



*Pueblo, Colorado*

# *The State of the City*



*January 2020*

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## CITY OF PUEBLO

### STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2020

Mayor, Nicholas A. Gradisar  
January 9, 2020

Good Afternoon. I want to thank the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce for hosting today's event at our newly expanded and remodeled convention center.

I also want to thank and recognize my partners, the Pueblo City Council members who are joining us today and acknowledge the presence of the County Commissioners who are with us today.

I want to thank the Student Council from East High School who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and I want to welcome the administrators and students from Delores Huerta High School, Dutch Clark Online, South, Central and Centennial high schools that were able to attend today. Also, Thank You to Sgt. Corey Purvis for that tremendous rendition of the National Anthem.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to be with us today.

I also want to acknowledge the presence of my partner, Jan Pullin who has been with me on this journey from the beginning. Thank you for your support.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Pueblo has a proud history. People came from all over the world to make the steel that built the American West.

Our immigrant ancestors, who settled in Pueblo, left their homelands, many as teenagers; most with nothing more than the clothes they were wearing, facing unknowns and uncertainties with no guarantees; guided only by the belief that they could create a better life for themselves and their families in Pueblo.

Today, part of the history of Pueblo is the 2017 decision of the voters to create a strong mayor system and my election as Pueblo's first strong mayor. With that election comes my responsibility and privilege to present the State of the City Address.

We will be filing a written report which includes the data and evidence provided by City departments documenting the state of the city. That written report will be available on our website. Today I will share with you some of the major highlights and accomplishments during the last year and my thoughts on some challenges we will face in 2020 and beyond.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **SALES TAX**

In 2019, there were over 1,000 new sales tax licenses issued in the City of Pueblo. That signifies increased economic activity which reflects in the increase in sales tax collections. Most of those new applications were from online retailers who are beginning to remit the City sales tax they are collecting from Puebloans. Approximately 60% of the City's budget comes from Sales tax. For the first 11 months of 2019, sales tax collections were up over 5%. This is a good indicator of economic growth in Pueblo.

At the end of the year we submitted, and City Council passed, my first budget. The budget calls for expenditures of \$97 million dollars to provide services to our citizens and we are committed to providing those services in an efficient, effective, transparent manner.

### **STAFF**

A vital accomplishment of 2019 was fully staffing our departmental leadership positions in the City of Pueblo. We funded positions that had not been funded for years and filled the director positions that were vacant when I was inaugurated. This leadership team is instrumental in providing quality services to our community.

We appointed directors for Pueblo Memorial Airport, City Clerk's Office, Finance

Department, Housing & Citizen Services, Planning and Community Development, Public Works, Stormwater, and the Fire Department which now has the first female Fire Chief in the history of the City of Pueblo. I believe these staff members will do an outstanding job leading the departments into the future.

Two other appointments to the leadership team were made, the Deputy Mayor, Troy Davenport and Chief of Staff, Laura Solano.

The City of Pueblo has 783 permanent, dedicated employees who are committed to providing services to the residents of our city in an efficient and effective manner. In addition to these full-time employees, we have hundreds of seasonal part time employees who help deliver services.

In a joint effort with the leadership team and the employee unions, we have entered into three-year labor agreements with our bargaining groups. This has not happened for quite some time and it allows us to more accurately predict our labor costs and spend our time on other matters of critical importance.

In addition to the employees of the City, the citizens of this community also help provide services to our residents. The City of Pueblo has 30 separate Boards and Commissions and 200 individuals have volunteered their time to serve on these boards to help make Pueblo a better place.

The City of Pueblo staff and the Boards and Commission members deserve our thanks and recognition.

## **STREET REPAIR**

Last year we solidified plans to utilize the funds paid into the Street Repair Utility Enterprise. This fund and our Highway Users Tax Fund will allow us to contract for approximately \$7 million dollars in street repairs this year. The condition of our streets has historically been the number one concern of Pueblo citizens and we believe that we have a system in place to begin addressing these concerns. The slide shows the streets that will be addressed in 2020.

Funding for transportation infrastructure continues to be a concern throughout the state. In Colorado, the state and its voters have failed to arrive at a plan to adequately fund our aging statewide transportation system.

It is becoming increasingly clear that transportation projects in Pueblo will not receive adequate funding from the state and if we want to complete some projects, such as the modernization of I-25 through Pueblo, we are going to have to find a way to raise and invest some local funds. This year we will be working on a plan to fund transportation infrastructure and street repairs on a more equitable basis than the current Street Repair Utility Enterprise.

Pueblo is part of the strategic planning efforts with the Colorado Department of Transportation for a front range rail project. We will continue to make Pueblo's participation in the project beneficial for the community and identify funding sources that can help us guarantee that we are ready when the project is launched.

## **CITY/COUNTY EFFORTS**

During the last year we have worked closely with the Pueblo County on several projects and that cooperation will continue in the future. Our joint efforts were:

- Establishment of a permanent homeless shelter operated by the Pueblo Rescue Mission which will open later this month.
- Establishment of the Pueblo Food Council which has received a planning grant from the Colorado Health Foundation and will address food issues in Pueblo
- Reestablishing the Animal Shelter and Animal Control services in the City and County

This year we have agreed with Pueblo County to jointly fund:

- Trash Task Force to combat illegal dumping
- Joint marketing program to promote Pueblo and establish positive content about Pueblo for individuals and companies that are considering relocation.

## **POLICE DEPT**

2019 saw significant advancements in the Pueblo Police Department. In 2017, Pueblo voters created the "Public Safety Sales Tax" devoted to increasing manpower in the Police Department. I am pleased to report that in June 2019 we had 227 police officers on staff and while that number fluctuates throughout the year, the increase in officers has had the desired effect on crime in our community.

As this slide indicates, overall, serious crime dropped by 16% in 2019. Although homicides were up, if you eliminate the unusual cases where children were killing their parents, that category would probably be down also.

One of the benefits of having additional police officers is that they are able to engage in "Community Oriented Policing Projects" instead of just reacting to crimes. In 2019 there were five community oriented policing projects in various neighborhoods throughout the city. One of those neighborhoods saw a 70% decrease in burglaries and another realized a 56% decrease in burglaries.

As I said, the decision of the voters to invest in the "Public Safety Sales Tax" is paying dividends. Coincidentally, today is Law Enforcement Appreciation day so let's give a round of applause to all the law enforcement officers who are with us today.

I would also like to note the passing of a long time Pueblo police officer, Corporal David Jacober who lost his year-long battle with cancer this week. Corporal Jacober served 18 years as a Pueblo police officer and our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

During the past year, we made a concerted effort to step up our code enforcement to improve the aesthetics of our city for our residents and visitors. As this slide indicates, violations reported were up by 62% last year from the year before.

Additional employees in the code enforcement department allowed us to be proactive in improving the appearance of our neighborhoods instead of just responding to complaints. We will continue to be aggressive in those efforts in the future, so our residents will understand that they must cut their weeds and keep their property cleaned up.

Graffiti remains a problem in Pueblo. Pueblo Municipal Court operates a community service program for juveniles and adults and the primary mission of the program is to clean up graffiti throughout the city. In 2019 a full-time coordinator was hired which strengthened the program. From January through November 2019, 21,394 sites had been cleaned of graffiti compared to 8,152 sites in 2018. No part of town is immune from graffiti as you can see from the slide.

## **PARKS & REC**

The Parks and Recreation Department will be making notable strides in 2020 to improve recreational opportunities for our citizens. You will begin to see improvements at Lake Minnequa thanks to the 1A money we receive from Pueblo County. In 2019 the city was fortunate to receive grant funds to combine with city funds to create a trail on the Arkansas River levee that will include two pedestrian bridges and will open-up our Arkansas River and Fountain Creek trails to new neighborhoods. The addition of this trail will be a tremendous amenity to our community for years to come.

## **ZONING**

An extremely exciting new development for Pueblo is mixed-use zoning. We have many vacant storefronts and buildings downtown and some of our business areas. In 2019, the Land Use Administrator in Planning and Community Development filed an administrative determination authorizing issuance of conditional use permits allowing for a mixture of commercial, office and residential uses within the same structure in B-4 zone districts.

This administrative determination will allow for more uses of the properties in the downtown and Union Avenue area and will make it easier to reuse some of our vacant buildings. This year, we will continue to work on making it simpler to do business in Pueblo.

There seems to be an excitement in Pueblo and about Pueblo. I have had numerous meetings with individuals, many from out of town, who want to explore developing projects in Pueblo. We continue to encourage Puebloans to explore Opportunity Zone investments that can help us bring housing to the downtown and Riverwalk areas that will create a vital City Center.

As we complete the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century what do we have to look forward to in 2020?

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Our primary goal remains to increase the economic activity in Pueblo and continue to recruit new business and employers.

Our Economic Development efforts have produced results. Recently it was announced that MissionSide, a company that is working on the 2020 Census, will hire more than 900 employees. While these are temporary jobs MissionSide is a nationwide company and we hope they will fall in love with their state-of-the-art facility in Pueblo and continue some of their permanent operations here. IndieDwell, a company that builds houses out of shipping containers will hire more than 170 individuals for their operation which will be in downtown Pueblo.

We expect that EVRAZ Rocky Mountain Steel will decide, by April 1 about the construction of a new long rail mill in Pueblo. If that project goes forward, it will guarantee good jobs in Pueblo for years.

2020 promises to be a time of continued opportunity and growth in Pueblo.

## **150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

A historic milestone for our city is coming in 2020. We will celebrate Pueblo's 150 birthday! The City of Pueblo, the Downtown Association, businesses and community volunteers are planning activities throughout the year to celebrate this milestone.

One of the first events that we are planning is a Collegiate Criterium Bicycling Event on March 14 and 15. This will involve 200 bicycle racers from various colleges in the Western US. Professional racers will be attending the event as well. On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, the course will be located downtown, around Union and Victoria Avenues, with the collegiate athletes racing in the morning and the professional athletes racing in the afternoon.

At noon, on March 15<sup>th</sup>, we will join in the fun and hold our first Mayor's community bike ride of 2020 on the Criterium course. I encourage everyone to make plans to participate in this event which will bring an influx of visitors to our city.

In September, we are firming up plans for the second annual Mayor's Day at the Colorado State Fair. We will invite Mayor's from throughout Colorado to join us at the fair. This year we hope to feature a Farm to Table lunch for the Mayors and their families featuring Pueblo County agricultural products.

In addition to the enjoyable events, we will also have some serious issues to consider this year.

## **CHALLENGES**

### **RIGHT OF WAY MAINTANENCE**

One of our upcoming challenges is working with the Colorado Department of Transportation to determine maintenance responsibilities for the rights of way along state highways that run through the City of Pueblo. For as long as I can remember, CDOT maintained the landscaping in their right of ways. Now, CDOT says those rights of way are our responsibility. You probably remember last summer when the weeds were in the medians and along the highway. We don't want that repeated this year and we are working on some IGA's with CDOT to get this straightened out.

### **MARIJUANA**

Another issue you have been reading and hearing about is marijuana. I want to spend a few minutes talking about the legalized, regulated retail marijuana business. On January 1, 2014 recreational cannabis became legal in Colorado. Voters in the City of Pueblo authorized retail marijuana establishments. This industry is playing a more and more important role in our economy.

In the City of Pueblo, we have 8 retail marijuana stores, 4 north of the Arkansas River and 4 south of the river. When you consider cultivations, manufacturing, and testing, we have a total of 19 retail marijuana licenses in the City limits.

In 2019, the retail sales tax from the 8 marijuana stores through November was \$732,151. This represented a doubling of the taxes from 2018 for this industry. In addition to our regular sales tax, we receive 85% of the special sales tax imposed by Pueblo County, which through November was \$508,326. We also receive marijuana taxes from the state, which through November amounted to \$316,789. These total more than \$1.5 million dollars per year from the regulated retail marijuana industry.

A substantial number of people purchasing marijuana in our retail stores are tourists or out of towners. The largest retail establishment in Pueblo reports that 55-60% of their purchases are from out of town individuals.

Our laws prohibit the consumption of marijuana in public. This begs the question of where

these individuals who are purchasing marijuana in Pueblo are consuming it. Beginning the first of this year, Colorado law allows for the establishment of hospitality rooms or suites where cannabis can be consumed in private, out of sight and not in public locations.

Each community must opt in if they are going to allow this practice. I think we should have a discussion in Pueblo about whether we want to license these establishments where the consumption of cannabis can be done in a controlled, regulated, licensed environment.

One of our goals is to get visitors and tourists off of I-25 to spend more time in Pueblo. The more time they spend here, the more they like Pueblo and the more likely they are to return. To that end, our 2020 budget provides more funding to those organizations that attract tourists and market Pueblo, such as the Arts Center, the Zoo and the Greater Pueblo Chamber.

## **BLACK HILLS**

Lastly, the most significant looming issue we must address this year is Black Hills Energy. Before August 10, 2020 we will have to decide, as a community, whether to terminate the franchise agreement with Black Hills Energy. This will be the biggest financial decision in the history of the City of Pueblo and nothing has consumed more of my time as Mayor than this issue. I have had countless meetings with Black Hills Energy and others since the first week of my administration on whether Pueblo should municipalize our electric supply.

Let me tell you what I have learned during the last 11 months:

- Black Hills does not want to sell its assets and wants to continue serving Pueblo, and, in all honesty since municipalization has been on the table BHE has been much more responsive to the community.
- Pueblo has the highest electric rates on the Front Range and those rates have hampered our economic development efforts and make it more expensive to do business in Pueblo. One local businessman pays 43% more for electricity in Pueblo than he does in Colorado Springs.
- One of the reasons for the high cost of electricity is the unfavorable power supply agreement between Black Hills and the Pueblo Airport Generating station, which is owned partly by Black Hills. That contract remains in place through 2031.
- The price of renewable energy has decreased dramatically and if it is not now, it soon will become the cheapest form of electricity.
- Over the course of the last year I have become convinced that the investor owned utility model, which is what Black Hills is, is not best for the long-term future of

Pueblo. An investor owned utility owes its primary legal duty to its shareholders to return profits, rather than its customers and ratepayers.

- Public power will eventually be cheaper and over the next 30 to 100 years Pueblo will be better served by a public utility with local control.
- In the remaining 10 years of the franchise, Black Hills will take out of this community \$130,000,000 in profits based on reports they have filed with the Public Utilities Commission.

Over the course of the last year, I have tried to negotiate, an agreement with Black Hills that would allow me to recommend to the community that we allow them to finish their franchise. One of the things that would satisfy me would be an agreement by Black Hills to sell us their assets at the end of their franchise.

Another proposal we have suggested to Black Hills is that they sell us their distribution system, invest the proceeds in renewable energy and become a regional power provider, supplying power to communities and cooperatives in the region. We believe that they could make 50% more money than they are making now by accepting our proposal.

We have also proposed that they guarantee a rate cut. All these proposals have fallen on deaf ears.

Although Black Hills has made some concessions to continue their franchise, we have not reached an agreement that I can recommend to the community. Next week, Black Hills will ask the City Council to approve their proposed agreement that will terminate the municipalization effort.

The proposal from Black Hills would freeze their current rates for 5 years, would, perhaps result in customer savings if Black Hills is successful in its request for proposals for renewable energy and would include additional investments in the community by Black Hills. It would not guarantee rate decreases.

The City staff is working on a ballot issue that would put to the voters, the question of whether we should terminate the franchise agreement with Black Hills Energy 10 years early. An independently elected board, not controlled by the Mayor or the City Council, would acquire and operate the utility. That board would make the decisions about how much of the Black Hills Energy system to acquire and the operation of the public utility.

My recommendation to the City Council is that this matter be submitted to the voters at a special election to be held on May 5, 2020. I expect that by the end of January we will know what course the City Council has decided to pursue.

