

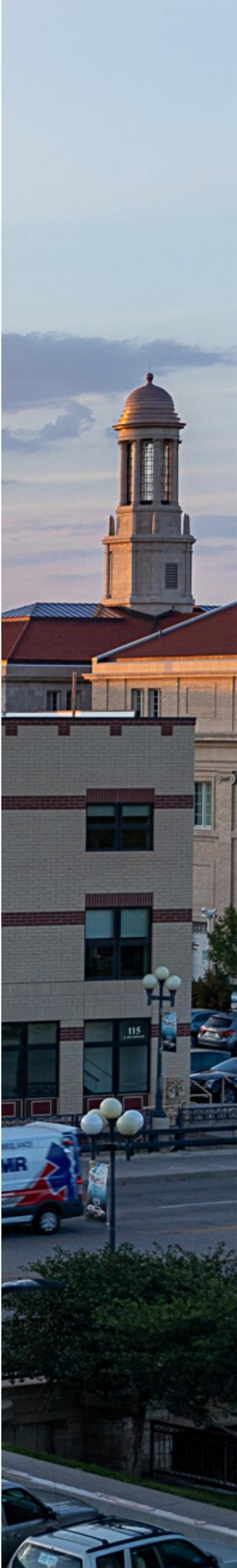
# 2023 STATE —OF THE— *City*



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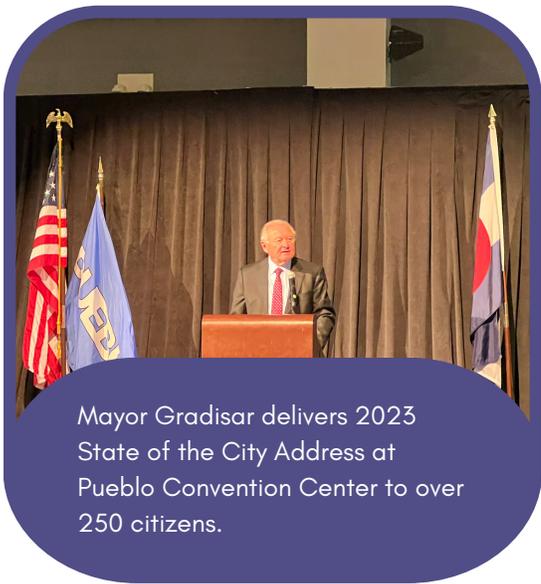
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# MAYOR'S ADDRESS

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Mayor Gradisar delivers 2023 State of the City Address at Pueblo Convention Center to over 250 citizens.

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I am privileged, humbled and honored to share my 4th state of the City address with you today. I want to begin with a sincere thank you to the people of Pueblo. We are a city with rich diversity, opportunity, and heart. Even through the tough times, we work together to make a difference in improving our city.

The purpose of the State of the City is to look back at where we have been, what we have accomplished, recognize the many contributions made by our community, acknowledge that we have challenges to address in the coming year, and to look forward to future plans for the City.

I would like to thank our elected officials for attending this morning. Commissioner Garrison Ortiz is with us this morning. We are also joined by Dennis Flores, Larry Atencio and President Heather Graham from the Pueblo City Council. In cooperation with the City Council in 2022 the Council considered 274 Ordinances and passed 271 of them. These Ordinances approved the operations of the City, approved capital purchases, approved staffing positions, accepted grant awards, and made progress in moving Pueblo forward. Thank you for your collaboration.

There is an effort underway to amend our charter to do away with the office of Mayor and return to some form of City Council/City Manager form of government. The 2018 change in our form of government has been good for the City of Pueblo and we shouldn't return to government by committee that stagnated our community for so many years.

As I thought about what to say here today I remembered, and have been guided by the quote of the American Poet, Walt Whitman, "If you done it, it ain't bragging." That quote was later modified by Dizzy Dean, a pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals when they won the world series in the 1930's, "If you can do it, it ain't bragging". Today I'd like to tell you how we are doing it.

I want to acknowledge and thank the more than 250 citizens in our community who volunteer their time on our boards and commissions. Your service is critical to delivering services to our citizens and it is greatly appreciated. These volunteers spend their own time to attend meetings, research agenda items in advance, make quasi-judicial decisions and share in municipal governance which demonstrate outstanding customer service to the community to make a difference in improving Pueblo. Would all of the boards and commission members in attendance, please stand for a round of applause.

The future of Pueblo is in the hands of our youth. It is my pleasure to welcome the President's and Vice Presidents of the four Pueblo District 60 High Schools this morning and congratulate you on engaging with your high school peers in the shared governance of high school activities and programs.

