

Letter: Let's make a healthy choice for chief of police



By [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#) |

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The City of Chico is searching for a new Chief of Police.

Let's make this a healthy and healing community decision.

Trust in our police force is a matter of community health and well-being. A lack of trust in law enforcement has been a lingering illness for a significant number of community members for far too long.

It was an issue when I was on council, and still is. This is not the "fault" of any individual. It is a chronic systemic illness, one exacerbated by the spread of national malaise.

The state legislature has attempted some partial cures (eg SB 928 re transparency of training standards; SB 1421 re public access to complaint and discipline records; and AB 392 re use of force). All candidates to be considered should be familiar with the foregoing, and have experience in the implementation of policies and practices consistent with them.

However, the best way to promulgate public health through community trust in law enforcement is to include the public in both prevention and cure efforts. A robust independent citizen review board is wanted and needed.

The National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) offers much guidance on this topic.

Candidates for Chief of Police should have experience working with a civilian community review process that meets its standards.

Let's get together and get healthier.

— *Andy Holcombe, Chico*