



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New officer: An unusual rise to the ranks**

*Riverside's 39-year-old rookie, Nick Sahagun, began as station custodian*

Riverside, CA -- Riverside Police Officer Nick Sahagun patrols the city's West Neighborhood Policing Center as a 39-year-old rookie officer with a unique career path, and perspective on the department he serves.

Sahagun grew up in Riverside's Eastside neighborhood. He began his career with the Riverside Police Department as a custodian in 1990, and served in that capacity, save for a three-year period working back east, until 2005, when he changed jobs within the department. Sahagun put himself through the Riverside County Sheriff's Academy, and graduated with top honors on December 5, 2007.

Watching police operations as a custodian was interesting, Sahagun said recently, but he wanted to join those working in a law enforcement role. In 2005, he became a civilian Police Service Representative (PSR), working in parking enforcement, towing of abandoned vehicles and stolen vehicle recovery. The new responsibilities inspired him to try becoming a full-fledged sworn police officer.

"I liked it (PSR duties)," But I wanted to do more. I wanted to go on police calls," Sahagun said.

In early 2007, Sahagun enrolled in the RSO extended academy as a part-time student, finishing second in the physical fitness portion of training, and first in academics. He competed in a graduating class of 12 where most trainees were nearly half his age. When he completed enough training to demonstrate his real commitment, his RPD status was changed to Police Officer Trainee on October 5.

Sahagun finished third in his class at ceremonies at the March Air Reserve Base on December 5, and was subsequently sworn in as a police officer.

"I wish I'd done this a long time ago," Sahagun said. "I didn't think it would really happen, until it happened." He is assigned to Patrol division.

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