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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Elizabeth Stover, Program Coordinator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Council Establishes Community Policing Advisory Commission and Approves Membership to the Government Alliance on Race and Equity

The Forest Grove City Council established a Community Policing Advisory Commission (CPAC) on August 10 in response to public input regarding racial and social justice in community policing. CPAC’s purpose is to provide a voice, venue, and process to build relationships between the Forest Grove Police Department (FGPD) and the Forest Grove community through education, awareness, and open dialogue. CPAC would also advise the City Council on public safety policy, training, social justice, and restorative justice concerns, as well as seek input about social equity challenges attributed to public safety.

The proposed membership is inclusive and diverse, composed of representation from LGBTQ, racial justice, business, homeless, Adelante Mujeres, Centro Cultural, Forest Grove School District, Pacific University, and community members at large. In an effort to be more inclusive, Councilors added positions representing the community at large and homeless bringing the total number of members to 13. Members would be appointed by City Council and serve as an advisory voice to Council for programs, ideas, and methods of community policing. Applications for the CPAC will be posted to the website and solicited during the fall Boards & Commissions annual recruitment.

Henry Reimann, Police Chief, stated, “I am excited about City Council’s approval of the new advisory commission and appreciate their efforts to help create it. The goals and objectives of the CPAC provide us with an avenue to engage and support our underserved communities. CPAC will bring new voices and perspectives into our discussions regarding equity and social justice issues. City Council’s approval of CPAC is their commitment to the community that we will continue with our ongoing efforts to deliver just, unbiased, and compassionate policing to our community.”

With the establishment of CPAC, the Council concurred to dissolve the Forest Grove Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) noting PSAC, and its members, have provided valuable service to the

community and advised Council on many important issues, from a five-year operating levy to ordinances governing marijuana dispensaries. Staff and Council recognized these contributions and thanked PSAC for their service.

This effort touches upon the importance of framing our work through an equity lens. The City Council has made diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) a top priority. The Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE) is “a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.” Membership in GARE is an opportunity for the City to connect with other government jurisdictions to see working models and share best practices for DEI work.

Questions? For CPAC, please contact Henry Reimann, Police Chief, at 503-992-3260 or hreimann@forestgrove-or.gov. For GARE membership information, please contact Elizabeth Stover, Program Coordinator, at 503-992-3298 or estover@forestgrove-or.gov.

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