



**CONTACT:** Traci Boyl, Senior Management Analyst to the City Manager's Office  
City of Ukiah  
300 Seminary Avenue  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Phone: (707) 467-5720

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CITY OF UKIAH CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONS AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

**Ukiah, CA. November 8, 2023.** Following the success of the recent Community Policing Workshop held at the Alex Rorabaugh Center, the City of Ukiah's Diversity and Equity Committee reconvened for a follow-up discussion with Police Chief Crook. This discussion served as a continuation of the city's commitment to fostering improved community-police relations and advancing the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The City of Ukiah's Diversity and Equity Committee remains at the forefront of creating a more inclusive and harmonious community. The recent Community Policing Workshop, which welcomed both committee members and members of the public, exemplifies this commitment.

In the initial workshop, attendees were introduced to the newly appointed Police Chief, Cedric Crook, and Captain Tom Corning, who provided an insightful overview of the City of Ukiah's Police Department. This introduction set the tone for an open and collaborative approach to community policing.

During the workshop, attendees engaged in small roundtable discussions, addressing critical questions related to community policing, challenges and benefits, and actionable steps for both the police and individuals to enhance community-police relations. The interactive and thought-provoking dialogue highlighted the community's dedication to positive change.

Deputy City Manager Shannon Riley stated, "The goal of the City of Ukiah is to continually evolve as an agency, including improving inclusion, transparency, and trust within our community. We are encouraged by the thoughtful discussions that took place during the workshop and look forward to seeing how we can begin addressing and implementing this input."

In the subsequent follow-up discussion at the City of Ukiah's Diversity and Equity Committee regular meeting, Chief Crook expressed gratitude to the committee for their previous input and underscored the department's commitment to improving community-police relations.

Chief Crook highlighted the Police Department's dedication to training, including a crucial partnership with the County's Mobile Crisis Response Team. This initiative exemplifies the department's commitment to a holistic approach to public safety.

Additionally, Chief Crook discussed the department's long-term commitment to the community, with programs like placing school resource officers at Ukiah High School for a four-year period. This continuity allows students to build trust with officers as they progress from freshmen to seniors, fostering positive relationships from an early age.

Acknowledging the importance of visibility in the business community, Chief Crook appreciated the committee's input on having officers patrol downtown business areas, further bridging the gap between law enforcement and local businesses. Chief Crook committed to developing a program to bring more officers into the business community.

To address some of the staffing challenges, specifically a shortage of Command Staff, Chief Crook announced the imminent arrival of a new Patrol Lieutenant who will play a vital role in alleviating understaffing issues at the Command Staff level, enhancing community safety.

The evening concluded with Chief Crook sharing information about the possibility of forming a Chief's Advisory Committee, information about upcoming events, distributing the City of Ukiah Police Department's Annual Report, and providing attendees with an Executive Summary developed by the Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing established by President Barack Obama in 2014, which outlines the importance of community policing and other successful policing strategies across the nation.

"The information presented by our police department was very much appreciated by all participants. We all learned from each other, and everybody contributed to the overall experience," stated Juan Orozco, Ukiah City Council Member.

For further information about this workshop or the ongoing work of the Diversity and Equity Committee, please contact Traci Boyl, Committee Liaison, City Manager's Office, at 707-467-5720 or email [tboyl@cityofukiah.com](mailto:tboyl@cityofukiah.com).



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Shannon Riley, Deputy City Manager

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