



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: Thursday, April 17, 2008**  
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### **RPD gears up for Baker to Vegas Challenge race**

Riverside, CA -- More than 50 Riverside Police personnel, including 20 hardy distance runners and their alternates, are heading into the desert this weekend to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Baker To Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. The 120-mile overnight footrace is a law enforcement community tradition to promote teamwork, camaraderie and physical fitness. The race is being run April 19-20.

The 20 runners and five alternates competed for places on the RPD team – one of approximate 245 teams expected to compete this year. All sworn officers, including Patrol Officers, SWAT members, Traffic Officers, Detectives, Sergeants and the Training Division Lieutenant, tested to run relay segment distances of between 4.4 miles and 8.2 miles. The fastest and best suited runners are paired with 20 route segments across grueling desert terrain that begins near the Baker High School staging point and concludes at the Hilton Hotel Convention Center in Las Vegas.

The runners will be augmented by 26 support volunteers and 10 communications team members connected with the police department.

“We’ve had tremendous community support” raising funds to cover registration fees and costs of fielding the team, said RPD team co-leader Officer Erich Feimer, in addition to direct support by the Riverside Police Department and the Riverside Police Officers’ Association.

“It’s great to see everyone coming together, seeing people you work with everyday, in this different role” to represent Riverside in the competition, said team co-leader Officer Aurelio Melendrez.

The Baker to Vegas race began in 1985 with members of the Los Angeles Police Department. Over the years, the popular event grew to include law enforcement teams from all over California, elsewhere in the nation, Canada and other countries.

To learn more about the RPD team, contact Officer Melendrez at (951) 826-8715.

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