If the municipalization effort moves forward, I expect that Black Hills Energy's campaign against municipalization, which has already started, will be focused on the uncertainties and unknowns of municipalization. It will appeal to our fears to convince us to maintain

the status quo.

I hope as we make our way through this issue, we will remember the words of Franklin Roosevelt, “we have nothing to fear but fear itself”.

I hope the spirit of our immigrant ancestors, who did not have any feasibility studies, before they risked it all in the belief that they could do better, will guide us. I hope that as we make this decision on municipalization we honor our immigrant ancestors by making our decision on the basis of facts instead of fear.

Let me conclude by saying that I am honored to serve as the Mayor of Pueblo during these exciting times. And while they sometimes might seem insurmountable, the challenges we face, pale in comparison to those faced by our ancestors who built this community.

Ladies and Gentlemen; not only does Pueblo have a proud history it has a bright future. Thank you.



## Overview

The City of Pueblo has a long and colorful history dating back to 1842, when it was called Fort Pueblo. On March 22, 1870, a milestone to permanence was achieved when the County Commissioners incorporated the “town” of Pueblo. This year, 2020, marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pueblo. The Sesquicentennial celebration will span the full year of 2020 with numerous celebrations of Pueblo’s rich and diverse history and traditions. What brought our city from a small fort in southern Colorado to the backbone of Colorado was the steel mill. This area once housed 4 separate towns, which were Pueblo, South Pueblo, Central Pueblo, and Bessemer. These 4 towns together now make up the City of Pueblo.

The City of Pueblo is also known as “America’s Home of Heroes,” as was proclaimed by the United States Congress in 1993. Pueblo hosts National Medal of Honor Day and has had as many as 4 living Medal of Honor recipients living in our community.

This January 2020 State of the City Data and Evidence Report reflects the first report under a new strong mayor system. Voters approved a strong mayor system in 2017. A mayoral election was held in late 2018 and Mayor Nicholas Gradisar took office in February 2019. The City of Pueblo provides that the Mayor advise City Council and Pueblo citizens on the state of the city no later than the first Tuesday in February each year.

Pueblo is a community filled with pride, passion, determination, and perseverance. As a full-service city, Pueblo provides many essential services. The 783 dedicated City employees work diligently to provide services to residents of Pueblo in an efficient and effective manner. General services are provided through human, financial, and physical resources of the City’s General Fund. Other services are provided by the City through separate enterprise funds such as the Wastewater and Stormwater departments. The following Departmental information is included in this report; *Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Sales Tax, Pueblo Municipal Airport, Housing and Citizens Services, Marijuana Licenses, Municipal Court, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Public Works, Sales Tax, Stormwater, and Wastewater. The City of Pueblo is supported by nearly 30 Boards and Commissions, comprised of over 200 citizen volunteers and staff.* We appreciate and thank our members for their contribution and service. A list of Board and Commissions and members is included in this report. City leaders are committed to making careful decisions and focusing on community priorities to ensure responsiveness and good value to Pueblo citizens.

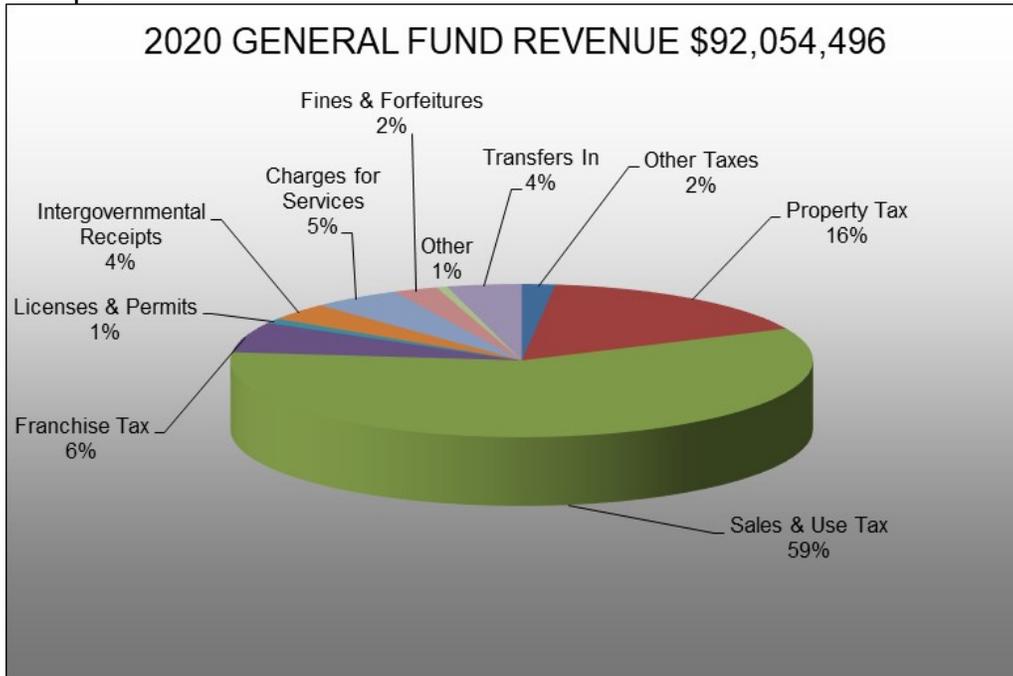
Pueblo’s demographic trend in the City has produced low population growth. While 2019 experienced similar results, increasing housing costs along the front range, continued interest in the state, and the value that Pueblo offers residents combine to make Pueblo a place of interest for those looking at Colorado as a place to live. The following table shows the City of Pueblo demographics as provided in the US Census Bureau Quick Facts. Population Estimates, July 1, 2019 (V2019). Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pueblacitycolorado>

<b>City of Pueblo – Quick Facts</b>				<b>Education</b>	
<b>Population</b>	111,750	<b>Race &amp; Hispanic Origin</b>		Percentage of adults age 25+ years who:	
<b>Percentage of Residents who are:</b>		Hispanic or Latino	51.2%	❖ Attained a Bachelor’s degree or higher	19.2%
❖ School Age Children	17.5%	Non-Hispanic White, alone	43.4%	❖ Did not graduate From high school	12.8%
❖ Under the age of 18	22.5%	American Indian & Alaskan Native, alone	4.6%	Median household income	\$38,338
❖ Age 65 or older	17.5%	Two or more races	4.4%	Percentage of Population In Poverty	23.7%
		Black or African American, alone	2.8%	Median gross rent (monthly)	\$777
		Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander, alone	.1%	Total housing units	43,870

US Census Bureau Quick Facts. Population Estimates, July 1, 2019 (V2019). Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pueblacitycolorado>

## Finance and Sales Tax

For FY 2020, it is projected that the total revenue and other sources of funds is approximately \$92.1 million dollars; an increase of approximately 2.9% relative to FY2019 Adopted.

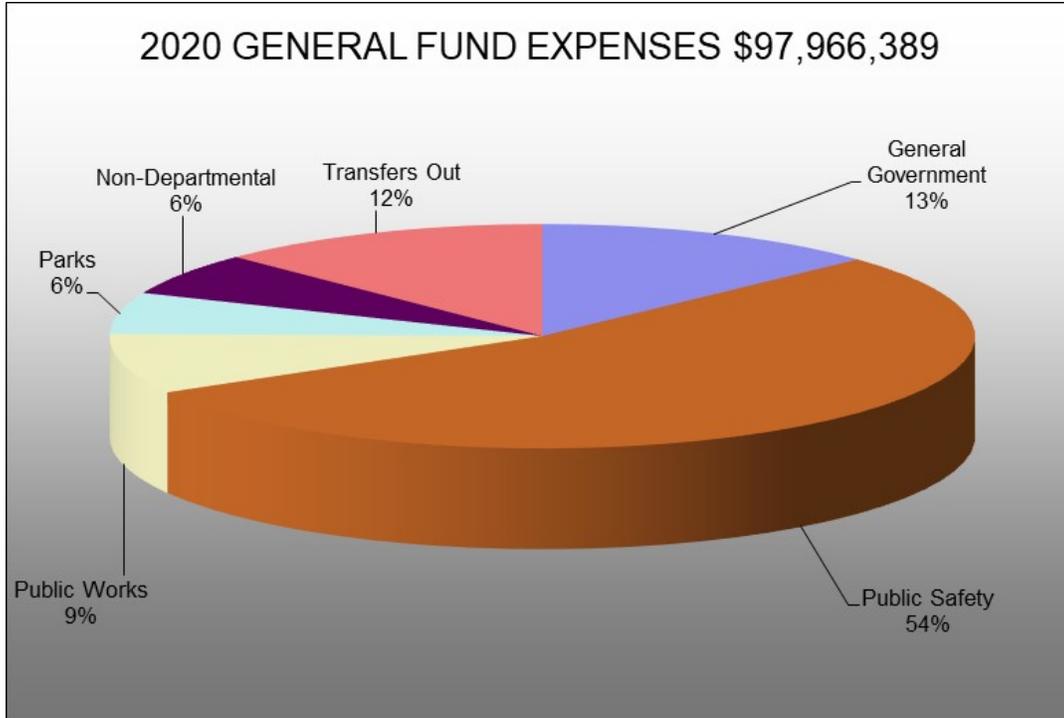


### General Fund Sales Tax Collection Summary 2015 - 2019

Gross Sales Tax Receipts General Fund	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Unaudited
January	\$3,185,525	\$ 3,465,096	\$3,309,551	\$3,575,685	\$3,675,824
February	\$3,346,466	\$ 3,522,601	\$3,480,370	\$3,547,625	\$3,652,723
March	\$3,841,993	\$ 3,979,299	\$4,157,644	\$4,362,154	\$4,449,658
April	\$3,306,715	\$ 3,624,645	\$3,646,862	\$3,693,897	\$3,965,545
May	\$3,426,222	\$ 3,740,429	\$3,904,334	\$4,048,154	\$4,183,572
June	\$3,922,886	\$ 4,052,387	\$4,155,034	\$4,294,925	\$4,414,895
July	\$3,739,690	\$ 3,765,784	\$3,854,051	\$4,086,568	\$4,286,318
August	\$3,750,433	\$ 3,947,884	\$3,970,703	\$4,159,523	\$4,610,963
September	\$3,809,214	\$ 3,881,173	\$4,043,724	\$4,180,276	\$4,398,362
October	\$3,455,216	\$ 3,566,729	\$3,766,240	\$3,771,151	\$4,073,557
November	\$3,543,869	\$ 3,685,874	\$3,785,302	\$3,939,546	\$4,156,979
December **	\$4,499,930	\$ 5,617,935	\$4,726,179	\$4,725,175	\$4,831,120
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 43,828,160</b>	<b>\$ 46,849,835</b>	<b>\$ 46,799,995</b>	<b>\$ 48,384,680</b>	<b>\$ 50,699,516</b>

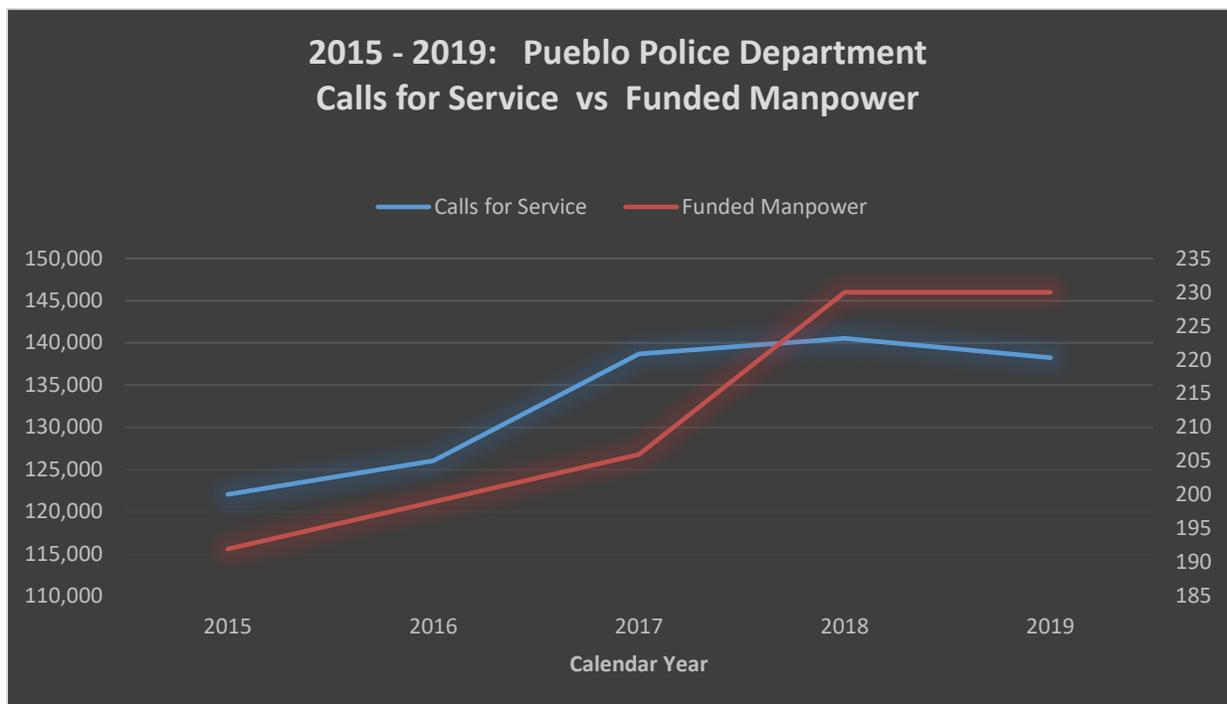
\*\*December 2019 receipts estimated.

*Public Safety is a core service provided by city government, and accounts for 54% of the city budget.*



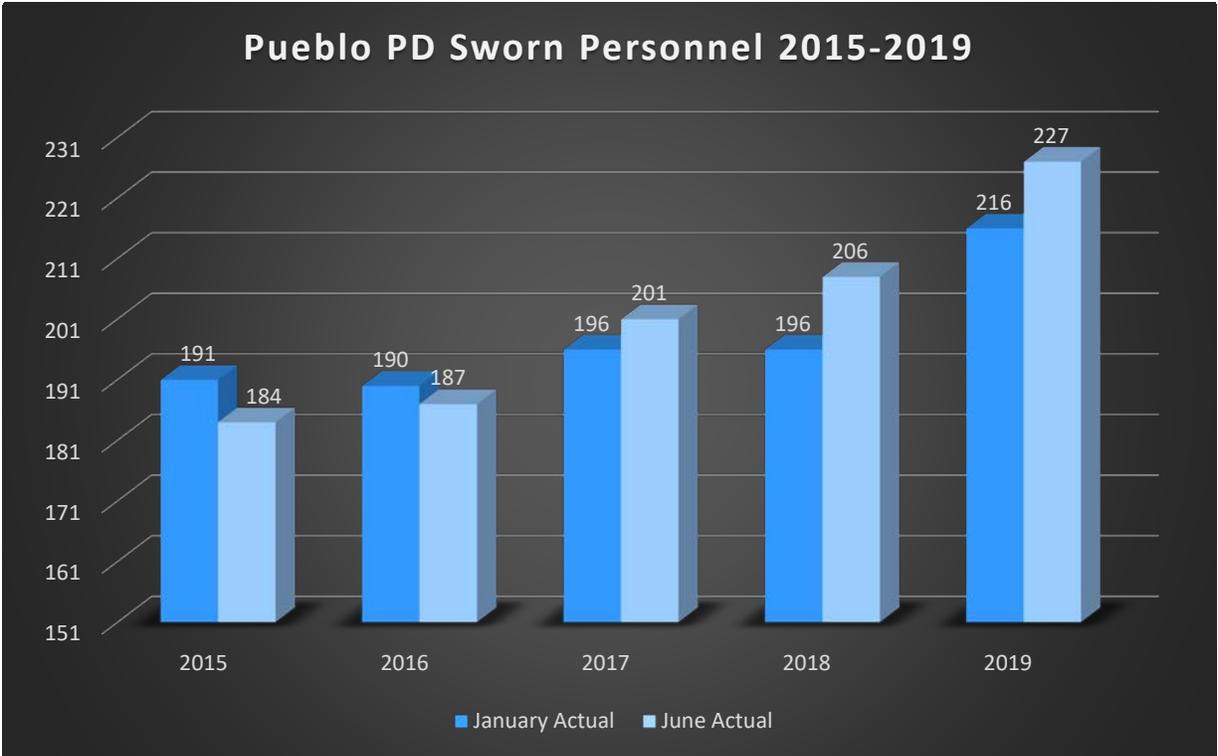
## Police Department

The manpower picture in 2019 continued to improve as a result of the “Public Safety Sales Tax”. Since the passage of the Public Safety Sales Tax in November 2017, the Police Department has been engaged in two very large police academies in order to train the additional officers. As a result, the sworn ranks of the department have grown, and the community has benefited from a variety of positive results. In February 2020 the department will begin Academy Class #62 with approximately fifteen (15) additional new officers in attendance. Increased manpower has been very beneficial in the delivery of police services to our community. The following graphical illustrations highlight some of the differences that have been realized by the additional manpower.

