



LAPD Foothill Division Ofc. Fernando Sanchez Jr. and Alex Valencia were honored on December 2 by the City Council in recognition of their heroic efforts.

On September 14, Sanchez and Valencia saved a woman from a burning motor home. After being flagged down by a citizen on the 10000 block of West Tuxford Street in Sun Valley, the officers proceeded to the motor home. Reacting quickly, they forced open the motor home's door and found a woman inside who refused to come out. Fortunately, Ofc. Sanchez and Valencia were able to remove the woman and move her to safety. The cause of the fire was a burning cigarette that had ignited a mattress.

Although the officers suffered from minor smoke inhalation, they fully recovered and were present to receive their due recognition.

Ofc. Sanchez is a native of the San Fernando Valley and is one of eight children. He graduated from Francis Polytechnic High School in Sun Valley before receiving a bachelor's degree in sociology with a focus on criminology from California State University, Northridge. In July 2006, Sanchez attained his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer by joining the ranks of the LAPD.

Sanchez had some special guests in attendance for the presentation: his father, Fernando Sanchez Sr.; his older brother, Miguel (who is currently training to become an LAPD officer); Miguel's wife, Norma; their son, Proximo; and Ofc. Sanchez's girlfriend, Vianca Osorio.

Ofc. Valencia is also a native of the San Fernando Valley. He grew up in the Sun Valley area and has six older siblings. He is a proud graduate of El Camino Real High School. He has been married to his wife, Alma, for 15 years and is the proud father of two girls and a boy — Aracely, Alejandro II and Lea.

Prior to becoming an officer, Valencia worked in management for many years. Fulfilling his desire to serve his community, he joined the LAPD nearly 10 years ago. In addition to his family, Valencia was joined at the ceremony by his brother, Ambrosio, and friend, Jose Manuel Leyva. Congratulations to Fernando and Alex.

Have a wonderful new year. If you have any questions about anything, please call me either on my cell at (213) 792-1086 or email me at peterrepovich@lappl.org.