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**Complaints about San José Police Decline
For Fourth Straight Year**

***Mayor Gonzales praises Police Auditor's 2002 report showing no
injuries or deaths from officer-involved shootings***



*Pictured above – Councilmember Forrest Williams; Police Auditor Teresa Guerrero-Daley,
Police Chief William Lansdowne, Mayor Gonzales and Councilmember Pat Dando*

San José – Over the past four years community complaints about police conduct in San Jose have plummeted by almost half, according to statistics in the 2002 annual report released by the San José Independent Police Auditor today.

In addition, Independent Police Auditor Teresa Guerrero-Daley reported that no officer-involved shootings resulted in any injuries or deaths to either police or the public last year. For

the third consecutive year, officer-involved shootings have decreased in San José, from eight in 1999 to zero in 2002.

“These results confirm that San Jose police officers are among the best-trained in the nation to provide effective policing that is sensitive to residents and community priorities,” said Mayor Gonzales. “The excellent cooperation with Chief Lansdowne and our police department working with the Independent Police Auditor has become a model for other cities and departments to follow.”

Over the past several years the IPA and San José police have implemented changes that focused on keeping the use of deadly force by police to the minimum needed to ensure community safety. Changes have affected policies, communications and training regarding the proper use of force to handle volatile and dangerous situations.



*Mayor Gonzales speaks with Sofia Mendoza of the
Independent Police Auditor Advisory Committee (IPAAC)*

"The decrease in officer-involved shootings is the result of our focused efforts to improve training and reduce risks," said Guerrero-Daley. "Our community, elected officials, and San Jose

police have worked well together with our police oversight system to resolve critical issues and make this community safer for all our residents."

In 2002 San Jose police officers handled 464,000 calls for service, and of these calls, the police auditor received 430 community contacts in 2002. Of these contacts, 232 were classified as complaints.

According to Chief Lansdowne, the declining trends are positive news for the department. "We're 100-percent committed to making sure our police force follows the highest professional standards to serve our community. I commend the work done by Teresa Guerrero-Daley and her staff to help us accomplish this goal."

The IPA annual report also includes recommendations to enhance the San José Police Department's "Early Warning System," which provides intervention counseling for officers who have received three community complaints. The goal of the system and IPA recommendations is to identify specific training measures for individual officers to help prevent adverse encounters with the public.

In addition, Guerrero-Daley recommended that the chief and city manager clarify administrative procedures to investigate and address complaints that might be made against top-ranking police management and officers. Although this has not been a problem in San Jose, as a preventative measure, she proposed formal changes to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.

Trends in Cases Filed

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage Reduction From Prior Year</u>	<u>Percentage Reduction From 1999</u>
2002	430*	- 6.7 %	- 47.5 %
2001	461	- 33.6 %	- 43.7 %
2000	694	- 15.3 %	- 15.3 %
1999	819	--	--

* 232 of the 430 cases required an investigation

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