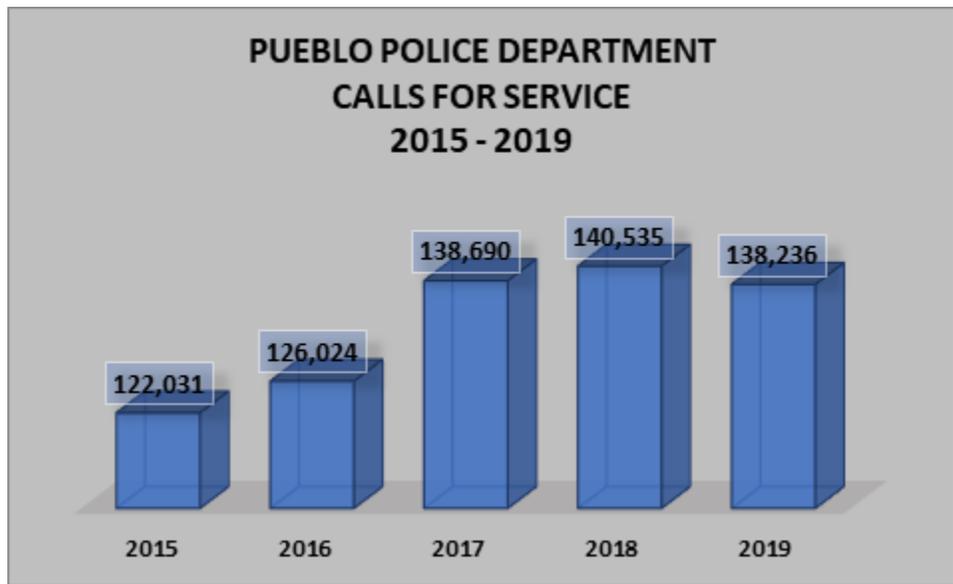


Officers also need to be properly equipped to deliver service to the citizens of Pueblo. During the year, Mayor Gradisar approved the acquisition of additional marked units and a body worn camera refresh that gives our new officers equipment and technology to create great cases with great evidence and provide transparency for our community.

The manpower picture shifts and changes over time in any given year. The following graphical representation illustrates this dynamic and the need to adjust and be flexible over the course of the year.

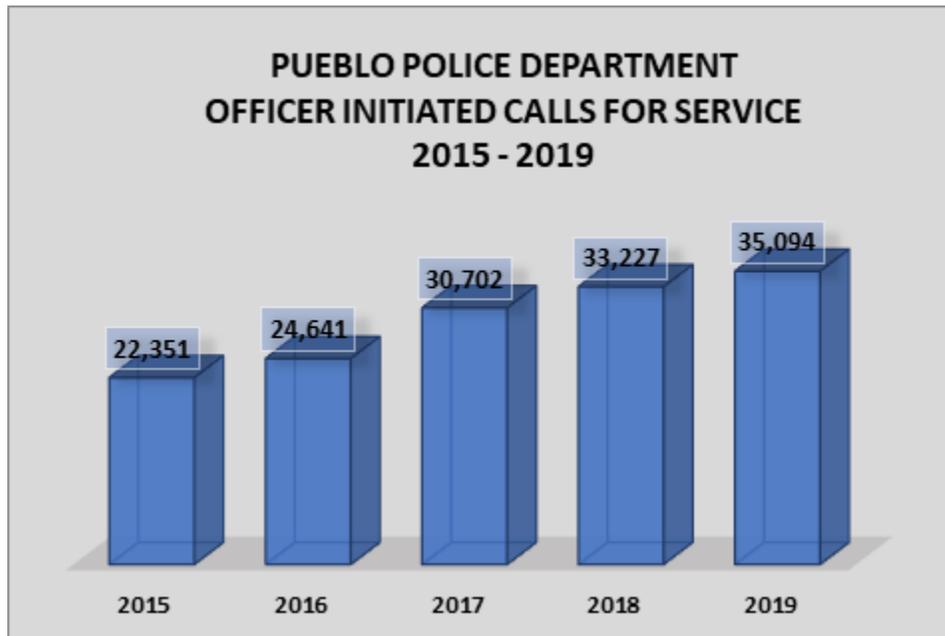


While the call volume for police service continues to be very high, for the first time since 2015, the volume has dropped slightly.

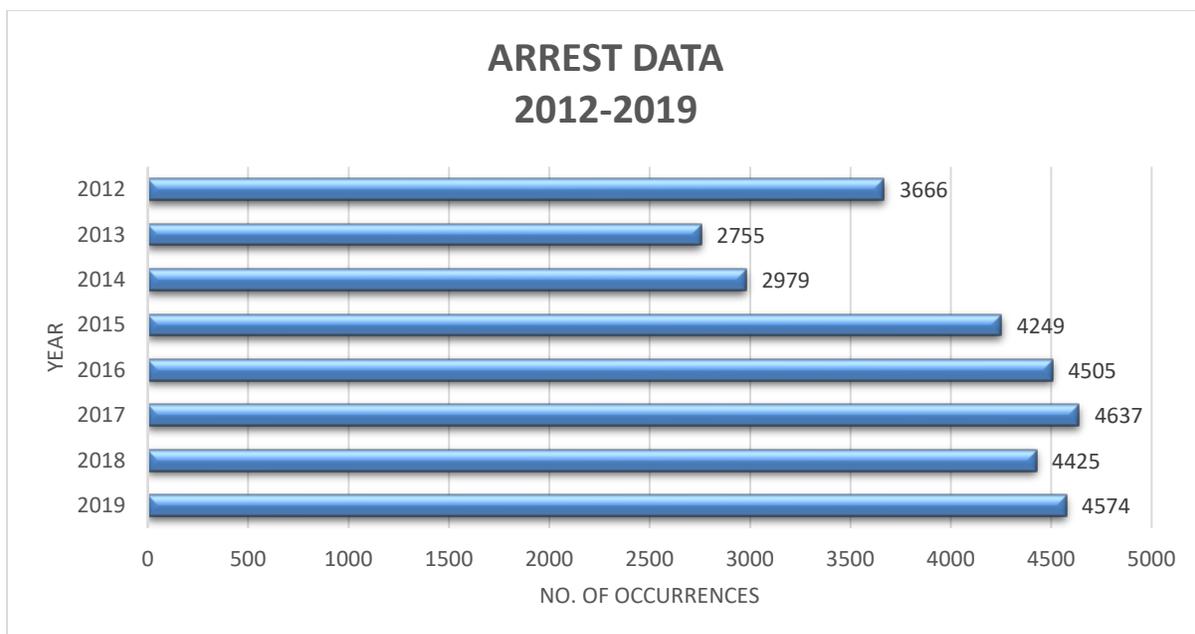


Another positive sign connected to the additional manpower as well as the culture of service embraced by the officers is a marked increase in “Officer-Initiated Calls for Service”. Officer-initiated activity includes traffic stops, walker and suspicious vehicle stops, and officers identifying crimes in progress and independent of a call for service from a citizen taking action to prevent crime. Additional manpower equates to additional

visibility and opportunities to engage in proactive directed patrol activity.



Arrest is one tool uniquely assigned to law enforcement to positively affect public safety. The Law Enforcement environment continues to be a challenging one on a variety of levels however arrest data and traditional law enforcement techniques have proven to work as evidenced by the increase in arrests versus the decrease in crime rates for a variety of Part I Crimes.



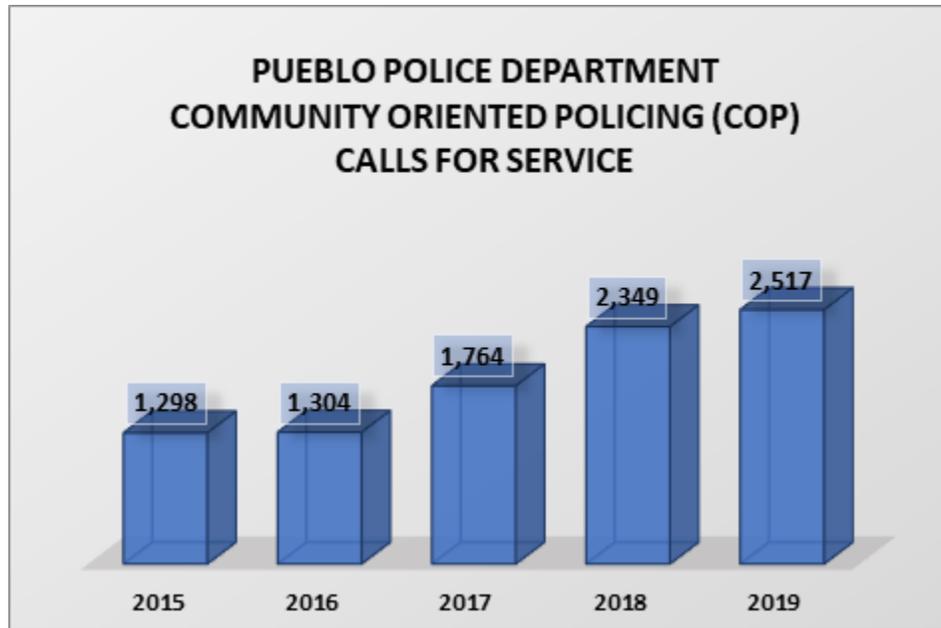
January 1-December 30			
Nature	2018	2019	% Δ
Homicide	9	13	44%
Sexual Assault	211	185	-12%
Robbery	225	184	-18%
Aggravated Assault	585	563	-4%
Burglary	1246	963	-23%
Theft/Larceny	4073	3552	-13%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1115	830	-26%
Arson	76	67	-12%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7540</b>	<b>6357</b>	<b>-16%</b>

Additional manpower has also had a very positive effect on response times.

YEAR END RESPONSE TIME (Call Received to 1st Arrive)				
	2017 (Year End)	2018 (Year End)	2019 (Year End)	Change between 2018 and 2019 (Year End)
Priority	2017	2018	2019	Response Time Change
1	000:12:34	000:12:16	000:10:18	- 1 Min 58 Sec
2	000:19:32	000:17:16	000:15:06	- 2 Min 10 Sec
3	000:44:49	000:39:53	000:31:30	- 8 Min 23 Sec
4	001:17:45	001:04:47	000:45:15	- 19 Min 32 Sec
5	001:05:30	000:55:39	000:54:39	- 9 Min 51 Sec
6	001:47:45	001:17:56	000:58:53	- 19 Min 3 Sec

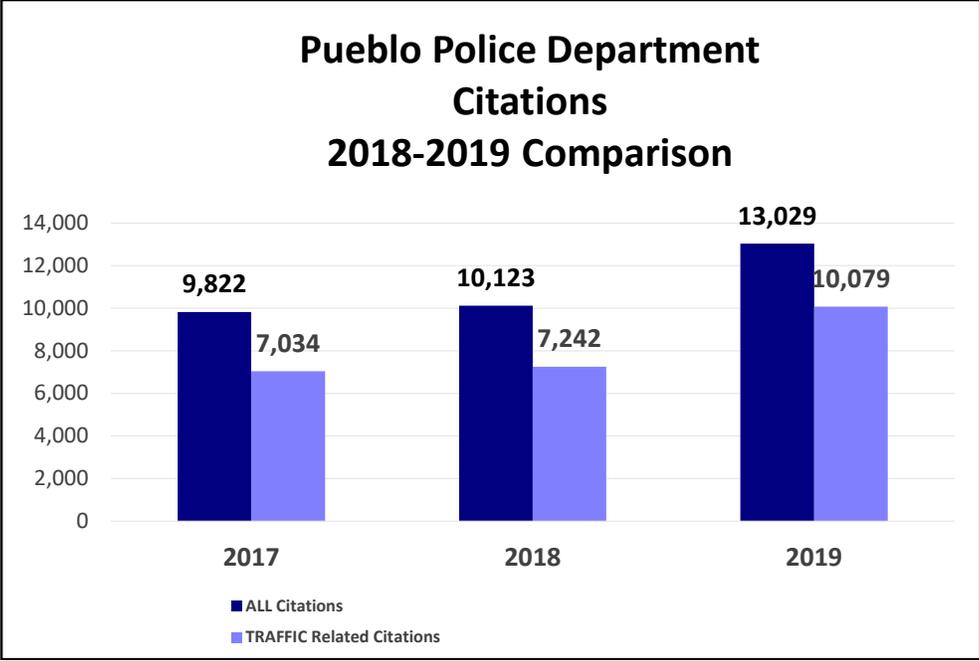
Policing in the today's times is two-pronged. One-part law enforcement and one-part community relationships and connectedness. The Pueblo Police Department has engaged in meaningful "Community Oriented Policing Projects" in select areas of the city with additional favorable results. The department has invested additional manpower resources in Community Oriented Policing via a variety of efforts. The department has continued to develop "Community Oriented Policing Projects" as well as engagement in community supported projects. The department continues to reach out to members of

our community to determine what our citizens see as opportunities for police/citizen partnership to solve problems. The following chart indicates a marked increase in “Community Oriented Policing Calls for Service”.

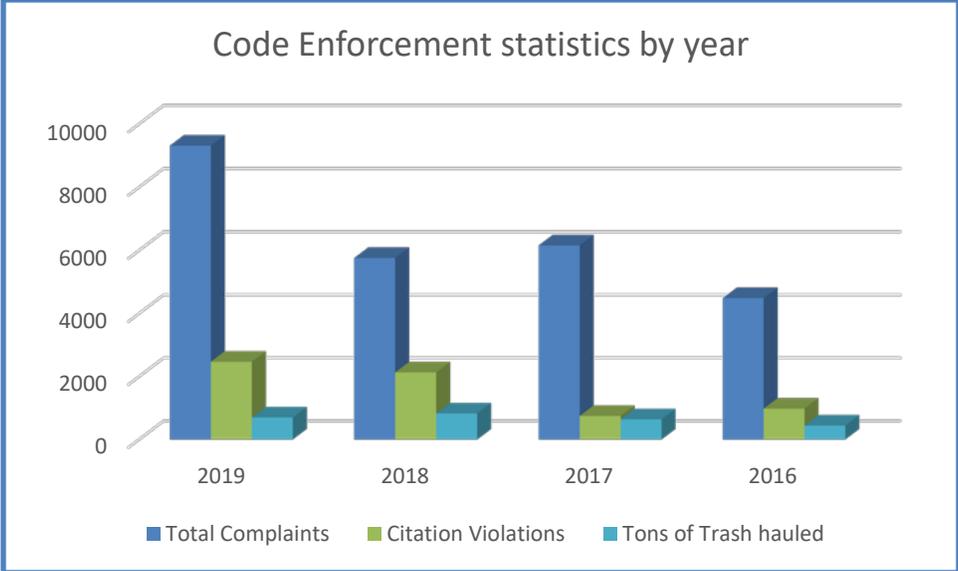


In 2019 the Pueblo Police Department engaged in five specific “Community Oriented Policing Projects” in specific neighborhoods in our city. The Officers who work those neighborhoods identified issues they wanted to solve, engaged the citizens who lived in those neighborhoods to determine what they saw as issues to be dealt with, and as a team realized some excellent results. One neighborhood realized a 70% decrease in burglaries, another saw a 56% decrease. Additionally, officers met with citizens in meeting places within their neighborhoods, and visited with them in their yards, driveways, schools, and parks.

