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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Donation to the City of Beverly Hills Disaster Communications System**

Recently, the Chairman of The J2 Foundation, Jeffrey Levine, made a \$1,000 donation to the City of Beverly Hills Disaster Communications System (DCS). Levine has been a resident of Beverly Hills for over 35 years and was one of the founding members of the DCS. Such donations are used to purchase DCS uniform shirts, windbreakers, caps, lapel pins and amateur radio equipment.

The Beverly Hills Police Department Disaster Communications System volunteer group was formed in 1994 following the Northridge Earthquake. The current roster of 90 members consists of local residents, businesses and community leaders. Several city employees are also trained in DCS procedures.

The organization's primary mission is to support local government communications during emergencies which may involve the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and supporting unusual incidents, special events, dignitary visits, DUI checkpoints and other operations that may require sustained communications or technical support.

Members are trained in a variety of areas such as CERT, first aid, damage assessment, EOC operations, National Weather Service weather spotter, amateur television/video systems and local government radio communications.

Qualified applicants may be admitted into the BHPD DCS after successfully completing a screening process which includes the application documentation, background security check and Staff review. The members are required to provide their own radios with which to communicate on and must attend scheduled meetings and training events at the Police Department. The group is coordinated under the supervision of Police Staff by Officer Ron Derderian and Reserve Officer Steve Lagin. Additional DCS Staff volunteers Pete Landau and Jordan Bernhard provide group leadership and mentoring.

“We’re very proud of our DCS organization and especially proud of the outstanding accomplishments and support from within its membership,” said Chief Dave Snowden. “Our volunteers are hard-working, dedicated individuals who donate their time, resources and efforts to give back to this community. Quite simply, we have the best of the best.”

