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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Sweet Twist on Community Engagement: Inaugural "Coffee and Ice Cream with a First Responder" Event

Richland, Wash., – Breaking the mold of traditional community outreach, the Richland Police Department, West Richland Police Department, Benton County Sheriff’s Office, Richland Fire Department, Benton County Fire District #1, and Benton County Fire District #4 are delighted to announce the premiere of a unique, multi-agency event – "Coffee and Ice Cream with a First Responder." Set to take place on Thursday, February 22, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Country Mercantile (5015 Ave Way, Richland, WA 99352), this gathering promises a blend of camaraderie, caffeine, and cold treats.

Generously sponsored by the Richland County Mercantile, the event aims to foster stronger connections between first responders and the community they serve. Attendees will not only have the opportunity to enjoy discounted coffee and ice cream but will also engage in meaningful conversations with local police officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel.

“This event embodies our commitment to building bridges between our dedicated first responders and the residents they serve,” said Interim Chief of Police for Richland, Dave Neher. “By combining the warmth of coffee, the sweetness of ice cream, and the genuine conversations that arise, we hope to create a space where community members and first responders can connect on a personal level.”

In alignment with the mission of "Coffee with a Cop," the organizers seek to dismantle barriers and create an open forum for attendees to ask questions, voice concerns, and develop a deeper understanding of the dedicated first responders in their neighborhoods. What sets this event apart is the inclusive approach, extending the invitation to all first responders who play a crucial role in the Badger Mountain South area, which falls under multiple jurisdictions.

The collaborative efforts of the West Richland Police Department, Richland Police Department, Richland Fire Department, Benton County Sheriff’s Office, Benton County Fire District #1, and Benton County Fire District #4 ensure comprehensive first aid responses in the multi-jurisdictional zone. By opening this event to all first responders, we hope to underscore the importance of teamwork and coordination in ensuring public safety.

“As first responders, our mission extends beyond emergency calls—we are an integral part of the communities we serve,” said the Chief of the Richland Fire Department, Thomas Huntington. “‘Coffee and Ice Cream with a First Responder’ exemplifies our dedication to fostering meaningful connections with residents.”

Join us for a delightful morning of community bonding, conversation, and the perfect blend of coffee and ice cream!

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