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Roy E. Melnick
Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

To: News Media
From: Chief Roy E. Melnick
Date: September 11, 2009
Re: **Lieutenant & Sergeant Promotions, LLPD**

On Friday September 11th, Los Lunas Police Chief Roy Melnick promoted several police officers to the positions of Lieutenant and Sergeant as part of a reorganization designed to improve the chain of command within the department, improve accountability, provide better police services and reduce liability to the community. The selection process included a written exam, an oral board and an interview with the police chief. There were 15 candidates who competed for the newly created positions. The candidates were selected from the top combined scores after completion of the process. A hiring list was also established from the remaining candidates and will be used for future promotions up to 1 year from the date of its implementation.

Sergeant Vince Torres was promoted to the position of Lieutenant and will be assigned to the Patrol Operations Division. He will be responsible for the overall supervision of the patrol officers. Vince Torres has been a Los Lunas police officer for 8 years and is a member of the Swat Team. He has been a Sergeant assigned to the midnight patrol shift for 2 years and was recently assigned as the commander for the newly created Internet Investigations Unit.

Officer Carl Padilla was promoted to the position of Lieutenant and will be assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division. He will be responsible for the overall supervision of the detectives. Carl Padilla has been a Los Lunas police officer for 1 year. Previously he served as a police officer in the Socorro County Sheriff's Department and in the Roswell Police department. Carl has served in the positions of Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain before retiring from the Roswell Police Department. Carl has been assigned to the patrol division for the past year.

Officer Naithan Gurule was promoted to the position of Sergeant and will be assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division. He will be responsible for the first line supervision of the detectives. Naithan Gurule has been employed by the Los Lunas Police Department for 8 years assigned to the traffic enforcement unit. Naithan is also a member of the Los Lunas Swat Team.

Officer Robert Ferreyra was promoted to the position of Sergeant and will be assigned to the Patrol Operations Division. He will be responsible for the first line supervision of the patrol officers assigned to his shift. Robert Ferreyra served 6 years in the military as a military police officer before joined the Los Lunas Police Department 8 years ago. Robert was also employed for 9 years by the New Mexico Department of Corrections. Robert is also co-commander of the Los Lunas Swat Team.

Officer Peter Alderete was promoted to the position of Sergeant and will be assigned to the Patrol Operations Division. He will be responsible for the first line supervision of a patrol shift. Peter Alderete has been employed by the Los Lunas Police Department for 3.5 years assigned to a patrol shift. Peter is a member of the los Lunas Swat Team. Peter has also served as a senior officer in charge of his shift in the absence of a Sergeant.

School Resource Officer Archie Romero was promoted to the position of Sergeant and will be assigned to the Patrol Operations Division. He will be responsible for the first line supervision of a patrol shift. Archie Romero has been employed by the Los Lunas Police Department for 1.5 years. Archie also served in the military for 5 years and was previously employed by the Gallup Police Department before joining the Los Lunas Police Department. Archie has approximately 17 years of law enforcement experience.

Detective Mark Torres was promoted to the position of Detective Sergeant and is currently assigned to the Region 1 Drug Task Force. Mark previously was assigned to the patrol division for the past 2 years. He will be responsible for the investigation of drug related crimes within Valencia County with other drug task force members. Mark Torres served 17 years in the military assigned to counter intelligence before joining the Los Lunas Police Department in 2007. Mark also was employed by the Taos County Sheriff's Department for 2 years.

Questions regarding this news release should be directed to Chief Roy Melnick at 505-352-7650.