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**COPS Office and Not in Our Town (NIOT) Release Three Short Videos that highlight Communities and Law Enforcement working together to Create Safe and Inclusive Cities**

Oakland, Calif. — Today the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) and Not In Our Town (NIOT) released “*On the Ground with Not In Our Town*,” a series of three films focused on the importance of building relationships between local law enforcement and the communities they serve.

**On the Ground with Not In Our Town in Davis, CA (00:02:29)**

This short video shows how a film screening can spark police-community dialogue. Davis, CA Police Chief Landy Black and Asst. Police Chief Darren Pytel joined the screening of Not In Our Town: Waking In Oak Creek and presented information on local hate crime reporting. “This is an opportunity, once again, to continue with the dialogue we have with our community,” Black said, “so that we can better interpret what the community’s needs are.” Davis/Phoenix Coalition leader Gloria Partida hosted the local event called “Chat with the Police Chief” to bring community and law enforcement together. Partida founded the Davis anti-hate group, affiliated with Not In Our Town, after her son Lawrence “Mikey” Partida was brutally beaten in a hate crime attack because of his sexual orientation.

**On the Ground with Not In Our Town in Bloomington, IL (00:02:20)**

The Not In Our Town (NIOT) Bloomington-Normal group came together to revitalize their efforts to stand up to hate. In 1996, in the wake of church burnings in the South, a group of community members joined with law enforcement and city leaders to form a local Not In Our Town group to prevent hate incidents from happening in Bloomington-Normal, IL. Twenty years later, Mayor Tari Renner and Bloomington Police Chief Brendan Heffner were joined by a diverse group of founding members, new leaders, and students who take the pledge to stop bullying and share stories and ideas about how to move forward. “Any organization or group of people that want to get together and share ideas and talk through diverse issues, informs people how to be more tolerant and work together,” Officer Clay Wheeler of the Bloomington, IL Police Department said at the event.

**On the Ground with Not In Our Town in Marshalltown, IA (00:04:07)**

Marshalltown, IA Police Chief Michael Tupper, part of a Not In Our Town (NIOT) community wide effort to address bullying and hate, is profiled in this story as he meets with residents and local leaders. “The proactive approach that we’ve taken with this initiative, Not In Our Town, shows that we were not gonna tolerate abusive behavior and we’re gonna stop it when we see it,” Tupper said. In 2012, Times-Republican Publisher Mike Schlesinger and Editor Abbe Pelzer launched a Not in Our Town group in Marshalltown, Iowa, one of the most diverse cities in the state. Tupper and his department joined a coalition of leaders to prevent bullying and hate and to address local tensions.

Through the *Working Together for Safe, Inclusive Communities* project, DVDs of the film are available free of charge to law enforcement agencies, civic leaders, community groups, schools, national organizations, and others for public screenings and discussions, town hall meetings, internal trainings, conference workshops, and other activities. The DVD can be ordered online at [www.NIOT.org/cops/onthegroundnotinourtown](http://www.NIOT.org/cops/onthegroundnotinourtown) or through the COPS Resource Center.

The COPS Office, headed by Director Ronald Davis, is a federal agency responsible for advancing community policing nationwide. Since 1995, the COPS Office has invested more than \$14 billion to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of approximately 129,000 officers and provide a variety of knowledge resource products including publications, training and technical assistance.

Developed in 1995 by The Working Group, an Oakland, California-based nonprofit strategic media company, Not In Our Town is a movement to stop hate, address bullying, and build safe, inclusive communities for all. NIOT films, new media, and organizing tools help local leaders build vibrant, diverse cities and towns where everyone can participate. Learn more at [www.NIOT.org](http://www.NIOT.org).