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CITY OF PALMDALE
NEWS RELEASE

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City of Palmdale Welcomes Veteran Interns as
Part of Federal Work Experience Program

PALMDALE – The City of Palmdale, in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, has welcomed two military veteran interns on staff through the Federal Work Experience Program.

“We’re pleased and proud to welcome Shakisha Rhoe and Mayra Quintanilla to the City of Palmdale as part of this outstanding program that’s designed to provide veterans with an opportunity to gain experience to qualify for employment positions,” said Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford. “They have both served our country and it is an honor to be able to give back to them as they pursue their careers outside of military service. We believe their experience at the City will help them further their life goals.”

Shakisha Rhoe, who is serving as a Code Enforcement Aide with the Department of Neighborhood Services, is an Air Force veteran. With a bachelor of science degree in business administration and experience as a National Service Officer for Disabled American Veterans, Veteran Services Analyst for AmeriCorps and Office Manager for the Air Force Pediatric Dentistry, Dental Hygienist and Dental Logistics, she is currently finishing up her MBA with the University of Phoenix. Shakisha plans to study for a doctorate in public administration in the future.

Mayra Quintanilla, from the Army National Guard, is currently interning as an Office Assistant with the Department of Neighborhood Services. A graduate of Lancaster High School and a member of the swim team there, she enlisted with the National Guard a month before her 18th birthday and served for five years. During her service, she worked in human resources and security police. She was also an office assistant at the Veteran’s

Center for College of the Canyons in 2010, assisting veteran students with their Veteran Educational Benefits.

“What makes this program so valuable is that the veteran who is interning has recently or is completing his or her educational objectives, and needs direct experience in the new vocational goal,” said Palmdale City Manager Dave Childs. “We are able to provide them with hands on exposure to full scope of duties that would be required of any employee in that position while they complete their education.”

The internships are non-paid positions and last between 6 and 12 months.

“We are grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for allowing us to participate in the program and hope to expand it in the future,” Childs added. This program allows the Veteran to gain direct work experience while completing their educational objectives.

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