HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12501 South Hawthorne Boulevard.Hawthorne.California.90250

PRESS RELEASE

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HAWTHORNE POLICE OFFICER KILLED IN TRAFFIC COLLISION

Hawthorne Police Officer Andrew Garton (1967 – 2011)

The Hawthorne Police Department is saddened to confirm that Officer Andrew Garton, a seven and a half year veteran of the Hawthorne Police Department, was killed in an on-duty traffic collision, on Thursday, May 26, 2011. Officer Garton was on a police motorcycle assisting in the funeral escort duties of a Manhattan Beach police officer, who had passed away earlier this month. The collision

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occurred near the intersection of 227th Street and Hawthorne Blvd., in the city of Torrance. The collision is being investigated by the California Highway Patrol.

Officer Garton was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Officer Garton was 44 years old, and had been assigned to the Traffic Bureau as a motorcycle officer for the past four and a half years. Officer Garton also served as a long time member of the Department's SWAT team.

Officer Garton was married, and had two sons, ages 12 and seven. His family and friends were brought to the hospital to be with him, and are supported also by his Hawthorne Police family and the law enforcement community at large. The outpouring of assistance and support for Officer Garton's family and the Hawthorne Police Department is greatly appreciated.

The Department is currently arranging an account, for which donations to Officer Garton's family can be made. Finalization of this account is pending, and information will be publicized as soon as it is established.