



Huntington Beach Police Department

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Eric Parra, Chief of Police

Press Release

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Huntington Beach Police to Hold Procession for Officer Nicholas Vella Today, February 22, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

At 1:00 p.m. today, February 22, 2022, the Huntington Beach Police Department will be holding a procession for Officer Nicholas Vella. The procession will begin at the Orange County Coroner's Office, located at 1701 Santa Ana Boulevard in Santa Ana, and ending at Community Funeral Service, located at 1301 South Beach Boulevard in La Habra.

Media will not be permitted to enter the Orange County Coroner's Office parking lot. Due to traffic impacts in the area, we ask that media stage along Shelton Street.

On the evening of Saturday, February 19, 2022, the Huntington Beach Police Department helicopter, HB-1, was responding to a priority call when it crashed into the waters off Newport Beach with two officers onboard. Both officers were pulled from the helicopter by civilians and emergency responders and transported to local area hospitals. The crash resulted in the injury of one officer and the death of Officer Nicholas Vella.

A 14-year veteran of the Huntington Beach Police Department, 44-year old Nicholas Vella, is remembered by all who knew him as a selfless and driven police officer and man. Prior to joining the Huntington Beach Police Department in 2008, he was a well-loved and well-respected officer with the Laguna Beach Police Department. Officer Vella leaves behind his wife and teenage daughter.

A donation site for the family of Officer Vella is being setup and information on how to donate will be published later today.