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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Fire Department, Police Department Training on Swap Shop Property

Margate, Fla., April 25, 2007 – By coordinating with the Margate Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), Margate Police and Fire Departments, along with several neighboring agencies, will be able to gain invaluable training experience in the CRA’s recently acquired property located at 1000 State Road 7, formerly known as the Swap Shop. Training is scheduled for two weeks. Shortly thereafter on May 14, 2007 demolition of the property is expected to begin.



Starting today, April 25, 2007 Margate Police department began their portion of the training, which consisted of “breaching.” They used the first floor motel rooms to gain entry using various methods. On May 8, 2007 they will return to train in other scenarios. Sergeant Jim Neal said, “To train in exactly the way we would experience things in the field...it doesn’t get any better than this.”

On Thursday April 26, 2007 the Margate Fire Department will begin their portion of their strategic training, which will include navigating an indoor maze and roof-top ventilation training.

“It’s a way to practice our coordinated mutual aid efforts, coordinated search and rescue, and forcible entry” Battalion Chief Ty Vassil said. “It’s one of those opportunities that are rather rare and it’s an invaluable experience when we get to practice live drills.”

Additional agencies who will also be involved in the training activities include: Coral Springs Fire, Tamarac Fire, and North Lauderdale Fire Departments. Sixty fire fighters, in four-hour training sessions, are expected to participate in the training each day.



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