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PRESS RELEASE

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In the Line of Duty: Chico Police Members Sustain Injuries Prior to Fatal Shooting
-- Wounds Just Inches from Life-Threatening Outcome --

Chico, CA – Days after a violent altercation with a man inside a downtown Chico business which led to the fatal shooting of the subject, two Chico Police Department personnel are recovering from injuries sustained in the incident and the investigation continues.

50-year old Sergeant Scott Ruppel, whose firearm discharged in the fatal incident, is currently on administrative leave as the Butte County Officer Involved Shooting Investigation Team reviews the incident. 38-year old Officer Cedric Schwyzer is expected to return to duty once receiving a medical clearance to do so.

Sergeant Ruppel is a 19-year veteran with the Chico Police Department. He sustained a serious stab wound to the right side of his neck and received treatment at Enloe Medical Center. Doctors say the object which punctured Sergeant Ruppel's neck narrowly missed the Carotid Artery, one of the largest arteries supplying blood to the brain.

38-year old Officer Cedric Schwyzer joined the Chico Police Department in the fall of 2015. A member of the SWAT team, Officer Schwyzer suffered a stab wound to the head, the result of an object penetrating his uniform cap; injuring the skull. Officer Schwyzer received numerous stitches to treat his wounds.

Sergeant Ruppel is the recipient of numerous commendations, including the 2007 Police Officer of the Year, and the recipient of a Medal of Courage for a 2005 suspect apprehension incident. Ruppel attended and graduated from the Butte College Academy and spent almost ten years with the Lassen County Sheriff's Department before joining the Chico Police Department.

Officer Schwyzer holds a Bachelor of Arts in Exercise Physiology and a Master's in Pedagogy [the art, science or profession of teaching]. Officer Schwyzer spent four years with the Butte County Sheriff's Office before joining the Chico Police Department.

"The officers involved are on paid administrative leave and are recuperating from their injuries," said Chico Police Chief Michael O'Brien. "We are thankful for their service to the community and that both were not seriously injured in this unpredictable and dangerous incident."

On Sunday, July 23, 2017, at approximately 10:30PM, AG Security responded to an alarm at Mid Valley Title and Escrow, 601 Main Street, Chico, CA 95928. An AG Security Guard located a subject outside the business and made contact with the subject. The security guard reports the subject became violent and stabbed him in the arm, causing a significant wound. The security guard reportedly fired his handgun at the subject, who then fled. The security guard then contacted Chico Police.

Shortly thereafter, Chico Police arrived on scene to investigate the incident. Officers discovered a window to the business broken out. Officers made entry to the establishment to determine if a burglary was taking place.

Upon entry into the business, the officers encountered a violent, white-male adult subject located within a bathroom. A dialogue was established with the subject in an attempt to deescalate the situation. The dialogue was unsuccessful and ultimately led to the subject stabbing two officers in the neck and face, causing injuries to both. One Chico Police Officer discharged his duty weapon twice, striking the subject. Officers immediately removed the subject from the bathroom to a spot where awaiting medical personnel could attend to his injuries. The subject, however, succumbed to his wounds.

The subject has not yet been identified. Further investigation and details of the incident are being led by the Butte County District Attorney as the Butte County Officer Involved Shooting Investigation Team continues its review of the case.

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