



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2010

**Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Tampa Police Department's
TO SERVE AND PROTECT SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE**

(St. Petersburg, FL: 5/1710) Florida Blood Services is hosting a picnic luncheon, blood drive and press conference to start the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office(HCSO) and Tampa Police Department's(TPD) summer blood drive campaign. The event will be held between 12 noon and 5 pm on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at Lykes Gaslight Park, near the intersection of Madison and Franklin streets in downtown Tampa. This year's theme, "To Serve and Protect" highlights one more way in which our local law enforcement personnel enhance the safety of our community by giving blood.

The picnic luncheon, courtesy of Chick-fil-A, will be held from 12 noon until 1 pm. The press conference begins at 1 pm and will include remarks by TPD Chief Jane Castor and HCSO Major Harold Winsett. This event is being held prior to the long Memorial Day holiday weekend to focus on preventing summer blood shortages and drunken driving, which increases the demand for donations. The blood drive will continue until 5 pm.

All lifesaving donors at both this kick off event and all summer HCSO/TPD summer drives will receive a limited edition, "To Serve and Protect" T-shirt and a wellness check-up of blood pressure, pulse, temperature and iron count, plus a cholesterol screening.

Generally, healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can be blood donors. There is no upper age limit. Identification is required prior to donation. For further information, please call 1-800-68-BLOOD (25663).

For those unable to donate blood, contributions may be mailed to Florida Blood Services Foundation, 10100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, or submitted on-line at www.bloodrelief.org.

Headquartered in St. Petersburg Florida, FBS provides over 350,000 blood donations to patients at 92 hospitals and other ambulatory healthcare facilities throughout 42 Florida, Georgia, and Alabama counties, through the participation of volunteer donors.

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