

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LOS ANGELES PORT POLICE TEAM UP WITH 'OFFICER NEEDS HELP' PROGRAM TO HOST BONE MARROW DRIVE**

#### **Harbor Communities Rally to Help Save the Lives of 3,000 Registered Leukemia Patients, Fellow Port Police Officer**



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After 5:00 p.m.:

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**SAN PEDRO, Calif.** – The Los Angeles Port Police, in coordination with the “Officer Needs Help” program, will host a Bone Marrow Drive on Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Liberty Hill Plaza, 100 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street in San Pedro. The daylong event is planned to help locate potential bone marrow donors for people suffering from leukemia; among those, fellow officer Michael W. Scotland.

Administered by the American Red Cross, the “Officer Needs Help” program was founded in 1998 by the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department to locate bone marrow matches for police officers and family members stricken with leukemia.

When L.A. Port Police Officer Scotland was diagnosed with leukemia earlier this year, his colleagues banded together to raise awareness about the disease and recruit potential donors in support of the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP).

“Learning of Officer Scotland’s condition really hit home for the L.A. Port Police family,” said Noel Cunningham, Director of Operations and Emergency Management for the Port of Los Angeles. “Somewhere out there, he has a match and it is our duty to find that person and help save his life.”

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L.A. Port Police Bone Marrow Drive  
2-2-2

Since the NMDP's inception in 1987, more than 20,000 transplants have been performed. There are currently 5 million potential donors listed on the NMDP registry, but more than 3,000 patients are still in need of matches/potential donors.

The 10-minute marrow screening process includes a finger stick blood sample, which differs from blood donor criteria. Those not considered blood donor candidates may still be able to donate marrow. Minorities and persons with multi-racial ancestry are especially needed to register, as shared ethnic backgrounds between donor and patient determine a closer match.

Throughout his 27-year career with the Los Angeles Port Police, Officer Scotland has served as an officer in the capacities of patrol, training and logistics, and as an emergency preparedness coordinator. During his tenure on the force, he has received several awards and commendations for his efforts in officer coordination and logistics. Officer Scotland is also a licensed pilot and U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran. Raised in Redondo Beach, Calif., he currently lives in Cerritos, Calif., with his wife. The couple has two adult children.

**For more information about the "Officer Needs Help" Bone Marrow Drive at the Port of Los Angeles on Tuesday, Nov. 9, call (800) MARROW-2 or visit the National Marrow Donor Program Web site at [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org).**

The Port of Los Angeles is America's premier port. As the leading containerport in the nation and a critical hub in the international supply chain, the Port generates thousands of stable, well paying jobs. It has also placed a high priority on smart growth initiatives combined with high security, environmental stewardship and community outreach. The Port of Los Angeles is a proprietary, self-supporting department of the City of Los Angeles. The Port of Los Angeles . . . Anchoring a bright future.

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