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# Media Release



Roberto A. Villaseñor

Chief of Police

Date: August 4, 2011

Contact: Sgt. Matt Ronstadt

## EMPLOYEE TERMINATION

In November 2010, the Tucson Police Department received information that Tucson Police Lieutenant Rick Hovden was under investigation by the Pima County Sheriffs Department for potential criminal misconduct while off-duty. That conduct was alleged to involve electronic communications containing commentary about sexual contact with minors.

On June 29, 2011, the Pima County Sheriffs Department informed the Tucson Police Department that they had continued their investigation, and that they had obtained sufficient information to obtain a search warrant for Lieutenant Hovden's residence. On that date, Lieutenant Hovden was placed on Imposed Leave pending the outcome of the criminal investigation.

On August 1, 2011, the search warrant affidavit was unsealed by the Pima County Superior Court. The Tucson Police Department obtained a copy of that affidavit for administrative review. This was the first time that the Department became fully aware of the particulars of the investigation that provided probable cause for the warrant. Based upon those particulars of the Pima County Sheriffs Department's ongoing criminal investigation, there is clear and convincing evidence contained within the sworn affidavit that supports the termination of Lieutenant Hovden. Lieutenant Hovden committed grievous misconduct that, regardless of intent or of the ultimate outcome of the criminal investigation, has irrevocably destroyed the public trust necessary for him to continue to serve as a law enforcement officer for the Tucson Police Department.

Lieutenant Hovden's conduct is in violation of Tucson Police Department General Orders, including the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, General Standards of Expected Conduct, and Standards for Police Action while Off Duty. The administrative sanction for his level of violations of these General Orders is Termination of Employment. As such, Lt. Hovden's attorney, Michael Piccarreta, who was retained by Lt. Hovden to handle both criminal and administrative matters concerning this event, was notified August 4, 2011 of the Tucson Police Department's intent to terminate his employment.

Mr. Piccarreta informed the Department that Lt. Hovden will resign from the Department, effective Monday, August 8, 2011. Lieutenant Hovden has been an employee of the Tucson Police Department for 23 years.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

The Tucson Police Department treats all allegations of criminal acts or misconduct by employees as serious. Lieutenant Hovden's actions are not representative of the nearly 1400 men and women of the Tucson Police Department who serve their community with integrity, and put their lives on the line each day.

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