HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12501 South Hawthorne Boulevard.Hawthorne.California.90250

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: May 27, 2011 | *Suitable For Public Dissemination*

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

LIEUTENANT GARY TOMATANI - Public Information Officer
Front Desk: 310-349-2700 Investigations: 310-349-2820

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 Hawthorne Police Officers Association has established a trust fund for Officer Garton's family. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so at the:

Western Federal Credit Union
14500 South Aviation Blvd.
Hawthorne, CA 90250
(877) 254-9328

or at the:

Hawthorne Police Department
12501 S. Hawthorne Blvd.
Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 349-2835

Donations should be made out to:

Officer Andrew Garton's Family c/o HPOA
Account Number 654404-006

A spokesperson for the Garton family will read a prepared statement, and answer questions on the family's behalf during a press conference on Saturday, May 28, 2011. The press conference will begin at 11 AM, at the Hawthorne Police Department. Media representatives are requested to be present by 10:30 AM.