



Riverside County District Attorney

# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROD PACHECO AND CHP CHIEF JEFF TALBOTT ANNOUNCE DUI CHARGES FILED AGAINST FORMER RIVERSIDE POLICE CHIEF RUSS LEACH**

RIVERSIDE – Today, March 22, 2010, misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs were filed against Russell Scott Leach, the former police chief of the city of Riverside.

Leach, 62, was pulled over by Riverside police officers at 2:51 a.m., Feb. 8, 2010. The driver's side tires on Leach's city-owned Chrysler 300 were missing and the rims nearly disintegrated. Leach was not arrested after being pulled over.

The next day, Feb. 9, 2010, the California Highway Patrol, Inland Division, was asked to conduct an investigation into the circumstances which led up to Leach being stopped by the Riverside police officers.

"The CHP is often requested by other law enforcement agencies to conduct independent complex investigations of the actions of their personnel," said Jeff Talbott, chief of the CHP's Inland Division. "Since the CHP was contacted nearly a day and a half after Russ Leach was stopped by RPD officers, a very comprehensive investigation into Leach's activities during the hours leading up to this contact was conducted."

The CHP investigation revealed that Leach had taken several prescription medications and consumed about four alcoholic beverages at his home on Feb. 7. All the medications have strict warnings against the consumption of alcoholic beverages and the operation of a motor vehicle. CHP investigators also determined that Leach had driven to a club in San Bernardino County the evening of Feb. 7 where he consumed at least seven alcoholic beverages that night and into the early morning hours of the next day. An employee of the club told officers that she was so concerned about Leach driving that she offered to get him a taxi, but he declined.

At some point after driving from the club, Leach drove the Chrysler into an unknown "low-profile" object which damaged the car. His intoxication level was such that he did not realize the extent of the damage and continued driving for an extended time until he was pulled over by police officers. Before being pulled over, Leach was photographed on a red-light enforcement camera running a red light at 2:48 a.m. at an intersection in Riverside.

Once pulled over, Riverside police officers detected Leach having objective symptoms of alcohol and/or drug intoxication.

Leach is scheduled to be arraigned at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March, 25, 2010, in Dept. 21 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside. The case number is RIM10003229.

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