



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Riverside Police Department Battle of the Badges Blood Drive

Riverside, CA -- On Tuesday, January 20, 2009, the Riverside Police Department will be hosting a Battle of the Badges Blood Drive at the Magnolia Police Station, 10540 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA. Sponsored by the American Red Cross and organized by the United States Probation Department, the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive is an annual event to raise awareness of Southern California's shrinking blood supply.

The winter months of January and February are traditionally the most critical months of blood need. The United States Probation Office started the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive two years ago as a competition between law enforcement agencies to positively impact the blood supply. In addition the Riverside Police Department, participating agencies including CHP Riverside, State Parole, Drug Enforcement Agency, US Border Patrol, and Los Angeles Police Department, attempt to collect the most amount of blood units per department size.

One unit of blood can save three lives. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims – due to accidents and burns – heart surgery, organ transplants, complications, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for cancer, leukemia or other diseases. Unfortunately, law enforcement officers also have been in need of blood following their involvement in a critical incident.

This year's goal is to have at least 2,500 badge carrying personnel donate blood. All blood donations go to Southern California hospitals.

Law Enforcement, community members, family, and friends are welcome to participate in this event. The American Red Cross will donate a free t-shirt to all participant donors. Please join the Riverside Police Department's blood drive event to save lives. Contact RPD Officer Lisa Johnson for further information.

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