CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Chula Vista, California 91910-3801

Roxana Kennedy
Chief of Police

POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: December 19th, 2023
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Anthony Molina
Phone: (619) 691-5111
Email: pio@chulavistapd.org
Subject: MAN RESCUED FROM BURNING VEHICLE ON INTERSTATE 5 IN CHULA VISTA – OCCURRED OCT.13th

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Just after 11:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13th, 2023, the Chula Vista Police Department received several 9-1-1 calls regarding a vehicle fire on Interstate 5 in Chula Vista. While freeway calls in San Diego County are typically transferred to the California Highway Patrol (CHP), this one caught the attention of a Chula Vista Police sergeant who was listening to the calls for help in real time through Live911.

The sergeant heard the callers' voices and believed someone's life might be at risk. Knowing that officers in Chula Vista would likely be closer than responding CHP officers, the sergeant asked the dispatcher to send Chula Vista Police officers "CODE 3." Although the location of the incident was somewhat unclear and many details were lacking, a Chula Vista Police drone was overhead quickly and the Drone as First Responder (DFR) pilot provided the responding officers with a more accurate location.

Chula Vista Police officers arrived on scene to find a man screaming for his life while trapped in a burning car on the side of the freeway. The officers worked quickly, battling the flames and their own fears, to reach the man trapped in the car; breaking out a rear window and pulling him to safety just seconds before the car was fully engulfed. It took bravery, teamwork, and tremendous courage. This man is alive in part because of the men and women of the Chula Vista Police Department and innovative technology which played a vital role in his rescue.

When the man woke from a coma four weeks later, he learned what the officers did to save him. He expressed gratitude and acknowledged how differently things might have ended if not for the actions they took. He said, "I feel like a got a second chance. I'm so appreciative that they were able to get there in time and do what they did. If they didn't, I wouldn't be here today."

At the direction of Chief Roxana Kennedy, the Chula Vista Police Department is releasing a short video which contains segments of the 9-1-1/Dispatch audio, body worn camera footage, and drone footage captured during the incident. She hopes the video will better convey what the officers had to go through in order to rescue the man. "I want people to see how police officers put their own lives at risk every

single day to save people they don’t even know. I’m grateful this man survived and so proud of my officers for what they did to rescue him,” says Chief Kennedy.

The video, titled “Man Rescued from Burning Car” can be found on the Chula Vista Police Department YouTube page: https://youtu.be/3LT0nCt4WNo.

Prepared By:	Sgt. Anthony Molina	Approved By:	Chief Roxana Kennedy
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