



El Monte NEWS

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Region One Air Support *AIR 77 Helicopter Dedication*

El Monte, Calif. - The City of **El Monte**, along with partner cities **Baldwin Park, Montebello, Irwindale, West Covina, Azusa** and **Baldwin Park Unified School District Police** is proud to announce the dedication and celebration of their third patrol helicopter, "**AIR 77**". This newest addition to the current fleet of two helicopters is a "state-of-the-art" Robinson R44 Raven II Police Model Helicopter. The dedication, to be held **Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.** at the El Monte Community Center (3130 Tyler, El Monte TB Map 637 C1), will be a gathering of representatives from all the partnering communities to celebrate a growing Air Patrol program.

"This event is an exciting opportunity to showcase the regional approach to helicopter patrol in the San Gabriel Valley," said City Manager James Mussenden. He also added, "...this 3rd helicopter will provide additional safety for officers on the ground and more patrol air time for residents in the covered communities". These helicopters are frequently the first responders to events on the ground, providing increased officer safety to responding units, and surprising and catching criminals in the act.

The Dedication Ceremony will involve all partners in the Region One area, incorporating seven participants in the San Gabriel Valley: El Monte, Azusa, West Covina, Montebello, Baldwin Park Police; Baldwin Park School Police and Irwindale. The cooperative air patrol began in 1999, when Baldwin Park joined El Monte in the 6th year of the El Monte Air Support operation. Shortly thereafter in 2001, Montebello and Irwindale joined and a 7-day a week regionalized program began. Success spread, and in 2006 West Covina and Baldwin Park School Police joined the program. Most recently, the City of Azusa joined the program in early 2007.

El Monte, a city incorporated in 1912 and home to more than 116,000 residents, is a full-service city located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley. It is freeway-close to all of Los Angeles, bisected by Interstate 10 and abutting Interstate 605. El Monte is home to a mega auto mall and boasts the largest single car dealership in the world, Longo Toyota. El Monte can also be visited on the web at www.ElMonteCA.gov

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