Traffic enforcement has long been a concern in our city. The amount of enforcement rose considerably in 2019 as indicated by the chart below.



In the same spirit of a two-pronged approach to policing (enforcement-community connectedness) the Traffic Division of the Pueblo Police Department engaged in another DUI prevention practical exercise and demonstration during our Prom Season. The Traffic Officers have teamed up with our School Resource Officers, Drive Smart, and other organizations to prevent heartache and tragedy in our community. Finally, Code Enforcement has been a significant and important topic for our city over time. Code Enforcement addresses quality of life issues in neighborhoods. Year after year the Code Enforcement Unit of the Pueblo Police Department have increased their productivity and activity. In 2019, proactive projects were undertaken in several areas of our city, thus improving the livability and aesthetic value of those neighborhoods. Please see the chart below regarding Code Enforcement efforts.



Our city is on a positive trajectory. The Pueblo Police Department is fully committed to working collaboratively with our citizens to continue that momentum.

<b>CODE ENFORCEMENT</b>						
<b>Complaint/Violations Handled</b>						
<b>Type</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>		
Litter	2564	2086	2270	1715		
Weeds	2994	1660	2136	1543		
Litter removal and storage	1441	231	New ordinance went into effect 04/25/18			
Junk Vehicles	776	561	551	410		
Zoning	410	434	443	311		
International Property Maint.	286	220	173	158		
Marijuana	54	59	95	89		
Graffiti	26	5	2	5		
Board up	210	200	172	109		
Other	550	303	315	147		
<b>Total</b>	<b>9311</b>	<b>5759</b>	<b>6157</b>	<b>4487</b>		
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>11854</b>	<b>9098</b>	<b>8228</b>	<b>6312</b>		
<b>Case Status</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>		
Notice of Violation Issued	3001	2077	2217	1748		
Summons Violations Issued	2467	2129	746	978		
Closed	2846	2126	2133	2348		
Unfounded	213	156	449	230		
Other or In Progress	247	174	592	30		
<b>Abatements Performed</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>		
Litter	258	220	194	238		
Weeds	249	196	184	257		
Board up	64	94	24	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>495</b>		
<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>		
Tons to landfill	<b>698.51</b>	827.0	638.74	439.9		
		3	5			
Tires	2659	1826	1524	1196		

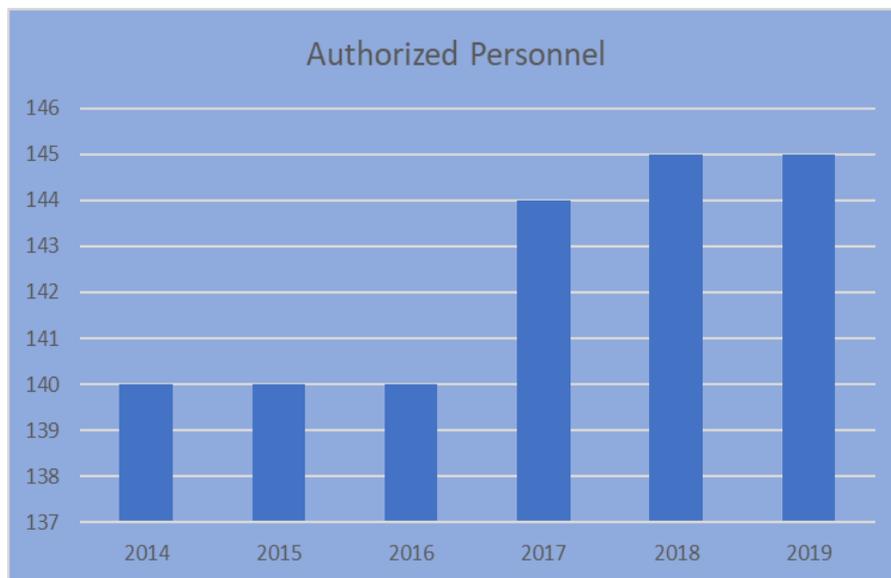
% of change from 2018-2019

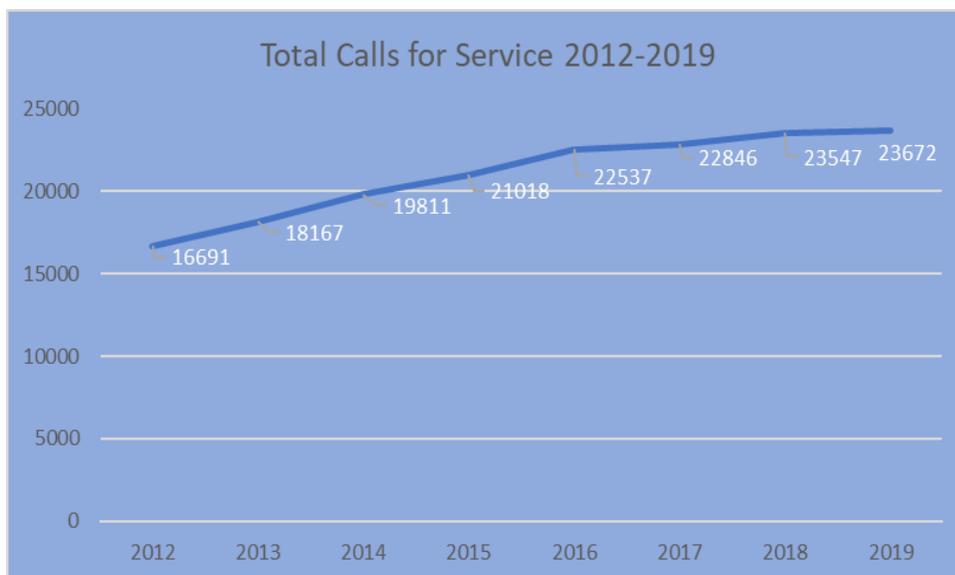
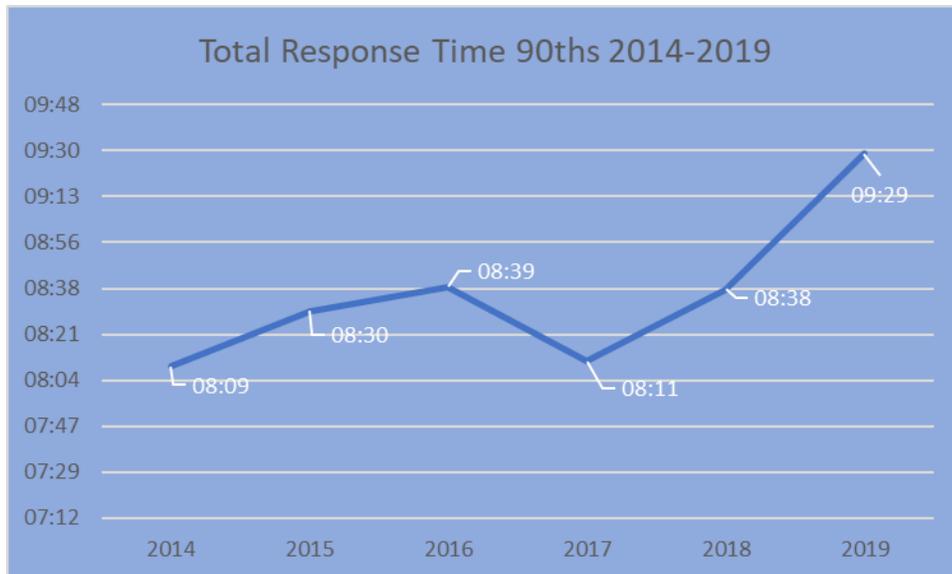
Violations handled 62% increase  
 Notices of violation issued 45% increase  
 Summons violations issued 16% Increase

## *Fire Department*

The Fire Department is an all-hazards emergency response agency providing firefighting, advanced life support (ALS) emergency medical service, hazardous materials response, and a multi-discipline technical rescue team. The department additionally provides fire prevention, public education, fire investigation, and community risk reduction services. The department has 145 members that staff ten fire stations and administrative positions within the department.

Authorized staffing levels remained constant in 2019 in comparison to 2018.





The overall reason total response time went up in 2019 was the implementation of the Priority Dispatch and the learning curve associated with that from the dispatch center. The alarm handling 90th went up over 60%, while turnout time went up about 4% and travel time was up about .5%.

The year 2020 should result in an improvement for the Fire Department as dispatch has improved their times since implementation of the Priority Dispatch system, though as they said at the Accreditation Retreat, they will never get back to where they used to be, which means Fire Department numbers will never be what they used to be, because our total response time includes the alarm handling time.

## **Pueblo Memorial Airport**

*Operated by the City of Pueblo Department of Aviation, the Pueblo Memorial Airport provides safe, secure, and reliable facilities for the transportation of people and materials into the National Airspace System. This is accomplished through professionalism, integrity, a high level of training, and by being responsive to the needs of the community as well as the tenants of the airport. In 2018 and 2019, the airport was the recipient of more than \$7.5 million in Federal Aviation Administration and CDOT-Aeronautics grants which improved airfield drainage by the installation of ramp islands and saw the start of the wildlife perimeter fencing project. This funding also helped to begin a master plan study for the airport.*

<b>Airport Facts</b>			
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Runways</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Taxiways</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total Paved Area</b>	<b>7,22,5737</b>	<b>7,225,737</b>	<b>6,667,737</b>
<b>Acres of Land</b>	<b>3,534</b>	<b>3,534</b>	<b>3,534</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalent Employees</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Federal/State Grants</b>	<b>3,851,643</b>	<b>3,315,790</b>	<b>4,231,372</b>

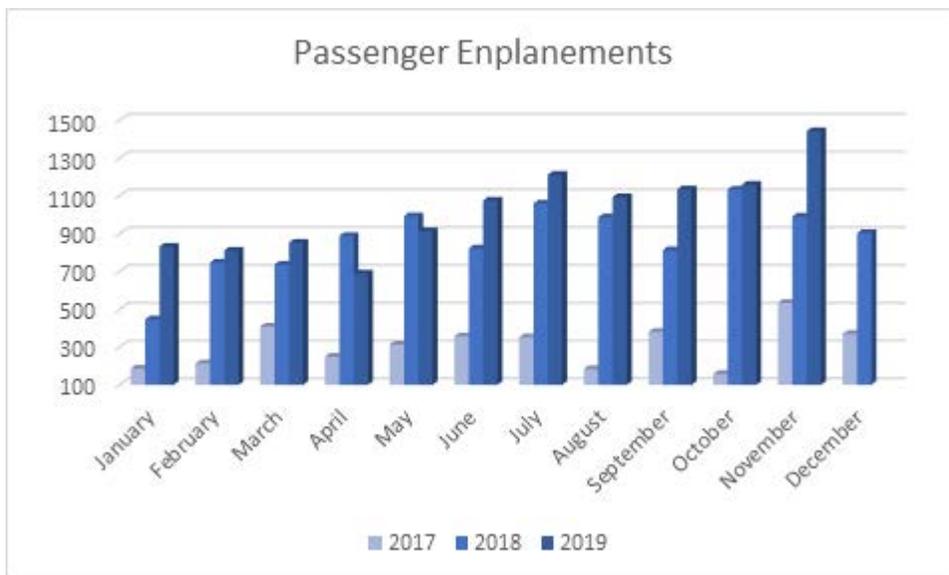


*The Pueblo Memorial Airport continues to be one of the busiest airports in Colorado, seeing over 200,000 aircraft operations. This has been a steady increase over the last few years due to the increased flight training by L3Harris-Doss, military operations and general aviation usage. The passenger enplanements have also increased since 2017. In 2017, passenger enplanements totaled 3,697; in 2018, they*

*totaled 10,512; and, as of November 2019, the passenger enplanements total is 11,206. This passenger enplanement increase is due to SkyWest Airlines being awarded the Essential Air Service (EAS) contract in December 2017. In November 2019, SkyWest Airlines was awarded the EAS contract to continue operations for another three-year term. SkyWest flies under the United Express brand, offering full integration into the United Airlines network, including its airline partners worldwide.*

The service has been a significant improvement, allowing the Pueblo community a convenient travel experience. The cost of flying out of Pueblo is offset by free parking, eliminating a drive north, and the convenience of an uncongested terminal that embodies the experience of flying out of a smaller airport.

The following graph illustrates the positive growth the airport has experienced over the last few years. Pueblo Airport has now reached the important +10,000 passenger enplanement number both in 2018 and 2019. Reaching this milestone provides us an opportunity to be considered for an additional \$1 million in FAA funding.



## *City Clerk's Office*

The City of Pueblo is supported by over 30 Boards and Commissions, comprised of over 200 citizen volunteers and staff. The selection as an active member of a Board or Commission provides a valuable opportunity for genuine public service and a chance to become involved in different aspects of local government. We appreciate and thank the following members of our Boards and Commissions for their contribution and service.

