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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**East Palo Alto Parole Reentry Program to implement
14-month pilot job program**

October 14 – Starting in January, 2009, the East Palo Alto Parole Reentry Program – known as the East Palo Alto Community-Based Coalition (CBC) – will implement a 14-month pilot parolee work program in partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the California Department of Transportation (herein referred to as CalTrans).

As part of this new initiative, CDCR will increase the City's existing contract by \$1.1 million to provide jobs to 20 parolees and 2 supervisors (equates to two work crews) to clean-up trash on state highways. Work crews will work 5 days a week, 8 hours daily.

CalTrans will provide the work crews equipment and training. Work crew members will be paid \$10 an hour and the two field supervisors \$25 an hour. Parolees who participate in this program will also be provided an opportunity to seek full-time employment with CalTrans. Work crew members must be participants in the reentry program and reside in East Palo Alto.

According to Chief Davis, "this initiative will provide much needed jobs to parolees, strengthen the City's existing reentry program, and contribute to lower recidivism and crimes rates in the City."

East Palo Alto and Sacramento will be the only two reentry programs in California offering this critical service. Currently, East Palo Alto is the only parole-reentry program in the State in which CDCR contracts directly with the City (Police Department) to partner with several local community and faith-based organizations to provide blended enforcement and programming services.

Background

In 2007, the City of East Palo Alto entered into a three and a half year contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to implement the East Palo Alto Community-Based Coalition (CBC) – a parole reentry program that blends enforcement with programming services. The CDCR is funding this program at a total projected cost of \$3.4 million dollars (\$949,000 annually).

This program was initiated by Assembly Bill 2436, authored by Assembly Member Ira Ruskin, which requires the CDCR to establish a pilot parole reentry program in East Palo Alto. The Police Department and CDCR worked collaboratively to implement a program that provides, at a minimum, the following services:

1. Create a Day Reporting Center that provides a single reporting location for parolees and provides a host of reentry services, such as:
 - a. Individualized treatment plans
 - b. Residential/transitional housing
 - c. Substance abuse education and treatment
 - d. Anger management
 - e. Domestic violence programs
 - f. Cognitive and life skills development
 - g. Parenting and family reintegration
 - h. Community service
 - i. Educational services (GED preparation)
 - j. Budgeting and money management
 - k. Job readiness and job search
 - l. Discharge planning and aftercare
2. Provide transitional sober living accommodations for 12 parolees which equates to ten percent of the target population.
3. Conduct a prerelease needs assessment of inmates scheduled to parole to East Palo Alto.
4. Develop a reentry plan identifying services needed by persons returning to the community.
5. Forge partnership between the police and CDCR parole agents to enhance the level of supervision and accountability of parolees residing in East Palo Alto.
6. Create partnerships with local community organizations and service providers to provide support services to parolees such as transitional housing, job training, or placement, or substance abuse treatment.

The Day Reporting Center (DRC) began accepting parolees on January 7, 2008. Since that time, the DRC has served over 100 participants. Although it is too early to determine to what extent the program is successful; early indicators suggest the program is very promising.

The parole recidivism rate for participants at this point is 48% which is well below the state average of 60 to 70%. However, many parolees either drop out of the program or never enter into it due to the need to find employment and provide for their families immediately following their return from prison. Job training and placement are critical aspects to the overall success of the parolees and the reentry program.

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