

**For Immediate Release**  
**February 5, 2010**  
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**To: Media**

**Chief Wayne M. Longo**

*Coeur d'Alene Police Department*  
*We serve with pride, dedication, and excellence*

Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Wayne Longo initiated a meeting today with bar owners and managers in the downtown area. He asked them to work with the police department to address areas of concern. Chief Longo kicked off the meeting by asking their view of "What are the issues?"

Bar owners and managers spoke up about over intoxication by patrons, a certain disorderly element that is attempting to be in their businesses, fights, malicious injury to property, and verbal harassment of visitors as they leave restaurants and other businesses in the evening hours. The meeting was well attended by the majority of the bar owners in the downtown area, and was very productive in the exchange of ideas and solidarity in addressing these issues. Bar owners offered up viable solutions. Those solutions ranged from additional police presence in the downtown area to bars providing enhanced training to their bartenders', and door security personnel. Another idea brought forward was a dedicated taxi cab area for patrons to access.

Bar owners emphasized that they are interested, and committed to a safe and fun environment in the downtown area. Captain Steve Childers shared a slide show presentation with the group that demonstrated the statistics of calls for police services in the downtown area. He also assured the bar owners that the police department wants to work in partnership with them to resolve these issues rather than just focusing on "heavy handed" enforcement.

Chief Longo advised the group that area law enforcement agencies have agreed to assist with extra manning. An additional police presence in the downtown area is to be expected. Officers will be initiating bar checks as we have done for several years in order to determine if there is over serving or underage drinking occurring. The bar owners were very cooperative in welcoming these enforcement tactics. Deputy Fire Chief Glen Lauper shared concerns about dealing with unruly crowds while responding to medical situations. He offered the bar owners the services of the Fire Department to perform occupancy checks.

Terry Cooper, who represents the Downtown Business Association attended the meeting and intends to share the cooperative ideas with his group. All that attended, agreed that working in partnership together, with the Downtown Business Association and the police department is the best way to effect change.

Chief Longo thanked the group in his statement of "We appreciate the ideas and cooperation of the downtown bar owners and look forward to continuing these types of meetings in the future."

**Sergeant Christie Wood**  
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