

PRESS RELEASE



Downey Police Department Unveils New Force Training Room

Downey, CA, April 17, 2014: On April 8, 2014, Mayor Fernando Vasquez, along with Councilmen Alex Saab and Mario A. Guerra, joined Downey Chief of Police Carl Charles and members of his staff for the unveiling of the Downey Police Department's new Force Training Room. The dual purpose space will provide an on-site training venue for non-lethal and lethal force options where officers can refine their practical techniques, decision making, and judgment. As part of their training, the officers will have the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of current statutory and case laws and how they apply to use of force situations.

The Mayor and Councilmen were given a briefing on the capabilities and features of the facility and equipment, and witnessed a demonstration of the use of force simulator. Later, they were provided with an opportunity to personally participate in several video-based use of force scenarios to experience a sense of what Police Officers encounter in field situations.

"The addition of this new Force Training Room is a great asset to our Police Department and will serve as yet another tool to enhance the training of our officers," said Mayor Vasquez. "My Council colleagues and I recognize the importance of providing our officers with the right resources to perform their job efficiently, and we value the commitment and dedication of the men and women who serve in our fine Police Department."

No taxpayer funds were used to construct the facility. The \$200,000 facility was paid for through asset forfeiture funds, which included on-site construction, equipping the room with a state of the art, interactive, video-based use of force simulator, variable lighting, video monitoring, equipment storage, and protective padding.

Any additional inquiries may be directed to Lieutenant Leslie Murray by phone at (562) 904-2302 or by email at lmurray@downeyca.org

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