

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CPL. FERNANDO DIAZ SHOWING REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT

VALLEJO – A Vallejo police officer that suffered a massive heart attack while exercising in a Chicago hotel is making a remarkable recovery, police officials said Thursday.

Corporal Fernando Diaz is “doing really well,” said Vallejo Captain Tony Pearsall. “Reports are that he is awake, alert, eating solid foods, talking, and actually has gotten some of his sense of humor back.”

Pearsall received the good news in an e-mail from Lt. Kevin Kelly, who is in Chicago visiting Diaz. Diaz, 43, was in Chicago with his wife, who was attending a conference, at the time of the incident.

“We’re extremely pleased and heartened by his swift recovery,” said City Manager David Martinez. “We look forward to Cpl. Diaz returning to California and continue to keep him and his family in our prayers.”

Diaz, a 15-year veteran of the Vallejo Police Department, has been a S.W.A.T. member, Honor Guard, and bicycle officer.

Pearsall said doctors will be doing some assessments on Diaz’s heart to determine what course of action will need to be taken, and that the officer could be home in two weeks.

“It’s remarkable,” Pearsall said. “He’s not on any machines, he’s awake, alert, and he knows everyone. They have to do some more testing but the prognosis is good. He’s improving tremendously.”

Kelly said Diaz has received many cards and letters from residents and friends, and that he is thrilled and amazed by the response.

“That’s always a positive thing,” Pearsall said.

Cards and letters are welcomed and may be sent to the Vallejo Police Department, 111 Amador St., 94590.