



**Bridging the Gap**  
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With great power comes great responsibility. Often times a city's chief or police struggles to unite themselves in their local community. Through no fault of their own, a police chief can often become consumed with his day to day responsibilities at the police department: rather than uniting him or herself with the local community. If given the opportunity to be the Police Chief for a day, my goal would be unity.

I would begin my day at the Comea Shelter, where I will talk to those who have been forgotten and lost their way. We would talk about their daily goals and future aspirations. I would truly commit to helping, even if some days it just means so listening. I would do my best to provide opportunities for growth and mental health services, in an effort to help steer them in a better direction. By integrating the homeless into our city's population, we could reduce the police presence downtown, giving those officers the opportunity to spend more time working with Cheyenne's youth, as they are the future citizens of Cheyenne.

My next stop would be the municipal court building, I would take the time to talk to the juveniles awaiting their time in court. I would make it clear that we all have made mistakes and they do not have to let their current situation define them. From personal experience, I know how crucial this is. I took the time to get to know my SRO as a person not just a "cop". It has helped me realize that the police want to help us, and they are not out to get us. Learning this has dramatically impacted the trajectory of my life. Teaching today's youth the same lesson, could be monumental in their lives.

My third stop would be at the Cheyenne Animal Shelter, I would discuss with shelter staff how to provide more low cost spay and neuter opportunity for Cheyenne's pets. After all, we are only as good as we treat our animals. After the animal shelter, I would call a meeting with our Traffic Officers and ask them to turn their ticket writing into teaching moments. Not everyone deserves a warning but treating the people we ticket like human beings having a bad day, not just lawbreakers, could make all the difference. Personally, I have made mistakes and even broken the law, but looking back at all of those moments, good and bad, I have learned, and truly appreciate those opportunities to better my life. Being the Police Chief, I feel I would have even more opportunities to show others how to turn mistakes into growth opportunities when people see that I too am just another person, doing my best to do good things and grow.

Lastly, I would take the opportunity to hold a public meeting (socially distanced of course) at Lions Park (with masks). At this meeting, I would do my best to put aside my feelings and emotions so that I could truly hear what the people of Cheyenne have to say, how they are feeling, and what they want to see in our beautiful town. Although I may not agree with everything, truly hearing what the local community needs, I could begin to bridge the gap between the Cheyenne Police Department and the citizens we serve. We have been blessed with a unique and diverse population in Cheyenne, and I truly believe when we begin to bridge the gap between the police department and our community, Cheyenne will see many great things. I feel fortunate to be considered for this awesome opportunity and I cannot wait to make some changes.