

Department Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #04/04/2011

Subject : NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHER WEEK

Contact :

Anywhere, USA – In 1991, Congress proclaimed the second week of April to be dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. Since then, and increasingly for the past several years, public safety agencies nationwide have recognized the pivotal role played by police and fire dispatchers who utilize telephones, radios, computers and many other communications media to provide support to law enforcement, fire services, and emergency medical services.

Last year, Anywhere Dispatchers handled 234,747 telephone calls, approximately 52,000 of which were 9-1-1 calls. The Police Department's Communications Center has an authorized staff of twenty-two personnel including (1) Bureau Supervisor, (4) Supervising Dispatchers, (15) Full-time Dispatchers and (2) Part-time Dispatchers. Dispatchers provide an essential service to the community. Their role in the police department is to receive and triage those hundreds of thousands of calls, prioritize emergencies, coordinate resources, and provide support to the responding field personnel.

Dispatchers work in a state of the art Communications Center. They are experts in utilizing many different computer systems and programs including intelligent phone workstations, Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) vehicle locators, Motorola 800 MHz trunked radio system, and a camera system enabling them to monitor the activities of over 175 circuit and intersection cameras throughout the city from their award-winning video wall.

"Dispatchers are our unseen first responders," Chief _____ said. "Their work is a critical link in our efforts to keep Irvine safe".

The Police Department will be honoring its public safety telecommunications staff with activities throughout the week in appreciation for the excellent work that they do every day. They will be publicly recognized by the City Council at the council meeting scheduled for Tuesday April 12, 2011.

For information about the Anywhere Communication Center or the week's events, please contact _____ at (555) 111-1111.