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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Volunteers Seek Funding Support from Palm Beach Gardens Residents

The newly activated Palm Beach Gardens Police Volunteers organization is asking Gardens residents to help support their local police department by contributing to the group's first annual fund drive.

In a letter sent in early April to 30,000 residential and business addressees in the city, the non-profit organization is seeking donations to help fund a variety of local police related programs.

These programs include supplementing the purchase of specialized police equipment not included in the City's regular budget, supporting the Citizens Police Academy as well as the youth-oriented Police Explorer program, and purchasing equipment for the Citizens Mobile Patrol.

The letter, signed by Tom Murphy, president of the new group, and Palm Beach Gardens Police Chief Steve Stepp points out that the PBG Police Volunteers is the only organization approved and authorized to solicit donations for the Palm Beach Gardens Police and that 100% of all funds received support the City's Police Department.

Additionally, the letter notes that the new Police Volunteers unit is a non-profit entity with IRS 501(c) (3) status and "this means your generous contribution is fully tax deductible".

The PBG Police Volunteers was formed following the success of the Police Department's Citizens Mobile Patrol which now includes more than 60 men and women who provide enhanced police visibility to help reduce crime.

In 2007, CMP members volunteered more than 4600 hours of community service that included nearly 1100 hours of patrol covering over 9500 miles within the city limits.

Significantly, the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department experienced a remarkable year in 2007, responding to more than 40,000 calls and handling over 190,000 incidents while reducing the crime rate by nearly 9 per cent. This was accomplished while the population and number of new businesses continued to increase in Palm Beach Gardens.

Residents should have received the fund drive letter in April and are encouraged to assist the Police Volunteers and the Palm Beach Gardens law enforcement program by making a fully tax deductible contribution.

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