



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: Monday, February 2, 2010**  
**Contact: Lieutenant Leon Phillips**  
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### **Knife Wielding 11-Year Old Threatening Suicide Calmed by Police Officer**

Riverside, CA – On Monday, February 1, 2010, at approximately 10:20 PM, Riverside Police Officers responded to a call of a male juvenile walking on the 60 Freeway along the Box Springs area of Riverside. Other reports came in that the juvenile was on Sycamore Canyon Boulevard.

Riverside Police K-9 Officer Mike Mears drove into the area and found the boy walking on the sidewalk Sycamore Canyon Boulevard. Officer Mears stopped to speak with the boy to check on his well being. At first the boy would not stop at Officer Mears' request. When he finally did stop, he turned and revealed that he possessed two large kitchen knives in his hands. He held one to his throat and the other pointed against his stomach. He ordered Officer Mears to keep his distance or he would kill himself.

Officer Mears began to speak with the boy about his trouble. The boy said he had run away from home earlier in the evening because he was distraught over issues in his home and a pending change in his school. Officer Mears was eventually able to talk the boy down from his emotional state and convince him to drop the knives.

The boy was not injured in the incident that lasted approximately ten minutes. Officer Mears described himself as being in shock for the first few moments because in more than twenty years as a Police Officer he had never encountered circumstances like this involving someone so young. The boy was taken to speak with mental health professionals to ensure he did not pose a continued danger to himself.

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