<b><i>Boards &amp; Commission:</i></b>	<b><i>Members</i></b>
Board of Appeals – Building	Chad Pulsifer Brian Gray Steve Weidner Matthew Dick Robert Leverington Mark Kleven
Board of Appeals – Electrical	Jose DelaTorre Larry Moore Matt Klein Charles Montera Seth Boutilier Daniel Henderson Albert Herrera
Board of Appeals – Mechanical	Steve Girodo Louis Fesmire II John Krall Robert Vigil Katherine Cox Pat Noga
Board of Appeals - Plumbing	Lance Harvey Dan White John Chrisman Kenneth Gulley Dennis Gardner Kent Stringer
Board of Elections	Gloria Escorcia Alvin Rivera
Board of Health	Dr. Michael Nerenberg Ed Brown Donald Moore Garrison Ortiz Eileen Dennis

<p>Community Commission on Housing and Homelessness (CCHH)</p>	<p>Alexis Ellis  Ashleigh Winans  Chris Gladney  Brian Brewer  Brittney Moudy  Bryan Gallagher  Joe Garcia  Caroline Trani  Chelsea Stromberg  Chris Wiseman  DesiRae Arrieta  Donald Moore  Galen Beaver  Holden Young  Joe Musso  Joe O'Brien  Judy Solano  Kathy Cline  Kerry Kramer  Linda Musso  Mark Aliff  Melissa Nereson  Randy Evetts  Reah Santangelo  Sara Rose  Pat Fleming  Lee Karr  Teah Miller  Christine Zeitvogel  Tim Hart  Tracey Sample  Veronica Gold  Nina Vetter  Susan Cotterman  Eileen Dennis</p>
<p>Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC)</p>	<p>Shaundawna Ferguson  Regina Purcell  Nick Trejo  Erik Bergethon  Deborah Nava Watson  William Carrero  Linda Crawford  Henry Roman  Teresa Trujillo  James Wiley  Tony Montoya  Cynthia Ortiz Fuentes</p>

	David Nick Potter Barbara Vidmar Paula Chostner Bryan Gallagher Ashley Huggins
El Centro Del Quinto Sol Rec Center Board of Directors	Floyd Jaramillo Javier Quinones
FIRE Board of Appeals	Michael Carlisle Richard Dilorio Gary Micheli
Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control & Greenway District	Greg Lauer Larry Atencio Richard Skorman Terry Hart Loginos Gonzalez Leroy Mauch Jane Rhodes
HARP Authority Board of Directors	Megan Kroeze David Anderson Seth Clayton Dennis Maroney Terry Hart Dee Roger Brown
HARP Foundation Board of Directors	Dave Anderson Larry Ohrdorf Ken White Laurie Kilpatrick Betty Martinez Bill Vidmar Chris Wiseman Dustin Hodge Marty Garcia Ken West Taylor Voss Matt Centner Monica Carruth
Historic Preservation Commission	Jason Falsetto Laurel Campbell Karen Knight Gregory Howell
Honor Farm Enterprise Citizens Advisory Board	Christopher Bratnick Edward Butkovich Robert Cancellieri Edward Renck Michael Lowe Bob Neumeister

	Kyle Rayburn
Housing Authority of City of Pueblo Board of Directors	Lenny Valdez John Ribal Jack Quinn Jack Pietrzak Theodore Ortiviz
Liquor and Beer Licensing Board	Jan Shafer Ashley Sowinski Mary Montgomery Anthony Pullaro Steven Cornetta
Planning and Zoning Commission	Elizabeth Bailey Alex San Filippo-Rosser Patrick Avalos Brandice Eslinger Mike Castellucci
Pueblo City-County Library Board of Trustees	Philip Mancha Doreen Martinez Dustin Hodge Frederick Quintana Lyndell Gairaud Stephanie Garcia
Pueblo Conservancy District	Matt Cordova Paul Willumstad Corinne Koehler Ronald Serna Jerry Martin Roger O'Hara Donna Phillips Barbara Bernard Dennis Maroney
Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority Board of Directors	Ed Brown Jason Schierling Kurt Madic Terry Hart Allan McConnell Patsy Cresswell Eileen Dennis
Pueblo Human Relations Commission	Kathleen Javaneau Robert Long Shelly Dunham Gretchen Dypold Georgia Way Emily Price Cody Rasmussen Ed Brown

	<p>Thomas Carrigan  Floyd Jaramillo  M. Patricia O'Brien  Jesse Sena  Jean Flynn Ray  Melanie Alphin</p>
Pueblo Memorial Airport Advisory Committee	<p>James Burt  James Redmond-Palmer  Walter Ross  Paulette Stuart  Erick Javaneau  Philip Mancha  Michael Occhiato  Larry Ohrdorf  Chris Wiseman  Terrance Terrill  Jamie DeVencenty</p>
Pueblo Municipal Golf Course (Elmwood & Walking Stick)	<p>Mary Beth Roth  Ron Padilla  Michael Ricottone  Alana Anderson  Tammy Fesmire</p>
Pueblo Regional Building Commission	<p>Albert Herrera  John Ribal  Jason Olds  Patrick Noga  Kent Stringer  Louis Spera  Garrison Ortiz  Mark Kleven  David Vaughn</p>
Pueblo Streetscape Advisory Committee	<p>William Adams  Karen Gale  Barbara Vidmar  Laura Winner  Steve Montez  Steven Schroeder  Rebecca Knapp</p>
Retail & Medical Marijuana Licensing Authority	<p>Carla Flores  Peggy Archuletta  Kimberly Archuletta  Tom Rose  Joseph Perko</p>
Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conf Center Board of Trustees	<p>Janet Cresswell  Warren Diodosio  Chris Milliken  Kathy Bacino</p>

	Alex Degler Nina Vetter Constance Little
Urban Renewal Authority	Rita Gersick Meagan Koncilja Louie Carleo Ralph Williams David Abeyta Patrick Avalos Donald Banner Betty Martinez Dr. James Valenzuela
Zoning Board of Appeals	Steve Anselmo Yvonne Lujan-Slak Mike Castellucci Sarah French Elizabeth Bailey

## *Department of Housing and Citizen Services*



The Department strives to preserve and enhance the quality and livability of the City's older neighborhoods and preserve the housing stock; to maintain the value of the real estate tax base; and to promote the economic viability and development of city neighborhoods. The department's mission is aided in part by the administration of two federal grants, funding for community services, and an annual private activity bond allocation.

In 2019, the City's Private Activity Bond Allocation was used in concert with 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credits to finance the acquisition and rehabilitation of a 155-unit, affordable housing project. The \$15M project utilized a Rental Assistance Demonstration grant from HUD to provide project based rental assistance allowing the units to remain affordable to low income families within our community for the next 30 years.

The City collaborated with the Pueblo Rescue Mission, the State Division of Housing, and Pueblo County to identify a homeless shelter site in the City of Pueblo and provide year-round shelter service for the homeless community. The collaboration succeeded in securing \$1.6M in funding for the construction and operation of the shelter. Construction is currently underway, and completion is anticipated in the first quarter of 2020.

Community Development Block Grant funds were used to rehabilitate 17 owner-occupied homes throughout the City. Projects entailed roof replacements, exterior painting, accessibility modifications, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical code compliant repairs or retrofits.

Enlisting the help of local non-profit agencies and service providers, the Community Services Advisory Commission and Citizens Advisory Committee recommended grant funds to 27 agencies, assisting 36,108 individuals in 2019. The Department managed \$1.4M in grant service contracts providing infrastructure improvements and public services to include homeless prevention, substance abuse programs, victim's assistance, youth recreation programs, mentoring, daycare, senior transportation, museums and cultural events.

2019 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3	Units
Public Infrastructure – Accessibility Improvements	Intersections of Santa Fe & Mesa and Lakeview & Prairie (underway)
Park Improvements	Installation of a basketball court at El Centro del Quinto Sol Park
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	17 households served
Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing	155 Units Rehabilitated
Leverage	\$15M Outside dollars invested in the community
2019 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3	Individuals
Public Services – Total	36,108 Unduplicated individuals served by the programs
Senior Transportation	2246 Unduplicated Seniors were served by the programs
After School Programs and Youth Recreation	Youth programs served 6278 unduplicated individuals
Youth Mentoring	45 At-Risk Youth were served by the programs
Childcare	184 Children were provided daycare service
Homeless Prevention	3605 unduplicated individuals, youth, and families with children received assistance through funded programs
Substance Abuse	1395 Unduplicated individuals received assistance through substance abuse programs
Food Assistance Programs	13507 duplicated individuals received assistance through funded programs. 2.6 Million pounds of food were distributed.
Victim Services	1958 Unduplicated individuals received services through funded programs
Disability Programs	566 Unduplicated individuals received job training, employment, and services to maintain independent living.
Education (Tutoring & Scholarships)	977 Unduplicated individuals received assistance to obtain their GED, individualized tutoring, or assistance applying for higher education scholarships.
Cultural/Museum Activities	19360 Duplicated individuals visited a funded museum or cultural event.
Financial Services	1419 Individuals received tax preparation services

In 2018, construction continued moving forward on a \$14M, 72-unit, affordable housing project utilizing the City’s HOME Investment Partnership Funds. Twenty-eight owner-occupied homes were repaired, and 5 rehabilitation projects were completed using Community Development Block Grant funds.

Through grants given to local non-profit agencies and service providers, the Community Services Advisory Commission and the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended grant funds for 30 non-profit agencies, assisting 38,906 individuals in 2018. The Department managed \$1.7M in grant service contracts providing a fire engine, infrastructure improvements, and public services.

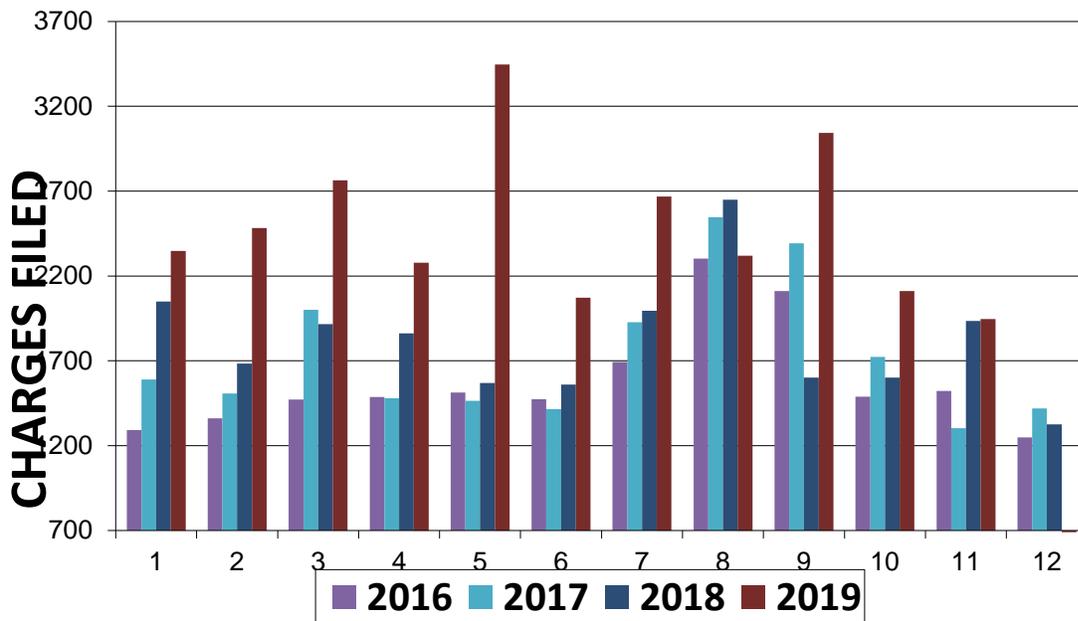
2018 Activities	Units
Public Infrastructure – Accessibility Improvements	Installation of accessible curb rams along Greenwood Avenue between 10 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> Streets. And, along Berkley Avenue and Claremont Avenue between Smith and Lakeview Avenues.
Community Investment	Purchased Fire Engine No. 34 for Fire Station No. 4
Park Improvements	Installation of playground equipment at St. Anne’s Park and a gazebo shelter at Portland Park.
Playground Equipment	New play equipment installed at the Southside Childcare Center.
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	33 households served
Construction of Affordable Housing	72 New units
Leverage	\$15M Outside dollars invested in the community

2018 Activities	Individuals
Public Services – Total	38,906 Unduplicated individuals served by the programs
Senior Transportation	1,037 Unduplicated Seniors were served by the programs
After School Programs and Youth Recreation	Youth programs served 5,713 unduplicated individuals
Childcare	112 Children were provided daycare service
Homeless Prevention	1,497 unduplicated individuals, youth, and families with children received assistance through funded programs
Substance Abuse	1,885 Unduplicated individuals received assistance through substance abuse programs
Victim Services	3,702 Unduplicated individuals received services through funded programs
Disability Programs	900 Unduplicated individuals received job training, employment, and services to maintain independent living.
Education (Tutoring & Scholarships)	244 Unduplicated individuals received assistance to obtain their GED, individualized tutoring, or assistance applying for higher education scholarships.
Cultural/Museum Activities	13,065 Duplicated individuals visited a funded museum or cultural event.
Financial Services	1345 Individuals received tax preparation services

## Pueblo Municipal Court

The City of Pueblo Municipal Court’s mission is to provide an efficient, equitable, and impartial forum to hear and resolve alleged violations of the City of Pueblo Municipal Code, to impose appropriate consequences, and to effectively and efficiently collect fines, costs, and penalties due the City of Pueblo. Pueblo Municipal Court is a court of record with exclusive original jurisdiction over all causes of action arising under the Charter and ordinances of the City of Pueblo. Municipal Court has concurrent jurisdiction with state courts on certain traffic infractions, traffic offenses and criminal violations.

*The number of charges filed in Municipal Court have steadily increased over the last several years from 18,965 in 2016 to 27,479 in 2019 (through November 30, 2019).*

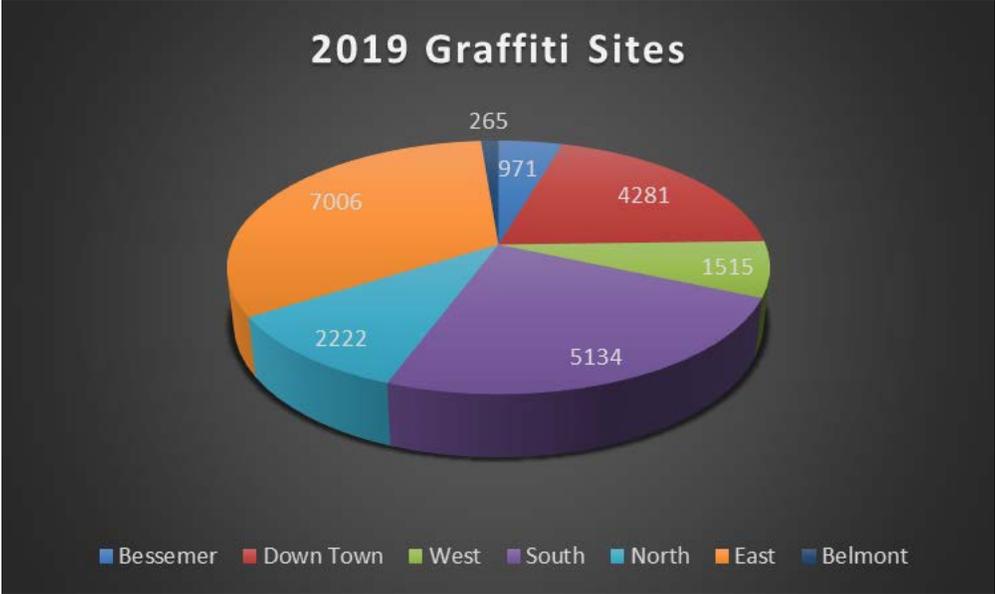


2019	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TRAFFIC TICKETS	546	850	955	542	644	560	582	839	1051	771	584		7924
GENERAL OFFENSE-ADULT	166	223	250	283	280	245	389	283	298	204	147		2768
GENERAL OFFENSE-JUVENILES	52	76	54	92	107	59	30	73	72	93	98		806
ANIMAL OFFENSES	5	11	22	39	77	49	62	96	39	21	40		461
MISC. OFFENSES	560	452	722	400	798	230	672	368	897	449	395		5943
CODE ENFORCEMENT	389	257	184	181	312	166	236	133	88	120	250		2316
PARKING TICKETS	630	613	577	742	1229	762	697	527	599	453	432		7261
	<b>2348</b>	<b>2482</b>	<b>2764</b>	<b>2279</b>	<b>3447</b>	<b>2071</b>	<b>2668</b>	<b>2319</b>	<b>3044</b>	<b>2111</b>	<b>1946</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27479</b>

*Every defendant may work community service to work off fines assessed in their case with the exception of traffic infractions which must be paid in full at the time the defendant is found guilty or enters a plea of guilty or no contest. Last year adult and juvenile defendants worked off \$306,856.00 in fines and provided 30,686 hours of*

useful public service to the community.

Municipal Court operates its own community service program for juveniles and adults. The Program's primary mission is the removal of graffiti throughout the city. City Council approved an increase in the Court's 2019 budget to hire a full-time Community Service Coordinator. This has brought more consistent leadership to the Program. As a result, the Court's community service crews have been able to significantly increase the number of graffiti sites cleaned from 8,152 sites in 2018 to 21,394 sites in 2019 (through November 30, 2019). Graffiti removal occurs citywide.



The Community Service Program also operates a community garden. The garden is maintained by community service crews and all food grown in the garden is donated to the local soup kitchen or food bank.



