



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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REGIONAL POLICING REVIEW RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council (CJC) is pleased to announce it has received a 2022 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in recognition of a regional effort examining cross-jurisdictional policing practices throughout the county.

Each year, NACo recognizes innovation in county government programs throughout the U.S. The award recognized a groundbreaking open and transparent review of local policing practices, led by the CJC, examining critical issues such as use of force, technology, implicit bias training, addressing behavioral health issues and more. The independent review was conducted by Applied Survey Research and examined policing practices in five local jurisdictions.

"These are national issues that inform ongoing debates about interactions between public safety personnel and the communities they serve," Supervisor Zach Friend said. "Here in Santa Cruz County, we approached these topics with a willingness to look in the mirror and see where we are succeeding and where we might need improvement, and we are grateful NACo recognized this unique approach."

"This award is a testament to our community's leadership and commitment to working collaboratively with local government and law enforcement to address community concerns to increase trust, accountability, and transparency," Santa Cruz City Councilmember Justin Cummings said.

The CJC is comprised of local elected officials, the head of each local police agency, the District Attorney and Chief Probation Officer, the Public Defender, the County Superintendent of Schools, the President of Cabrillo College, the Superior Court, the County Behavioral Health Director and local non-profit leaders. A 2022 CJC report will examine frontline law enforcement and behavioral health services including policies, procedures, training and calls. For more, visit <https://santacruzjc.org>.