



# HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12501 South Hawthorne Boulevard, Hawthorne, California, 90250

## PRESS RELEASE

Issued: July 18, 2011

HPD DR #11- 9809

*Suitable For Public Dissemination*

### ***Hawthorne Police Officer Involved in Shooting of Armed Suspect***

On Monday, July 18, 2011, at approximately 2:15 AM, a Hawthorne Police patrol unit attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle near the intersection of Van Ness and Imperial Highway, in the City of Hawthorne. Instead of pulling over, the driver of the vehicle led Hawthorne Police on a short pursuit, ending in the 2400 block of West Imperial Highway. At the end of the pursuit, the driver and passenger from the suspect's car remained in the vehicle, and complied with officer's orders. However, a second passenger fled from the suspect's car on foot and was pursued by one of the two officers.

During this foot chase, the suspect turned and pointed a handgun at the officer, at which time the officer shot at the suspect. The suspect was hit once in the upper torso. The suspect then discarded the gun (later examination found it to be loaded), and continued to flee on foot. He was eventually taken into custody nearby after being located by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department helicopter. The suspect was transported and treated at an area hospital. He is expected to survive. The suspect has not yet been positively identified. No officers were injured in this incident.

The driver and passenger of the suspect's vehicle who did not flee are currently in custody on various charges at the Hawthorne Police Department.

The incident is currently under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The Hawthorne Police Department will conduct an independent administrative investigation of the incident.

Any further Media inquiries should be directed to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau @ (323) 890-5500.

Contact: Lieutenant Gary Tomatani  
Detective Bureau Commander / Public Information Officer  
(310) 349-2835 Desk (310) 345-2346 Cell