



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chico Police Department & Businesses Conduct “Safety Meetings” to Increase Communication and Awareness

September 2, 2015 (CHICO, CA) Every month for the past 2+ years, Team Chico has conducted Business Walks in Chico to find out what businesses need and how to support them with resources and services. On April 24, 2015, the Team went door-to-door in the commercial areas of Nord Corridor and South Campus and learned that better collaboration between these businesses and the Police Department was needed. As an immediate follow up, Team Chico and the Chico Police Department partnered to host a meet-and-greet safety meeting for businesses and property owners in the South Campus area to improve connectivity and communication on June 2nd, with a follow-up meeting occurring on July 21st, 2015.

The initial meetings were so successful in generating outcomes and critical contacts that the group will meet again on **Wednesday, September 23rd from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.**, at Azad’s Martial Arts Family Center located at 313 Walnut Street in Chico. This event is free and open to businesses in the Nord Avenue and South Campus Area.

Business Walks in other areas of Chico generated similar feedback and have spurred additional “Safety Meetings” between businesses and the Chico Police Department. Upcoming Safety Meetings:

- **Mangrove and Vallombrosa Avenues & Bidwell Park:** Monday, September 21st, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the CARD Community Room, 545 Vallombrosa Avenue.
- **Nord Corridor & South Campus Area:** Wednesday, September 23rd, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Azad’s Martial Arts Family Center, 313 Walnut Street, Chico.
- **Park Avenue Corridor & Surrounding Areas:** Thursday, October 22nd, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Chico Country Day Middle School Common Area, 1054 Broadway.
- **Downtown Chico:** Tuesday, November 17th, 9 – 10 a.m. in the Old Municipal Building conference room, 441 Main Street.
- Safety meetings are planned for the Rio Lindo Area and Chico Airport in the immediate future. Additional meetings will be hosted throughout business districts in Chico in 2016.

Businesses, property owners, and community members in the corresponding areas are welcome and encouraged to attend these free Safety Meetings. No RSVPs are required.



Chief of Police for the City of Chico, Mike O'Brien, states, "The Chico Police Department values partnerships with our community. These 'Safety Meetings' are an important way for citizens to connect with their police department, and the police department to connect with their community. This citizen interaction is critical in furthering the community policing model we have adopted, and we welcome these types of events for that reason."

Katie Simmons, President & CEO of the Chico Chamber of Commerce and one of the coordinators for Team Chico, says, "Public safety is a top concern of businesses in Chico. Because of this, connecting businesses with the Chico Police Department has been one of the most powerful things we've done this year in partnership with Team Chico. Watching business and property owners go from feeling unheard and alone to aware and informed is validating. People are sharing information and stories, following up with one another, and forming social media-based groups to stay connected – all in partnership with local law enforcement. Building these relationships over time will prove incredibly valuable as the Chico Police Department continues to recover and we see measurable return on our efforts to increase safety in Chico."

Team Chico is an economic development partnership between the City of Chico, Chico Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Chico Business Association, 3CORE, and Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.

Contact Katie Simmons, President & CEO of the Chico Chamber of Commerce with questions: 530.891.5556 x303, katie@chicochamber.com

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