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New K-9 Team takes to the street

10 year department veteran joins the Riverside Police K-9 Team

RIVERSIDE, CA: The Riverside Police Department's K-9 team has welcomed a 10 year veteran of the department as its' newest handler in the specialized unit. Officer Darrell Hill was chosen after a long and difficult selection process. "The competition and interest displayed by each interested officer for this position was overwhelming. The level of interest demonstrates each officer's commitment to the program," said Sergeant Patrick McCarthy, the K-9 team supervisor. "Several officers have been participating with the K-9 unit for years and have long waited for a vacancy. All have demonstrated a sincere passion to become a part of the K-9 team," McCarthy said.

Officer Hill has been with the police department for 10 years and has been actively involved with the K-9 team for the past four years. Following his selection, Officer Hill was teamed up with his four-legged partner, a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois named "RAMBO." Officer Hill and "RAMBO" attended and successfully completed a five-week training course on March 1st. The specialized training consists of practical exercises and scenarios to simulate actual field situations to train and test the officer and the police canine. "I am excited to welcome our newest K-9 team to the program and am very pleased with Officer Hill's training and development as a canine handler. He will be a valuable asset to our unit and the police department." said Lieutenant Chuck Griffiths, the K-9 unit commander. Officer Hill and "RAMBO" will be assigned to the night shift.

The vacancy became available when Officer Mike Carroll retired from the police department following 31 years of distinguished service; the last 19 years on the K-9 team. "We are extremely proud of our K-9 program and appreciate the unwavering support from the City of Riverside, the citizens as well as business owners that have contributed to our program," Griffiths said.

*** Public Announcement ***