



CHIEF DAVID POVERO

COVINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Inc# 24-10054

Felony Evading/ DUI/ Suspended License

5/16/2024

The Covina Police Department is requesting your help in supporting Covina Police Officer Jesse Gutierrez and his family. On May 6, 2024, Officer Gutierrez responded to a call for service that led to a police pursuit. While protecting the community on this call, Officer Gutierrez was involved in a traffic collision in Covina. He sustained serious injury and is now receiving critical care in an Intensive Care Unit, with his wife constantly at his side. His K9 partner Paco was evaluated and is currently being cared for by other members of the Department.

Other Covina PD officers continued the pursuit initiated by Officer Gutierrez. The pursuit continued onto the westbound I10 freeway and concluded near Vincent Avenue. Alexis Santiagoavila (age 27) was taken into custody and charged per 2800.2(a) VC (Felony Evading), 23152(a) VC (Driving Under the Influence) and 14601.1(a) VC (Driving on a Suspended License. Santiagoavila has a pending court date.

The West Covina Police Department and California Highway Patrol assisted in this investigation. The CHP is handling the investigation surrounding the collision involving Officer Gutierrez.

Officer Gutierrez is the sole provider for his family. Any donations will greatly assist them while Jesse is in recovery. Although the City of Covina is providing unwavering support, your contribution will go directly to aid Jesse and his family. Jesse is the father of two young boys ages 5 and 1, a Covina High School graduate, a U.S. Marine veteran, a Covina Police Officer, and a newly appointed K9 handler who has devoted his life to serving our community. Jesse has been particularly effective in his proactive work involving drunk drivers. He is currently being considered by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving for an award for DUI enforcement efforts.

Please help us assist the Gutierrez family at this challenging time in their life. The Police Association of Covina has partnered with the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) to raise funds to support the Gutierrez family. More information and opportunities to make donations can be found at; porac.org/fundraiser/covina_jessegutierrez/ or contact us at covinapolicefoundation@gmail.com

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FOR PUBLIC RELEASE