



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RPD Hosts Investigations Training for Mexican Sister City

Riverside, CA -- The Riverside Police Department is sponsoring a two week (November 7-18, 2011) Violent Crimes Investigations class to expand training and knowledge in general police work and follow up investigations for the Morelos State Police stationed in our Sister City, Cuautla. Our sister city relationship with Cuautla, Morelos, was established in 1968. In the past, we have provided Firefighter training and equipment, as well as library training, which was through a third-party group known as Bibliotecas Hermanas (Sister Libraries).

Riverside Police Chief Sergio Diaz welcomed the opportunity to assist a fellow police agency and offered to sponsor the class. He met with the Morelos investigators to explain his philosophy regarding the importance of the police and community working together as a team to fight crime. During his talk, Chief Diaz stressed the importance of securing the community's respect and confidence in their police department.

The two week (80 hour) class was developed and presented by Riverside Police Department Training, Central Investigations, and Special Operations Bureaus with the assistance of the Fire Department and the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. It covers numerous disciplines within police work, including: gang, arson, sexual assault, child abuse, robbery, homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and bomb investigations. The class also covers defensive tactics, high risk vehicle stops, building searches, and evidence collection. The Morelos investigators have the opportunity to ride along with Riverside patrol officers so they can witness first-hand how we conduct our daily duties.

The training has been very beneficial for both the Morelos investigators and the Riverside officers presenting the training. There have been numerous discussions about the differences in culture, law, and perceptions.

Riverside has seven other sister cities: Ensenada, Mexico; Sendai, Japan; Gangnam-gu, Republic of Korea; Jiangmen, People's Republic of China; Hyderabad, India; Obuasi, Ghana; and, our newest, Erlangen, Federal Republic of Germany. In 2009, Riverside was awarded an Innovation Arts and Culture award by Sister Cities International for an artist exchange program between Riverside, Cuautla and Ensenada.