*Compliance with all diversion programs, including community service is monitored by the Court's probation officers. Pueblo Municipal Court employs a full-time juvenile probation case manager and a part-time adult probation case manager. In 2019, the adult probation case manager monitored 146 cases and the juvenile probation case manager monitored 741 cases. In addition, the juvenile probation case manager has diligently worked to grow the Court's juvenile restorative justice diversion program. She actively engages in restorative justice in local schools and facilitates the restorative justice process in all cases the Court deems appropriate.*

Beginning in 2018, Municipal Court partnered with the Pueblo Police Department and other local agencies, companies and individuals to operate its Youth Development Boot Camp. The Youth Development Boot Camp is a six-week program that provides a comprehensive and collaborative systemic whole child approach to rehabilitation. The program accepts approximately 40 to 50 juveniles between 12 and 15 years of age generally with two or more criminal cases pending in Municipal Court and/or who have been identified by school counselors, school resource officers, family members or probation as candidates for the program because of high risk behavior. Successful graduation from boot camp satisfies all outstanding fines, costs and classes currently owed to Municipal Court by each of the participants. Close to 100 youth have been provided the opportunity to participate in this program.



## *Parks and Recreation*

The Parks and Recreation Department provides diverse recreational and leisure opportunities in safe, clean and attractive park and recreation facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to operate their expansive footprint despite having limited staff to keep the City’s parks healthy, safe, and green. The national average for number of FTE for a similar sized community is 8.5 FTE per 10,000 residents. Our department currently has forty (40) FTEs which equates to approximately 3.3 FTE per 10,000 residents. The department relies on approximately 300 seasonal and temporary employees throughout the year to maintain our parks and oversee our many recreation programs and facilities. Some of the most notable facilities include:



<b><i>Facilities</i></b>	<b><i>Number</i></b>
Developed Parks	80 parks (613 irrigated acres)
Open Space	3,849 acres
Streetscapes, Medians, and Highway ROW	39 acres
Playgrounds	42
Multi-Purpose Sports Fields	38 acres
Walking and Biking Trails	27 miles paved 5 miles soft surface
Flower Gardens	81 flower beds, 63 rose beds
Tree Maintenance	12,000 plus park and streetscapes
Tennis Court Complex	17 lighted courts
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	32 courts (16 lighted)
The Rides at City Park <i>(including George R. Williams Memorial</i>	11 rides

<i>Carousel)</i>	
Softball/Baseball Fields	5 adult, 3 youth
George L. Williams Indoor Pavilion	1
Municipal Golf Courses	2 courses (45 holes)
Mountain Park with amenities	1
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	4
Splash Pads	2
Ice Arena (indoor)	1
Skate Parks	2
Dog Park	1
Picnic Shelters and Outdoor Pavilions	11
Whitewater Kayak Park	1
Community Recreation Center <i>(El Centro del Quinto Sol)</i>	1
Zoo	1
Cemeteries	2
Lakes	4
Fountains	5
Statues and Monuments	31
Environmental Education Centers	2
Auto/Motorcycle Sports	3 tracks
Municipal Shooting Range (indoor)	1
Pro/Am Disc Golf Course	1
Concession Sites (in-house)	6

The 2019 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Performance Benchmarks indicate that the nationwide median for annual operating expenditures per capita for parks and recreation agencies are typically \$78.69. The Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department does more with less with \$54.50 per capita annual operating expenditures.

In recent years, the Mayor and City Council has recognized the importance of Parks and Recreation within our community by increasing FTE staffing levels and operating funding to help provide our team with the tools to produce the best parks and recreation experience that we can possibly offer. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to deliver quality services and programs. This past year has seen numerous quality projects become a reality.



Lake Minnequa – 1A Project got under contract with Pueblo County in 2019. Staff began working on the construction contracts for the expanded parking lot and resurfacing, restroom and concession building with plaza, park extension with additional turf athletic field area, park shelters, playground, park lighting and park signage. Request for Bids scheduled to go out in early January 2020 with the project moving dirt beginning April 2020 with anticipated completion the fall of 2020.

Arkansas River Levee Trail Construction Project received \$2 million in grant awards this past year. These grants will provide the project with two pedestrian bridges that will access the trail on the reconstructed levee from the existing trail southwest of the river.



In 2019, the department's playground repair and replacement program received some much-needed attention. With a new FTE certified CPSI Park Caretaker II – Playground

Inspector hired in 2018, the department has been able to concentrate on the existing City playgrounds and begin to create a master schedule for future needed replacement. The 2019 playground replacement project is currently happening in El Camino Park with support from the El Camino Home Owners Association (ECHO). This project will be completed in early 2020 with another playground replacement project being planned for fall 2020.

Over 4,500 visitors attended the second Annual Parks&Rec Fest in City Park this past year. This event was created to promote the department's upcoming summer programs, activities and events while offering our many partners and local businesses the same opportunity in a community park setting. The day was filled with plenty of free activities, food trucks, vendors, and a beer garden sponsored by a local non-profit organization. We are anticipating the 2020 event to be bigger and better!



The resurfacing project of the seventeen City Park Tennis Complex Courts started in 2018 and was completed in time for the Colorado State High School 4A Boys State Tennis Championships in October 2019.





The old wooden City Park Caboose Picnic Deck was replaced this past spring with a larger concrete deck complete with new picnic tables and umbrellas. This facility is a very popular birthday party rental facility during the late spring and throughout the summer and early fall.

The east Goodnight Avenue entrance to City Park is going back in time! The old historic entrance has received new life with the help of volunteers from the Aberdeen neighborhood. Replicas of the missing griffins have been completed and are awaiting the likewise urn replicas to be completed sometime this fall. A new sign will be installed onto the stone wall soon after all the sculptures are mounted. Look for an announcement for a ribbon cutting ceremony sometime early 2020!



On December 14, 2019, the Korean War Memorial, which was donated by the Arkansas Valley Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was unveiled to an appreciative crowd of veterans and citizens. The memorial was surrounded by numerous American flags as well as several flags representing every branch of the U.S. military. The beautiful monument is located at West 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Elizabeth Street Parkway and sits just south of the Vietnam War Memorial. Future enhancements will include lighting and trees.



Elmwood Golf Course was the focus of several projects this past year. The clubhouse restrooms were completely renovated, the kitchen floor was replaced, and the course received an outdoor scoreboard donation from a local business owner. Golf Course Maintenance team planted over eighty shade and pine trees throughout the course and near the clubhouse with more trees to be planted in 2020.

## **Planning & Community Development**

*The Planning & Community Development Department completes the review and approval of land use applications and zoning compliance reviews, designated historic building modifications, development submittals for new and expanded commercial and industrial locations, and conditional use permits for marijuana businesses. The submittals include Planning & Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals applications, in addition to the administrative review of zoning and compliance requests. The number of land use applications and certifications totaled 1,524 in 2019, similar in comparison to 2018. In 2019 fourteen City grant applications were approved, totaling \$2,184,290 including the Arkansas River Levee Trail Improvements in cooperation with the Pueblo Conservancy District, the Goodnight Barn Restoration Project, Bessemer Academy Playground in cooperation with Pueblo City Schools, Gateway to the Southwest Sculptures, Senior Center HVAC Improvements, Pueblo Visitor Center, Pueblo Downtown Historic Building Survey, and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. The department also manages upgrades and maintenance of city streetscapes and numerous capital projects. The maintenance of existing public streetscapes is managed by the department in consultation with the City Streetscape Advisory Committee. The regional transportation planning through an agreement with the Pueblo Area Council of Governments continues to be an important function of the department. Three internal teams were established in 2019 consisting of the Land Use Development, Projects, and Transportation Planning.*

*An Opportunity Zone Community Prospectus was launched online in 2019 for the nine Opportunity Zones in Pueblo focusing on the downtown, industrial sectors, additional incentives for projects, interactive mapping, a review of potential projects in Pueblo. The designated Opportunity Zones are Corona Park, Downtown, Eilers Heights, EVRAZ Industrial District, Lake Minnequa, Mesa Junction, Parkwest, St. Charles Industrial Park, and State Fair. The newly enacted federal Opportunity Zones provide a federal tax incentive for qualifying private equity investments in businesses and real estate in low-income urban and rural communities through the reinvestment of capital gains and forgiveness of tax on new capital gains.*

*In 2019 the Land Use Administrator filed an administrative determination authorizing the issuance of Conditional Use Permits allowing for a mixture of commercial, office and residential uses within the same structure in the B-4 zone districts. This determination clarifies the ability of the upper floors and rear areas of downtown and other commercial structures to be redeveloped for offices, apartments and residences.*

*Amendments to the Municipal Code were approved in 2019 by City Council allowing for larger accessory structures (up to 200 sq. ft.) without having to be architecturally similar to primary structures on a property, and clarified which zone districts allow shipping containers used for storage units and where on a property they can be located.*

### **ATTACHMENTS**

*Exhibit A – Land Use Applications and Zoning Compliance Reviews (2017 – 2019)*

*Exhibit B – Planning & Community Development Grant Activities (2010 -2019)*

## EXHIBIT A

### LAND USE APPLICATIONS AND ZONING COMPLIANCE REVIEWS COMPARISON 2017 - 2019

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	24	38	34
Planning & Zoning (Actions)	13	9	8
Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)	42	46	28
Historic Preservation Commission	29	35	23
Administrative Approvals	58	96	88
Administrative Certifications	919	926	917
Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	<u>363</u>	<u>382</u>	<u>431</u>
Total	1448	1532	1529



**EXHIBIT A**  
**LAND USE APPLICATIONS AND ZONING COMPLIANCE REVIEWS**

<b>Planning &amp; Zoning (Recommendations)</b>	<b>2017 Applications</b>	<b>2018 Applications</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>
Property Rezoning	13	12	11
Annexations	2	2	9
Subdivision	5	11	8
R-O-W Vacations	3	7	1
Street Name Changes	1	0	2
Urban Renewal Plan	0	1	3
Special District Service Plans	0	5	0
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>

<b>Planning &amp; Zoning (Actions)</b>	<b>2017 Applications</b>	<b>2018 Applications</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>
Subdivision Special Area Plans	2	3	3
Phased Subdivision Master Plans	1	3	2
Development Plan Reviews	6	1	1
PUD Site Plan Reviews	4	2	2
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)</b>	<b>2017 Applications</b>	<b>2018 Applications</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>
Variances & Special Use Permits	42	46	28
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>

<b>Historic Preservation Commission</b>	<b>2017 Applications</b>	<b>2018 Applications</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>
Certificates of Appropriateness	11	11	3
Certified Local Gov't 106 Reviews	5	9	2
Historic Landmark Nominations	0	2	2
CLG & ADM DET	13	13	16
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>

<b>Administrative Certifications</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Business License Zoning Approval	639	635	624
Single -Family CO Inspections	114	115	110
Single – Family Applications	118	126	146
Zoning/Legal Non-Conforming Certificates	48	50	37

<b>Administrative Approvals</b>	<b>2017 Applications</b>	<b>2018 Applications</b>	<b>2019 Applications</b>
Commercial/Industrial Site Plan Review	17	29	32
Cell Tower Permits	9	27	16
Conditional Use Permits - Marijuana	21	23	27
Subdivision -Lot Line Rearrangements	5	9	7
Extraterritorial Water	2	5	1
Interim Use Permits	4	2	5
Activities of State Interest	0	1	0
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>88</b>

<b>Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Single Family	118	120	128
Single Family C.O.'s	114	121	110
Single Family Attached	0	6	18
Single Family Attached C.O.'s	0	4	6
Resident accessory structure	78	77	86
Resident additions	31	20	24
<b>Demos</b>			
Residential	21	11	28
Mobile Homes	1	23	31

## EXHIBIT B

### Planning & Community Development Department Grant Activities

Grants 2019	Year Grant Awarded	Amount
Arkansas River Levee Project (GOCO)	2019	\$1,238,500
Goodnight Barn Restoration Project (DOLA)	2019	\$ 530,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo County Commissioners)	2019	\$ 50,000
Gateway to the Southwest (El Pomar Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
Gateway to the Southwest Legacy Bank	2019	\$ 24,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo Bank & Trust)	2019	\$ 5,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Connect School)	2019	\$ 500
Pueblo Downtown Intensive Survey (State Historic Fund)	2019	\$ 20,616
Pueblo Visitor Center (El Pomar Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
Troy Avenue Streetscape (Private Donors)	2019	\$ 7,000
Bessemer Academy School Yard (GOCO)	2019	\$ 156,674
SRDA HVAC Project (SRDA Board)	2019	\$ 50,000
SRDA HVAC Project (Gates Family Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
EV Charging Stations (Colorado Energy Office)	2019	\$ 27,000
<b>Sub-Total 2019 - \$2,184,290</b>		



Planning & Community Development Department Grant Activities  
2010-2019

<u>Grants 2015 – 2019</u>	<u>Year Grant Awarded</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Arkansas River Levee Project (GOCO)	2019	\$1,238,500
Goodnight Barn Restoration Project (DOLA)	2019	\$ 530,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo County Commissioners)	2019	\$ 50,000
Gateway to the Southwest (El Pomar Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
Gateway to the Southwest Legacy Bank)	2019	\$ 24,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo Bank & Trust)	2019	\$ 5,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Connect School)	2019	\$ 500
Pueblo Downtown Intensive Survey (State Historic Fund)	2019	\$ 20,616
Pueblo Visitor Center (El Pomar Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
Troy Avenue Streetscape (Private Donors)	2019	\$ 7,000
Bessemer Academy School Yard (GOCO)	2019	\$ 156,674
SRDA HVAC Project (SRDA Board)	2019	\$ 50,000
SRDA HVAC Project (Gates Family Foundation)	2019	\$ 25,000
EV Charging Stations (Colorado Energy Office)	2019	\$ 27,000
<b>Sub-Total 2019 - \$2,184,290</b>		
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (DOLA)	2018	\$ 530,000
Gateway to the SW I-25 Art Project	2018	\$ 300,000
Corwin Community Park & Play Yard (GOCO)*	2018	\$ 110,000
Gateway to the SW I-25 Art Project	2018	\$ 50,000
Kaboom Playground – Leidigh Park (KaBOOM!,Inc)	2018	\$ 90,000
Kaboom Playground – Donley Park (KaBOOM!,Inc)	2018	\$ 90,000
<b>Sub-Total 2018 - \$1,170,000</b>		
Arkansas River Flood Levee Pedestrian Bridge (CDOT)	2017	\$ 500,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (SHF)	2017	\$ 201,900
Arkansas River Flood Levee Planning (CDOT)	2017	\$ 200,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Pueblo County)	2017	\$ 131,850
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Goodnight Barn Committee)	2017	\$ 76,500
Inspire Outdoor Strategy (GOCO)	2017	\$ 50,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (El Pomar Foundation)	2017	\$ 27,500
Arkansas River Flood Levee Planning (DOLA)	2017	\$ 25,000
<b>Sub-Total 2017 - \$1,212,750</b>		
Pueblo Convention Center Infrastructure (EDA)*	2016	\$1,031,960
Pueblo Convention Center Regional Tourism (DOLA)*	2016	\$ 947,826
*Note: Grants prepared with participation by the HARP staff		
Arkansas River Trail, Phase 4 (CDOT)	2016	\$ 616,494
Hose Co. No. 3 Fire House Rehabilitation (SHF)	2016	\$ 26,210
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Gersick Foundation)	2016	\$ 10,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Gates Foundation)	2016	\$ 20,000
<b>Sub-Total 2016 - \$ 2,652,490</b>		
City Hall Interior Renovation (DOLA)	2015	\$ 225,000



