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# La Habra Police Department Press Release

## **LHPD to Participate in National *Coffee with a Cop* on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>** Program offers opportunity to meet local officers and discuss community issues



La Habra, CA - On Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> officers from the La Habra Police Department, will participate in the first ever National *Coffee with a Cop* event. Law Enforcement agencies across the country will be getting together with members of the communities they serve, to discuss community issues in informal friendly settings, build relationships, and drink coffee.

All community members are invited to attend. La Habra's event will be held on Friday, October 7, 2016, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., at the Starbucks located at 1201 E. La Habra Blvd .

*Coffee with a Cop* provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in La Habra's neighborhoods.

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies, or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community, and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. *Coffee with a Cop* , by its very nature, breaks down barriers, and allows for relaxed one-on-one interactions to occur.

“This program has been very successful in our city and we believe it has helped to strengthen our community partnerships. It provides a relaxed environment where residents have an opportunity to ask questions, discuss concerns, and get to know our officers,” said Chief Jerry Price.

*Coffee with a Cop* is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the

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country, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

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