



Auburn Police Department



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Chief of Police

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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Auburn Police to host *Coffee with a Cop* on March 4 Program offers opportunity to meet officers and discuss community issues



AUBURN—On March 4, officers from the Auburn Police Department and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee.

All community members are invited to attend. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. on March 4 at Rolly's Diner, 87 Mill Street, Auburn. Please contact Sgt. Barry Schmieks with questions: 333-6650 X2068 or bschmieks@auburnmaine.gov.

Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Auburn's neighborhoods.

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies, or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship-building with the community and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. *Coffee with a Cop* breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

"We hope that community members will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns, or simply get to know our officers," said Auburn Police Chief Phil Crowell. "These interactions are the foundation of a strong community-police partnership."

"We are pleased to partner with Rolly's for our first *Coffee with a Cop* event," said Sergeant Barry Schmieks. "We plan to host these community gatherings at various local spots throughout the year."

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the country, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

Contact Information
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