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PRESS RELEASE

1-27-2025

Josh Phinney New Rio Dell Chief of Police

Rio Dell, CA – The City of Rio Dell is proud to announce the appointment of Joshua Phinney as the new Chief of Police. With more than 16 years of distinguished law enforcement experience and a proven track record of leadership and community-focused policing, Chief Phinney is set to lead the department into an exciting new chapter.

Chief Phinney began his career with the Fortuna Police Department in 2008, where he developed a deep understanding of the region and its unique challenges. Over the years, he has held key leadership roles, including serving as Sergeant at both the Arcata and Fortuna Police Departments. His career highlights include implementing community policing strategies that strengthened public trust, utilizing data-driven techniques to reduce crime, and mentoring officers to foster a culture of professionalism and continuous learning.

In addition to his extensive law enforcement experience, Chief Phinney served in the United States Navy as an E-5 Operations Specialist. During his service, he played a pivotal role in Operation Enduring Freedom, supervising real-time battle operations and earning the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his exemplary performance. This foundation of discipline, strategic thinking, and commitment to service continues to inform his approach to leadership and public safety.

"I am honored to serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Rio Dell," said Chief Phinney. "My focus will be on fostering strong community relationships, enhancing officer development, and ensuring that the department reflects the values and priorities of the people we serve. I have raised my family in Humboldt County and take great pride in the betterment of our communities. I look forward to working alongside the dedicated team at the Rio Dell Police Department to create a safer, stronger community."

The City of Rio Dell welcomes Chief Phinney and is confident that his experience, leadership, and dedication to public service will bring positive and lasting impacts to the department and the community at large.

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JULIE WOODALL

AMANDA G...

MAYOR
DEBRA GARNES

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