<b>Grants 2010-2014</b>	<b>Year Grant Awarded</b>	<b>Amount</b>
City Hall Interior Renovation (DOLA)	2014	\$ 600,000
City Hall Interior Renovation (SHF)	2014	\$ 200,000
Drew Dix Park Playground	2014	\$ 100,000
Kaiser Walk & Wheel Project (Kaiser Foundation)	2014	\$ 99,990
Wayfinding Sign Project, Ph2 (CDOT)	2014	\$ 41,300
Goodnight Barn Stabilization (SHF)	2014	\$ 31,762
<b>Sub-Total 2014 - \$ 1,073,052</b>		
City Hall Interior Renovation (Boettcher Foundation)	2013	\$ 50,000
City Hall Interior Renovation (Packard Foundation)	2013	\$ 50,000
Plug in to Nature (GOCO)	2013	\$ 45,000
Downtown HARP/RTA Master Plan (DOLA)	2013	\$ 25,000
<b>Sub-Total 2013 - \$1,010,000</b>		
Fountain Creek River Initiative (GOCO)	2012	\$1,301,350
West 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape (CDOT)	2012	\$ 350,000
Arkansas River Habitat, Ph 2 (CO Parks & Wildlife)	2012	\$ 336,100
Memorial Hall Enhancements (Various)	2012	\$ 228,000
East 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape Design (CDOT)	2012	\$ 80,000
Eiler's Community Built Survey (SHF)	2012	\$ 21,018
Goodnight Barn Structural Assessment (SHF)	2012	\$ 13,000
<b>Sub-Total 2012 - \$2,329,468</b>		
Northern Ave. Streetscape, Ph 2 TE Grant (CDOT)	2011	\$ 350,000
Grand Avenue Streetscape (CDOT)	2011	\$ 350,000
City & Memorial Hall Exterior Rehab. Ph 2 (SHF)	2011	\$ 200,000
Plaza Verde Trailhead & Trail (GOCO)	2011	\$ 80,000
4 <sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Artwork (CDOT)	2011	\$ 305,000
<b>Sub-Total 2011 - \$1,285,000</b>		
Santa Fe Streetscape Ph 2 TE Grant (CDOT)	2010	\$ 350,000
Arkansas River Trail Ph 2 TE Grant (CDOT)	2010	\$ 350,000
City Park Kiddie Rides (GOCO)	2010	\$ 200,000
PACOG Regional Planning (DOLA)	2010	\$ 30,000
<b>South Pueblo Historic Context Study (SHF)</b>		<b>\$ 29,000</b>
Pueblo Modern Historic Context Study (SHF)	2010	\$ 27,400
<b>Beltramo Property Enviro Assessment Ph 2 (EPA)</b>		<b>\$ 12,000</b>
<b>Beltramo Property Enviro Assessment Ph 1 (EPA)</b>		<b>\$ 6,000</b>
<i>Sub-Total 2010 - \$1,004,400</i>		
<b>Total Grant Awards 2009 - 2014</b>		<b>\$ 5,861,920</b>

## *Public Works*

The Public Works Department currently maintains approximately 1,300 *lane miles* (500 roadway miles) in the City of Pueblo. Roadway maintenance is one of the biggest struggles for the City. The demand for oil has created a significant cost increase over the past 18 years. In the year 2000, the cost of asphalt was \$30/ton. Today, the price is approximately \$75/ton. The cost of asphalt is the primary determinant of how many roadway miles can be resurfaced. In relation to this increase, factor in that the amount of funding from the State available to the City has not increased during this 20-year period. This has significantly impacted the City’s ability to properly maintain our existing roadway system. The recently implemented Street Repair Utility Enterprise fee, will be a key element in repairing our aging and failing roadway system.

Resurfacing projects in 2018 included Jerry Murphy Road (from Highway 47 to Candytuft Blvd), Santa Fe Ave. (from W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street to W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street at Mineral Palace Park), and the Main Street Bridge. The bridge project also included rehabilitation of the bridge’s structural elements.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Miles of paved roadway</i>	<i>Miles of Streets Resurfaced</i>	<i>Percentage of paved Roadway</i>
2017	498.42	1.00	0.20%
2018	498.34	1.36	.27%
2019	499.46	0	0%

*Currently, processes are in place to execute repairs this summer for roadways that have been classified for rehabilitation in 2020. Those roads are:*

<i>Year of Rehabilitation</i>	<i>Arterial Road Designation</i>
2020	Prairie Avenue*
2020	Outlook Blvd.
2020	Fortino Blvd.
2020	Greenwood Street

*\*Pending grant issuance in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2020.*

*The complete pavement management plan will be released within the next month, including a 5-year plan for road maintenance and repair.*

Maintaining the City’s roadways extends beyond Pavement. Public Works maintains curb and gutter, handicap ramps, alleyways, bridges, street markings, traffic signs, and traffic signals. Traffic signals require regular inspections to ensure that all the components are working properly. Signals are also monitored to ensure the timing will allow the traffic to cycle through the intersection appropriately.

Year	Traffic Signals	Roadway markings applied (approx.)	Street signs installed replaced or removed (approx.)
2017	148	172 Miles	1850 signs
2018	149	175 Miles	1900 signs
2019	150	175 Miles	1900 signs

In 2018 and 2019 Public Works completed the Fountain Creek Trail Project, HARP Gateway Project, and Pueblo RecycleWorks Recycling Center. The HARP Gateway Project added landscaping improvements and a pedestrian plaza. It also connected the plaza to the Convention Center’s newly constructed parking garage via a new pedestrian crossing. The Fountain Creek trail project replaced 1834 feet of damaged and flood-prone sections of the trail south of the E. 4th Street Bridge. Public Works’ contribution to the recycle center included planning, design, and project management efforts.

GOVERNMENT

# Free recycle center up and running

The grand opening attracts about 200

BY RYAN SEVERANCE  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The new free recycle center in Pueblo is up and running after a grand opening was held last weekend that saw about 200 people show up to the site to recycle items and learn more about the center.

program for Puebloans,” said Susan Finzel-Aldred, the environmental coordinator for the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment. “The last free recycle drop-off project by the health department ended in 2010, so it’s great to see this resurrect and be a much larger and more



CHIEFTAIN PHOTOS/IRIS MCLEAN

Enterprise funds are a government owned fund that provides goods or services to the public for a fee that makes the entity self-supporting. The city of Pueblo provides storm water and wastewater management in this way.

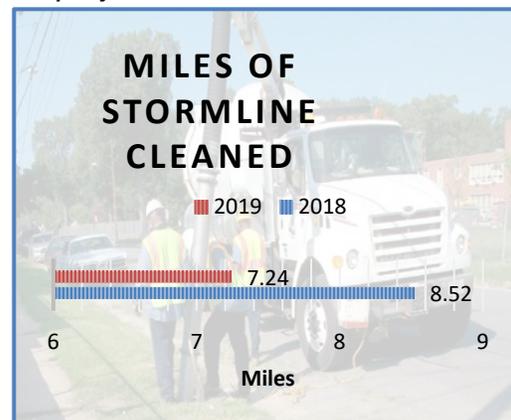
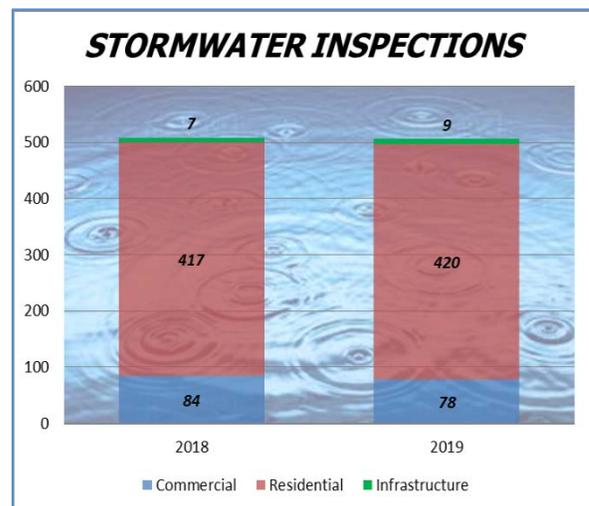
## Stormwater

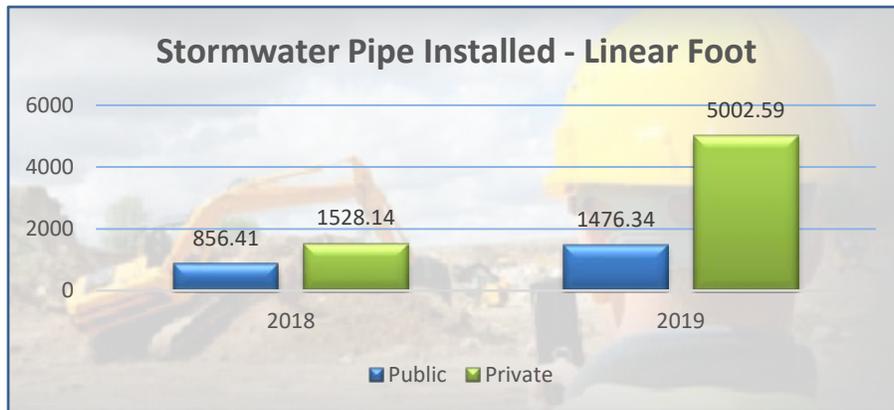
The mission of the Stormwater Utility Division is to provide services necessary to improve the quality of the stormwater in the City’s streams and creeks, provide maintenance of the City’s drainage facilities, install new infrastructure to reduce flooding problems, and ensure development practices meet all required provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Program.

### STORMWATER STAFF

The Stormwater Department is comprised of engineering staff and maintenance staff. The engineering staff members are responsible for:

- Assessing impervious area for all commercial and residential properties.
- Reviewing all drainage submittals for general compliance with established criteria.
- Performing hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of existing and proposed infrastructure and recommending solutions to minimize flooding problems.
- Preparing construction documents, cost estimates, and managing construction projects.
- Conducting stormwater quality inspections on construction projects to ensure compliance with stormwater management plans, environmental policies and procedures, and regulatory requirements under the NPDES General Permit.





The

*maintenance staff workers are responsible for:*

- *Performing maintenance and repair of public stormwater facilities.*
  - *Over 154 miles of storm sewer pipe*
  - *Approximately 40 detention facilities*
  - *Over 217 Acres of ponds and drainage channels*
- *Constructing new stormwater infrastructure*
- *Utility locates for construction and emergency purposes.*
- *Containing and removing illicit discharges*
- *Working with other City departments to remove trash and debris*

#### *2018 Stormwater Utility Projects*

<i>PROJECT</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>COST</i>
<i>Emergency Point Repairs</i>	<i>Emergency repairs of failed stormwater infrastructure</i>	<i>\$27,886.21</i>
<i>5th Street Outfall to Fountain Creek</i>	<i>Reconstruction of retaining wall for a stormwater inlet was required per the USACE Continuing Eligibility Inspection. Design and construction were performed by Stormwater staff.</i>	<i>\$2,764.86</i>
<i>Outlook - Dillon Intersection Revision</i>	<i>City Stormwater staff designed and helped construct a culvert crossing at this intersection to remove a low point that certain CDOT maintenance vehicle trailers could not cross.</i>	<i>\$2,500.00</i>
<i>Crew Repaired Projects</i>	<i>Inlet repairs, damaged stormwater pipes, erosion control projects</i>	<i>\$33,867.37</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>\$67,018.44</i>

2019 Stormwater Utility Projects

<i>PROJECT</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>COST</i>
<i>Emergency Point Repairs</i>	<i>Emergency repairs of failed stormwater infrastructure</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Fountain Creek Access Road</i>	<i>FEMA is assisting the City of Pueblo with a project under the FEMA-4229-DR-CO declaration. Flooding events destroyed a section of a maintenance access road on top of a berm that required reconstruction for access and safety purposes.</i>	<i>\$88,579.00</i>
<i>Crew Repaired Projects</i>	<i>Inlet repairs, damaged stormwater pipes, erosion control projects</i>	<i>\$35,508.74</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>\$124,087.70</i>

**ONGOING STORMWATER UTILITY PROJECTS**

**State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Projects**

*The Stormwater Utility Department secured a \$7 million State Revolving Fund loan with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in November of 2018. The purpose and need for the loan is to accomplish stormwater projects that address flooding and maintenance concerns which pose or could pose a risk to the safety of the public. The monetary collections from the stormwater utility service charge are not adequate to cover these high priority projects without a long-term loan. The SRF projects that will be carrying over to FY 2020 are:*

*Boulder Outfall Stormwater Improvements:*

*The intersection at Lincoln Street and Abriendo Avenue has an undersized storm sewer system that results in frequent flooding from moderate storm events. Improvements will include removing approximately 1100 LF of existing infrastructure and replacing it with a larger capacity storm sewer system. Inclusion of a hydrodynamic separator in this system will help improve water quality. Stormwater engineering staff have designed the construction documents for this project which should be completed in early 2020.*

*Estimated Cost = \$1,500,000*

*29th Street Pump Station Replacement:*

*An existing pump station that serves to remove storm runoff that collects at a low point near the intersection of I-25 and 29th St. has failed on several occasions and poses a public safety concern. Improvements will include constructing a new pump station to improve capacity, public safety, and maintenance issues. The design for this project was stalled in 2019 and is finally back on track. Construction of this pump station should commence at the end of 2020.*

*Estimated Cost = \$2,100,000*

*West 29th Street Storm Sewer Improvements:*

*This project consists of installing new drainage improvements in West 29th St. between Adrian Ave. & Franklin Ave. Currently, flooding causes erosion of private property. The proposed improvements will alleviate current flooding problems in this area and thus improve water quality.*

*Estimated Cost = \$2,500,000*

*Stormwater Maintenance Equipment:*

*The Current single vacuum truck owned by the Stormwater Dept. has been breaking down consistently due to age. Replacing the vacuum truck with a new model is necessary for performing maintenance operations. The new vacuum truck was ordered in 2019 and will arrive in January 2020.*

*Cost = \$429,500*



**Additional projects planned for 2020 include:**

*City Center and Santa Fe Manhole Installation - A large diameter manhole is required at this intersection in order for the Stormwater maintenance crews to perform periodic cleaning of this sediment laden storm system.*

*Estimated Cost = \$50,000*

*Various Storm Sewer Replacements – At least 3 roadways have been identified with failing infrastructure that has caused some settlement of pavement.*

*Estimated Cost = \$95,000*

*New Programs for 2020*

- *The Stormwater Utility will continue to develop a cleaning and point repair project for several locations within the existing storm sewer system*
- *Address requirements of 2020 MS4 permit*
- *Revise Drainage Criteria Manual*
- *Continue to Geocode the SW system and incorporate electronic detection methods on all new infrastructure*
- *Fountain Creek Improvements*
- *Upgrade SW facilities to mitigate flooding in several problem areas*
- *Incorporate electronically locatable tracer wire on all new underground*

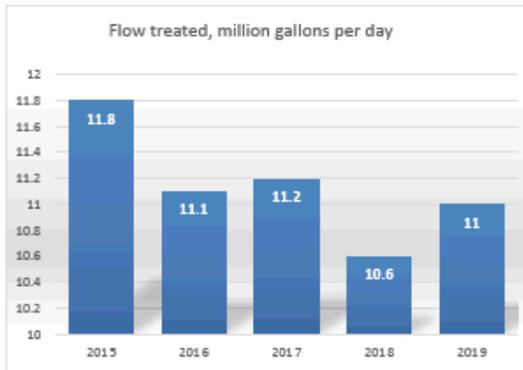
## CHALLENGES

*Approximately 111 tons of trash was removed from the city's creeks and tributary drainage ways in 2018 and approximately 248 tons of trash was removed in 2019 due to homeless camps and illegal dumping. The Stormwater Department needed to increase the budget for dump fees in 2020. Unhealthy levels of E. coli have increased in Fountain Creek due to homeless camps which have become a concern for state and federal water regulators. The Stormwater Department has teamed with Code Enforcement and the Traffic Dept. to create a monthly clean-up program in which 1 or 2 days a month are dedicated to cleaning up trash around the City to help mitigate this problem.*

