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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CITY OF IMPERIAL POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KINDER TOUR**

**IMPERIAL, CA:** Today the City of Imperial Police Department held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Kinder Tour. Nearly two hundred (200) kindergarteners from Ben Hulse Elementary, T.L. Waggoner and Faith Academy came; along with their teachers, parents and family members.

“We host this event each year hoping to familiarize kids with law enforcement. Hoping that if they get to know us they will feel safe when asking us for help,” said Imperial Police Officer Carmen Fierro. Officer Fierro is the School Resource Officer for Imperial Police Department and lead organizer of the event this year. “A lot of times parents use police officers as a threat when their children misbehave. That makes kids think they will get in trouble when they see us, we don’t want that. We want kids to know we are approachable and here to help them.”

Including the Imperial Police Department seven different agencies throughout the Valley participated in the event this year including: Imperial County Fire, El Centro Police Department K9 Unit, Imperial County Sheriff’s Office, Imperial Irrigation District’s Dippy Duck and Dive Team, U.S. Border Patrol and California Highway Patrol.

Chief Leonard J. Barra said “We recognize the youth in our community as one of our greatest assets and the first line of defense. It’s important that we establish a level of trust early on so they feel comfortable coming to law enforcement as they get older.”

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