise Foundation](#) as an extension of those efforts. Today, the Foundation is building custom homes for severely wounded heroes, honoring and supporting the families of our fallen, providing essential equipment and training for first responders, improving the mental wellness of our defenders, and so much more. For more information and to support, visit www.garysinisefoundation.org.