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PRESS RELEASE

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TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS TEAM UP FOR FIRST EVER JOINT ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING *Exercises will take place June 18 and 20 at Florida College*

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – June 13, 2019) The City of Temple Terrace Police and Fire Departments will team up to conduct the first-ever joint training exercises focusing on active shooter incident response / management and Mass Casualty Response. The training will involve structured scenarios to allow first responders to hone their skills in relation to crisis response, planning and procedures and will help assure a coordinated, timely and effective response and recovery in the event of an actual incident in the City. The exercises will take place from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 18 and Thursday, June 20, on the Florida College Campus, 116 Glen Arven Ave., Temple Terrace.

“With the unfortunate increase in Active Shooter Hostile Events (ASHE) over the past decade, the Temple Terrace Fire Department and Police Department have developed protocols and procedures to be used when responding to such emergencies,” said Temple Terrace Fire Chief Ian Kemp. “These joint procedures and initiatives help us plan and improve our overall response methodology. Significant incidents, such as the Columbine School shooting and the Parkland shooting, have emphasized the need for a more cohesive response and communication plan between Fire/Emergency Medical Services and Law Enforcement nationwide.

“The response to Active Shooter Hostile Events (ASHE) by Fire Department personnel has changed dramatically over the past few years,” Kemp explained. “Fire Departments no longer automatically stage until the threat is immobilized. Using Rescue Task Forces (RTFs), made up of two Firefighter/Paramedics, and two Police Officers, we will be able to treat and extricate victims from within the active warm zones, using intelligence from forward contact teams or information provided from the unified command post.

“To assist with the safety of our Firefighter/Paramedics when responding to ASHE, each fire apparatus used by the City is now equipped with Ballistic Vests, Helmets and Medical Go Bags. We are proud to be able to provide our Firefighter/Paramedics this vital equipment which provides the highest level of safety and efficiency.”

“By bringing our combined resources together for this type of high pressure scenario based training we are able to hone our skills and instill camaraderie, trust and mutual respect in the hearts and minds of

our people by displaying the expertise, skill and proficiency that each department brings to the table,” said Temple Terrace Police Chief Ken Albano.

“We are simply better prepared to protect our community and a much more formidable force to be reckoned with when we are unified in our preparation, purpose and response to active shooter incidents,” Albano added.

There will be significant law enforcement, fire and emergency service present during these exercises. In order to avoid any confusion, the public is being notified ahead of time. The exercises are closed to the community and the general public.

During the exercises, access to some of the College parking lots on the Campus will be temporarily unavailable. Access along Glen Arven will not be unrestricted.

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Note to Media: Because of the sensitive nature of the activities, media presence will not be permitted during the exercise as it unfolds without escort from the City Marketing & Communications Officer. The Police and Fire Chiefs will be available for media interviews prior to the start of the scenarios each day, between noon and 1 p.m.

For more information or to arrange access to the exercise, contact:

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The Mission of the City of Temple Terrace is to deliver professional services to our community while promoting, protecting and preserving the heritage, natural resources and quality of life for future generations of our amazing city.