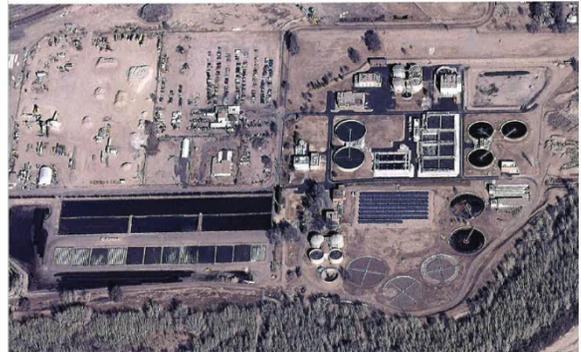
*Excessive rainfall events – Most areas of Pueblo received 1.5 inches of rain on July 1, 2019. The low point on Santa Fe Ave near Alan Hamel Dr. flooded as well as Northern Ave. and the low points on 29<sup>th</sup> St. Another strong storm event happened on July 20, 2019 that dumped over 2 inches of rain in some areas of town. Three vehicles were abandoned after failing to get through the flood waters at the low point on 29<sup>th</sup> St. near the Pueblo Mall. These storm events caused significant flooding and property damage throughout the City and exposed many weaknesses in the existing stormwater infrastructure.*

## Wastewater

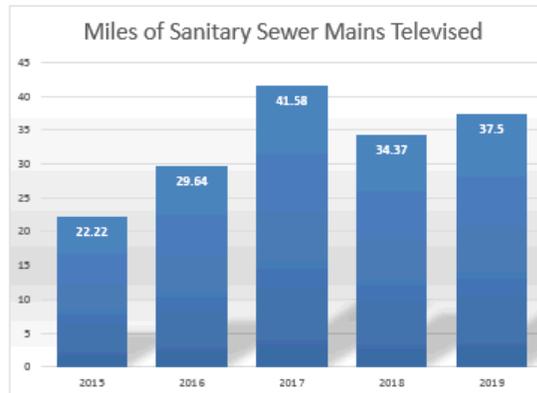
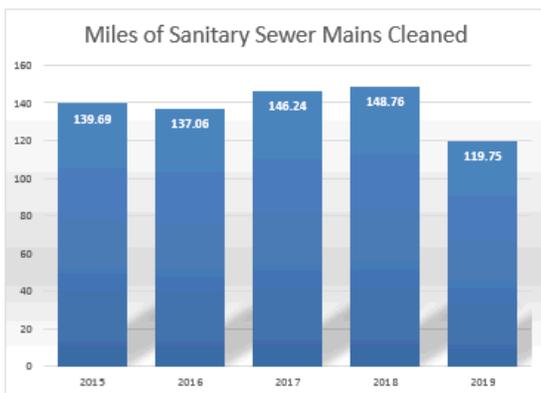
*The Wastewater Department is an enterprise with the mission of collecting and reclaiming wastewater in a manner that is protective of public health and the environment. This is done by collecting sanitary sewage from residences, businesses, and industries; conveying sewage to the wastewater treatment facility safely and efficiently; treating sewage to levels specified by federal and state law; and disposing of residual materials in compliance with legal requirements.*



*The Wastewater Reclamation Facility has the capacity to treat 19 million gallons per day (MGD) of municipal wastewater. The Pretreatment staff inspect and monitor*

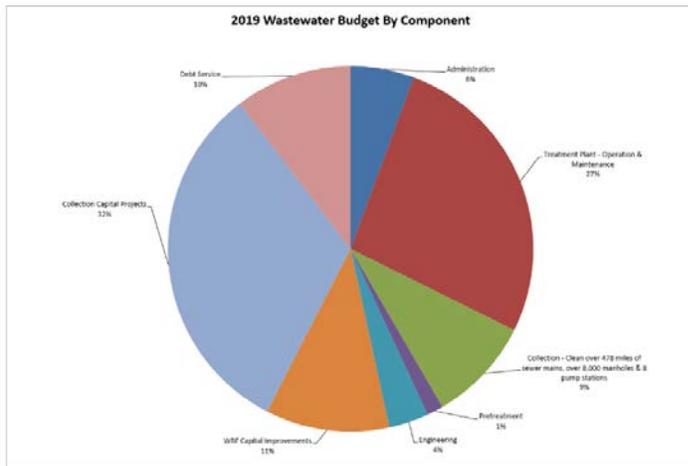


*industries to protect the Wastewater Reclamation Facility from harmful discharges. The Wastewater Collection Division maintains the sanitary sewer collection mains, including cleaning, rooting, televising, sealing, repairing, and constructing sewer mains and utility access holes. In addition, the Wastewater Department has standby crews on call 24 hours a day to respond to plant emergencies or collection line blockages.*

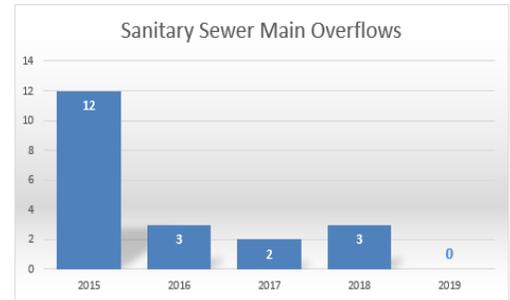


*Engineering Division reviews subdivision plans, evaluates and prioritizes sewer system rehabilitation, maintains computerized records, and inspects all new and rehabilitated*

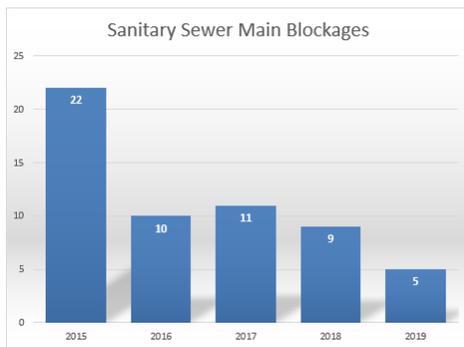
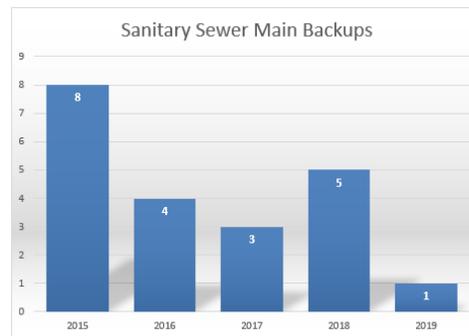
sanitary sewer mains for proper installation.



*The Wastewater Administration is responsible for administrative duties, budget management and maintaining compliance with Federal, State and local regulatory*



requirements.



*The Wastewater Department has a long record of compliance and good relationships with the State and EPA. Recently the Wastewater Department won a Peak Performance award for 5 years full compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and a Safety Award from Water Environment Federation.*

<b>Collection Projects</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	
Large Main Rehabilitation	\$ 3,684,371		Installed cured in place pipe in 24 inches or greater pipe and rehabilitated large main manholes with epoxy.
Small Main Rehabilitation	\$ 1,985,709	\$630,463	Cured in place pipe and epoxy manholes where repairs can be done without digging up the main less than 24 inches. Others require removal and replacement of the pipe and manholes. Repair alley approaches, cross pan and road base, if impacted.
Annual Manhole Rehabilitation	\$ 507,590		Replaced or epoxy coated manholes that were in poor condition.
Upsizing Main		\$586,654	Replaced 8 inch line with 12 inch line in an area that gets blockages due to grease and hand towels.
Emergency Projects	\$ 296,694	\$540,204	
Repairs to infrastructure		\$133,841	Rehabilitate concrete box culvert for access to collection system

<b>Water Reclamation Infrastructure</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	
Phase 3 Electrical Rehabilitation	\$ 2,006,131		Switchgear replacement and project
Process Improvement	\$ 6,843,284		Replacement of 30 year old centrifuges, interlift pump, digester lid and added hydrocyclones and Ammonia control in Johannesburg process.
Overlay Asphalt		\$482,629	Overlay portions of the asphalt in the Water Reclamation Facility.
Secondary Clarifier Electrical		\$14,871	Rehabilitate electrical wiring and conduit to insure proper function of the secondary clarifiers.
Grit Line	\$ 7,599		Rehabilitate leaking grit lines
Roofing replacement	\$ 82,075		Replace roof membrane on DAV building

<b>Selenium Projects</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	
T-liner Pilot Project	\$ 63,555		Rehabilitate taps in high selenium area using t-liners to evaluate efficiency reducing infiltration.
Service Lateral Connection Lining		\$744,022	Manholes curtain grouted to reduce infiltration.
Selenium Reduction Project		\$949,451	Repair of high selenium area mains and manholes to reduce infiltration.



## 2018

*In addition to the Water Reclamation Facility infrastructure and Collection system infrastructure improvements in 2018, additional highlights include:*

- The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission held the Arkansas River Basin hearing June 2018. The Selenium and Sulfate Discharger Specific Variance was approved by the Water Quality Control Division and subsequently approved by EPA.*
- All sanitary sewer mains were put into a list based on a prioritization per the Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) that was established by the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO). The City's inspectors, engineers and highest level of collection workers were trained and certified to use this program.*
- Maintained a schedule of cleaning sanitary sewer mains at least once every two years.*
- Continued working toward televising 100% of all city sewer mains.*
- Completed the Process Improvement Project to improve the biological nutrient removal process and replace some aging equipment. This upgrade will allow consistent compliance with Water Quality Control Regulation 85 nutrient permit limits that become effective in 2020, as well as reduce energy and chemical costs.*

## GOALS

- Continue to meet all Colorado Discharge Permit requirements.*
- Improve the reliability of the aging water reclamation facility by completing the phase 3 Switchgear upgrades.*
- Selenium Discharger Specific Variance will provide some regulatory relief for selenium and sulfate removal requirements. The variance allows 10 years to do  
    \$10 million of infrastructure improvements to reduce infiltration of ground*

*water high in selenium and sulfate and to pilot treatments that may be necessary to install if groundwater infiltration can't be reduced enough to meet stream standards.*

- Work with the Water Quality Control Division Workgroups to provide comments on regulatory changes to limit unnecessary impacts.*
- Maintain the sanitary sewer system in a manner to minimize backups and overflows.*
- Continue to analyze samples in the Wastewater laboratory to provide data to monitor each process in the Water Reclamation Facility and compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit, analysis of pretreatment samples from industries, Fountain Creek and Arkansas River samples, manholes in the collection system, and special studies.*

## CHALLENGES

- The groundwater picks up selenium and sulfate as it flows through the natural Pierre Shale layers that underlies the City of Pueblo. Infiltration of this groundwater into the sanitary sewer system causes high concentrations of selenium and sulfate that must be removed by the Water Reclamation Facility to meet stream standards. Significant sampling will be required to determine the locations of infiltration. The City does not own the service lines, but they may be a major source if the homeowners do not maintain them. Extremely expensive treatment of the wastewater will be required if elimination of groundwater infiltration is not effective.*
- The Wastewater Department continues to work on efficiency and upgrading the infrastructure. The significant increases in workload to handle the selenium/sulfate variance requirements including studies, sampling and monitoring, lining projects, pilots, and sump pump investigations to support the variance has been and will continue to be a strain.*
- The Water Reclamation Facility is over 30 years old, equipment and infrastructure are needing repairs and upgrades. Some equipment is to the point that parts and service are not supported. The processes that have been required to meet regulatory changes have been upgraded. We have begun the design of phase 4 of 7 phases to upgrade the electrical systems at the plant.*
- The sanitary sewer system is very old. 17.6 % of the sanitary mains are over 100 years old and 47.5% are 51-99 years old. Only 34.9% are under 50 years old. A prioritization protocol was implemented in 2016 to rate the sanitary sewer system needs based on condition per a national rating system. As we televise the mains they are prioritized and added to a list allowing annual maintenance projects to address the worst lines.*



*The Process Improvement Project included replacement of the two digester lids (left picture). These 50-foot diameter lids were welded together on the ground then lifted with cranes to set it on the digester. On the right is a picture of the hydrocyclone that was installed to improve nutrient removal and reduce the chemical use.*



## **2019**

*In addition to the Water Reclamation Facility infrastructure and Collection system infrastructure improvements in 2019, additional highlights include:*

- *Optimizing the new hydrocyclone and AvN process to meet Regulation 85 Nutrient requirements. This is a state-of-the-art process that is new to the United States and has achieved excellent nutrient removal and allows the use of less chemicals and energy for blowers.*
- *Completed the Phase 3 electrical upgrade to replace the Switchgear at the Water Reclamation Facility*
- *Maintained a schedule of cleaning sanitary sewer mains at least once every two years.*
- *Continued working toward televising 100% of all city sewer mains.*
- *A rate analysis was performed Raftelis Financial Consultant.*
- *Two mass sampling events performed by all of pretreatment and collection staff collected about 250 samples in one day from manholes throughout the northwest portion of the city during two wet weather events to try to identify areas with infiltration of high groundwater with high selenium and sulfate levels.*

## **GOALS**

- *Continue to meet all Colorado Discharge Permit requirements.*
- *Selenium Discharger Specific Variance was approved by the Water Quality Control Division and EPA. Initial projects were done to rehabilitate portions of the collection mains and manholes with high selenium and sulfate as well as grouting the taps to reduce infiltration of the groundwater. Several pilots*

*with different processes have been done to determine the most effective solutions at the least cost. Once installed monitoring will continue to confirm the effectiveness of this effort.*

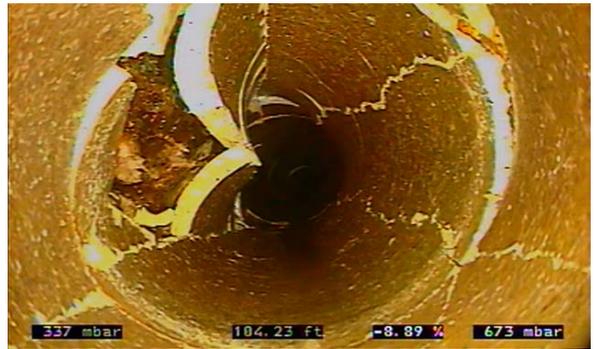
- *Work with the Water Quality Control Division stakeholder process to ensure Pueblo's views are communicated to the Division on regulatory changes to limit unnecessary impacts and provided hearing comments on regulatory and policy updates.*
- *Maintain the sanitary sewer system in a manner to minimize backups and overflows.*
- *Design Phase 4 of electrical upgrades to address the next portion of the plant with over 30-year-old electrical systems and electronics.*
- *Evaluate cost effective sustainability projects that can be done to reduce costs.*

#### **CHALLENGES**

- *Significantly lower nutrients standards will be finalized by the State in 2027 and will require an estimated \$20 million addition to the Water Reclamation Facility.*
- *We are working to streamline processes, prioritize how funds are spent and how jobs are assigned to continue to perform this work efficiently. Some of this comes at a cost: by purchasing equipment that is more efficient to reduce staff time; purchasing equipment to do some minor collection system repairs ourselves eliminating the need for a contractor to dig up a line; doing as many repairs as possible in house but keeping service agreements on equipment that warrant it and strictly enforcing all warranty issues and repairs.*
- *The improper disposal of wipes and other consumer products causes extensive problems for wastewater utilities. When wipes that are not engineered to quickly break down or dissolve are flushed down the toilet. Wipes can adhere to other improperly flushed products such as fats, oils and grease or tree roots and form major blockages that can result in sewer overflows and environmental harm. Wipes also clog home plumbing and septic systems and may damage wastewater treatment equipment, such as pumps. Many wipes are also made from plastics. When these wipes are flushed, plastic particles may be released into the environment and harm aquatic ecosystems. Improper labeling and disposal of wipes products results in substantial costs to wastewater utilities and the ratepayers they serve.*



*On the right is an example of issues that are found by televising the sanitary mains. This is common in aging sanitary mains that are beginning to fail.*



*The tap connection on the left shows the groundwater infiltration between the lining and the tap. Additional lining of the tap is needed to reduce the selenium and sulfate load from groundwater.*