



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** November 28, 2011

**Contact:** Lieutenant Chuck Griffitts  
Canine Unit Commander

**Phone:** (951) 353-7900

## ***Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*** ***Riverside Police and Fire K-9 Training Facility Established***

**RIVERSIDE, CA:** On Saturday, December 3, 2011, at 11:00 a.m., Police Chief Sergio Diaz and Fire Chief Steve Earley will commemorate the first training facility for the city's working dogs. A "***Blue and Red***" ribbon cutting ceremony will be held to recognize each public safety agency and the dedication and service given by the working dog. The joint training facility was inspired by the police officers and firefighters who have a partner with four-legs, a long nose and a thick bushy coat. The facility is the first of its kind for the City of Riverside. The facility will provide a dedicated area to maintain training proficiency of the assigned officer and canine while allowing the teams to respond from training to calls for service without delay.

This venture turned into a reality when a vacant lot was identified and available for the canine corps to develop into a training site. The empty lot behind the Mission Grove Fire Station was overgrown with vegetation and through hard work was transformed into a modern K-9 training site for the benefit of the Police and Fire canine program. "The dedication and passion of the canine handlers was the driving force behind this; they saw the need and did all the work. This facility will be a huge asset to the already professional canine program" said Lieutenant Chuck Griffitts, Canine Unit Commander.

The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony, which will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Mission Grove Fire Station. Several canine demonstrations will be conducted on the new training field for the public to view and the fire station will be open to the public.

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 3, 2011

**WHERE:** Mission Grove Fire Station #9  
6674 Alessandro Blvd., Riverside

**TIME:** 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## ***Public Announcement*** ##



# DEDICATION CEREMONY



## **BLUE & RED** Ribbon Cutting

Police Chief Sergio Diaz and Fire Chief Steven Earley invite you to join them at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the City of Riverside's first K-9 Training Field benefitting the city's working dogs.

**DATE:** Saturday – December 3, 2011

**TIME:** 10:30 to 2:00 – **Ribbon Cutting will be at 11:00**

**WHERE:** Mission Grove Fire Station #9 – 6674 Alessandro Blvd.

You will tour the new training site, enjoy an open house of the fire station, and see our K-9s in action with various demonstrations being performed during the day.

Event contact person is Sgt. Patrick McCarthy, Riverside Police Department, at 951-351-6236 or via email at [pmccarth@riversideca.gov](mailto:pmccarth@riversideca.gov)