



News Release

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Contacts:
Diane Doolan-Diaz, IPA Office
(408) 891-7575 cell

Abia Oliva, Mexican Consulate
(408) 294-3414 ext. 134 office

San José IPA and Mexican Consulate to Sign Memo of Understanding

SAN JOSÉ – The City of San José’s Independent Police Auditor (IPA), Judge LaDoris H. Cordell (Ret.) and the Consul General of Mexico in San José, Honorable David Figueroa Ortega, will sign a Memo of Understanding (MOU) next week regarding monthly IPA outreach at the Mexican Consulate in San José. The signing is scheduled for 11 A.M. on Thursday, January 13, 2011, at the Office of the Independent Police Auditor, 75 E. Santa Clara Street, Suite P-93, San José, CA. The event is open to the public.

The MOU is the result of feedback that the IPA received regarding the Consul General’s concern that Mexican Nationals who live and work in the City of San José are sometimes fearful of going to the San José Police Department (SJPD) or to the Office of the Independent Police Auditor to file complaints about San José police officers. An IPA staff person will be available at the Mexican Consulate in San José one-half day per month in order to inform the public about the services offered by the IPA and to answer questions regarding the police misconduct complaint process. The full MOU can be viewed on-line at www.sanJoseca.gov/IPA.

“San José is home to one of the finest police departments in the entire country and this kind of additional outreach will continue to strengthen the department’s relationship with our diverse communities,” **said Mayor Chuck Reed.** **IPA Judge Cordell** said, “Through this exciting collaboration, our two offices can help an often under-served segment of the San José community access important services to which they are entitled. It’s the type of interagency cooperation that is necessary in a city as large and diverse as San José.” And according to **Mexican Consul General David Figueroa Ortega**, “I am confident that this important instrument will have a positive impact to the community, therefore they can not only be aware of their right to express, but also to increase their trust in the authorities. In the end, this joint effort will be beneficial to institutions and people of this city.”

The Office of the Independent Police Auditor for the City of San José was established in 1993 to provide independent oversight of investigations that are conducted by the SJPD into community complaints. The IPA has a duty to conduct public outreach and education and to serve as an alternative location to receive community complaints. In addition, the IPA is responsible for reviewing complaint investigations to ensure they are thorough, fair and objective. The IPA reports on patterns and trends to the City Council and makes recommendations for improvements to SJPD policies and procedures. Complaints of police misconduct can be filed with the IPA in person or by phone, fax, mail, or email. The IPA office is located at 75 East Santa Clara Street, Suite P-93, San José, California.

The Consulate General of México in San José, California, is the official representation of the government of the United Mexican States in the Counties of Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey. Among other duties, the Consulate General is required to provide consular protection and assistance to the Mexican nationals who reside or who find themselves temporarily within these counties. The United States of America federal government, through the United States Department of State, recognizes this office as a foreign government consular post as defined in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963. The Consulate is located at 2125 Zanker Rd, San José, California, and Honorable David Figueroa Ortega is currently the Consul General of Mexico in San José, California.

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