



Chico Police Department, 1460 Humboldt Road, Chico, CA, 95928 www.chico.ca.us/

PRESS INFORMATION OFFICE, Julia Yarbough
Tel: 530.897.5812, email: julia.yarbough@chicoca.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 19, 2017

**Chico Police Warn Against the Deadly Dangers of Drug Abuse
-- PCAB Discusses Drug Related Crimes as Young Lives Are Lost --**

Chico, CA – In the wake of two recent deaths of young people in Chico, the result of apparent drug overdose, the Chico Police Department is urging the community to raise its level of awareness to the dangers and potentially life-ending consequences of illicit drug use. The community is invited to participate in this week's meeting of the Police Community Advisory Board, in which the topic of discussion will be drug-related issues and the effects on the community. The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 5:30PM on the second floor of the Old Municipal Building, 441 Main Street, Chico, CA 95928.

"This is a difficult topic for our community to address but one we must face without hesitation," said Police Chief Michael O'Brien. "Families and the community are being impacted, and lives are being lost. This is not only a law enforcement issue but rather one the entire community must solve together. We look forward to working with partnering agencies to seek solutions."

Police believe two recent deaths in Chico may be the result of illicit drug use. On Thursday, July 13, 2017, Chico Police officers responded to two separate incidents, but with the same tragic results. Just before 6:00AM, officers were called to the 700 block of E. 20th Street, where a 27-year old female was found deceased in a location inside the home.

Later the same day, just before 3:00PM, officers were called to a home in the 2100 block of Iriquois Avenue, to find a male subject, a known heroin addict, suffering a medical condition. The 27-year old man was taken to a local hospital, where he later succumbed to his condition.

Based on investigations of both subjects and police review of the respective scenes, the two deceased individuals are believed to have been victims of repeated use of illicit drugs. In each case the suspected culprit, police believe, was drug overdose. Official causes of death will be determined by the Butte County Sheriff Coroner.

The most recent deaths highlight the need for greater community awareness to the issue, but are not isolated events. In April, 2017, the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force released its annual report giving an overview of drug activity in Butte County. According to the organization, heroin and cocaine seizures increased from 2015 to 2016. Two young adults in Chico died in January of this year from

heroin overdoses. Several weeks ago, a wild west type shooting in broad daylight on a busy Chico Street had a nexus to heroin. The two suspects arrested in this case are believed to have come to Chico from Stockton to sell heroin. Drug related offenses have increased almost 200 percent in Chico since 2006.

The public is encouraged to participate in the Police Community Advisory Board meeting to learn more about the status of drug related incidents in Chico and to learn actionable steps individuals can take to mitigate the effects in one's family or community if drug use and abuse is suspected.

The Chico Police Department is committed to ensuring our community is a safe place to live, work, and recreate within!