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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***“CRIME EMERGENCY” IMPLEMENTED
PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD LAUNCHED***

April 10 – Police Chief Ronald Davis has declared a “crime emergency” for the Police Department in response to a recent surge in violence. Although there has only been 1 homicide so far this year (compared to 3 the same period last year), there have been over 48 assaults with a firearms the first quarter of 2008 compared to 35 the same period in 2007. Seven people have been shot in the past ten days.

As part of the crime emergency, the Department has canceled days off for all staff. This action will double the number of officers in the field and allow those additional officers to be assigned specialized enforcement activities that focus on gangs and narcotics.

Following the two-week crime emergency, the Police Department and the California Highway Patrol will implement “Operation Impact”. The CHP will assign 6 officers to conduct enhanced traffic enforcement in designated “hotspot” locations. Operation Impact was previously implemented in the City in 2005 and 2007 with great success.

Additionally, the Police Department launched the second-year Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) program using a \$100,000 grant from the US Department of Justice. The first PSN program (\$75,000) was initiated last February in response to a 3-month surge (Nov 06 – Jan 07) in violence that resulted in 6 homicides and 56 assaults with a firearms. There were 3 homicides and 25 assaults with a firearm in January, 2007, alone. The first year PSN program was extremely successful in stemming that surge in violence.

As part of this year’s PSN, the Department has partnered with numerous local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies to enhance its enforcement efforts. The Department has also partnered with numerous community-based and faith-based organizations to conduct a street-outreach to gang members and co-sponsor a Youth Summit to be hosted by One East Palo Alto to conduct a youth summit on May 20.

According to Chief Davis:

Enforcement actions alone are not enough to stop crime and violence in our community. However, our long-term prevention and intervention efforts are greatly hindered by a continual hail of bullets. The crime emergency and enhanced enforcement actions are needed to put an immediate stop to this alarming level of violence and provide the community both the time and environment necessary to continue our long-term efforts.

PSN will be implemented in three phases: Below is a preliminary list of activities in each phase. This list is not all inclusive. Various enforcement activities, not listed, will take place during each phase.

Phase 1 (30 Days)

- The Department implemented a “crime emergency” and put extra patrols on the street. These units will target designated hotspots.
- The Countywide Gang Task Force (GTF) will conduct gang suppression activities.
- The Department and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will implement “Operation Impact”. This program was successfully implemented in 2005 and 2007. CHP officers will patrol in designated hot spots.
- The Department will provide its “Most Wanted” list and provide it to the San Mateo Gang Intelligence Unit, the GTF, and the United States Marshal Service
- The Department (and probation and parole) will conduct parole and probation searches of known gang members
- Participants of the City’s parole reentry program and the Beat groups will conduct block clean-ups and graffiti removal in designated hotspots
- Faith and community-based leaders, as well as members of the parole reentry program, will attempt to negotiate cease-fires with feuding gang members
- The Police Chaplains will host a special vigil for “National Victims Right” week on April 13, 2008

Phase 2 (60 Days)

- The Countywide Gang Task Force (GTF) will continue its assistance in gang suppression activities.
- The CHP will continue “Operation Impact”
- The Police Department will launch its “Make the Call” cable-television program that will focus on cold-cases (homicides).
- The Department will participate in a Youth Summit hosted by One East Palo Alto in May 20, 2008
- The City will launch several anti-gang violence initiatives through grants received from the United States Department of Justice. Programs include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - Enforcement activities (including code enforcement and civil injunctions)
 - Anti-graffiti campaign
 - Police Activities League (Mural Arts, Boxing & Track & Field)
 - Expand the ShotSpotter gun tracking system for citywide coverage (if approved by the Council)

Phase 3 (60 Days)

- The California Department of Justice will conduct narcotic operations and surveillance of gang members. This program was implemented in 2006
- The Department has requested the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) assign the Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) to the City. In 2005, MET indicted 44 suspects for various narcotics and weapon charges.

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