Thank you to the students for being with us today. In the middle of the pandemic, in 2020, I established the Mayor's Youth Council, inviting high school students to get involved in sharing their concerns and recommendations affecting our city. Insight from our youth is invaluable to me. Thank you to the Mayor's Youth Council representatives attending today.

I want to thank my partner, Jan Pullin. My being Mayor of the City of Pueblo was not her dream. Far from it. But she has been by my side as we have worked to make Pueblo a better place.

In just a few days, I will complete 4 years as Mayor of our great city. This begins the fifth year of my first term, a bonus year if you will, to align the election of Mayor up with the municipal election cycle. In November of this year, we will have the Mayoral election as well as the City Council election for three city council positions.

As I look back at the accomplishments of the City across more than 20 departments in the last four years, in the midst of a pandemic, I am proud of our progress. Our 20 Department Directors have been stellar in their leadership. Working together, we have listened to the community, taken action and accomplished a lot, but there is much that remains to be done to make Pueblo the place we all want it to be.

A written state of the City Report will be posted on our website today, but you have a summary at your table of some of the activities and accomplishments over the last several years that have positively impacted our community. As I look forward, I continue to believe that Pueblo has a bright future!

Let me begin by talking about both our oldest and one of our newest manufacturers and the fantastic things they are working on that will result in good paying jobs for our citizens for decades to come. We have representatives of both of these manufactures with us today.

We have been making steel in Pueblo for nearly 150 years and the plant is now owned by EVRAZ North America. EVRAZ is constructing a new, long rail mill to make state of the art rail for its customers. It will have the capacity to make rail a quarter of a mile long which will be shipped all over North America. Today, about half the rail used in North America is made in Pueblo.

The last couple of years have not been the easiest for EVRAZ, with the war in Ukraine and the dispute with their general contractor that I am sure you have been reading about. Notwithstanding those issues, EVRAZ is committed to the City of Pueblo and the timely completion of the new, long rail mill. This project was made possible by working collaboratively with the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation, the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority, the State of Colorado, EVRAZ and the City of Pueblo. Thank you for your dedication to Pueblo.

One of our newest manufactures is CS Wind America who purchased the Vestas wind tower manufacturing plant in 2021. CS Wind has plants around the world that produce wind towers for all of the wind turbine makers and that will be the case in Pueblo as well.

The Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress calls for an additional 75,000 wind turbines in the United States by 2030. To reach that goal, 45,000 wind tower sections will have to be produced each and every year. It takes 5 sections to make one tower. Today, the total United States capacity to manufacture wind tower sections is only 15,000 sections per year. In the third quarter of 2022 CS Wind was manufacturing 2,500 sections a year with 420 employees.

# Mayor's Address (continued)

To meet the increased demand and satisfy their customers CS Wind is aggressively expanding their capacity with a goal of producing 9,000 wind tower sections per year in Pueblo. They estimate that it will take a total of 1,300 employees to meet that goal. Pueblo Community College will play an important role in training our citizens for those jobs. Welcome to Pueblo and we look forward to helping you be successful.

EVRAZ and CS Wind North America are just two of the reasons that I am excited about the future economic growth in our city. We also now have two world class engineering firms that are working in Pueblo to test high speed rail and develop other methods of ground transportation, including hyper loops. ENSCO and MxV Rail will provide tremendous opportunities to our young people for high income, scientific careers. Our university, CSU-Pueblo will work with both of these companies in their newly created Southern Colorado Institute of Transportation Technology which will help train our young people for these careers.

Now to speak about what your local government has accomplished. Notwithstanding the pandemic our sales tax collections in the City of Pueblo have been strong. In 2021 sales tax collections in the City of Pueblo were up 27%. In 2018, the year before I became Mayor, we collected about \$50,000,000 in sales tax. In 2021, three years later, the amount collected was \$70,000,000 and we estimate that the total collected in 2022 will exceed \$73,000,000.

There were over 871 new sales tax licenses issued in the City of Pueblo in 2022. Most of those new applications were from online retailers who remit their City sales tax they are collecting from Puebloans. Approximately 65% of the City's budget comes from sales tax. For the first 11 months of 2022, sales tax collections were up over 4.8%. This increase in sales tax licenses and sales tax collections reflects increased economic activity and is a good indicator of economic growth in Pueblo and the resiliency of our small businesses.

We have made it much easier to do business with the City of Pueblo and it is showing up in our sales tax collections. Pueblo Place, now allows sales tax licenses and building permits to be obtained online without a visit to the Finance Department or Public Works. In the last four years we have integrated our systems with the State of Colorado which ensures that we are receiving our share of the sales tax that is remitted to the state.

Although we have little control over the national economy or inflation, I believe that this trend of increased economic growth in the City of Pueblo will continue.

For decades the City of Pueblo has lagged behind the rest of the state in development. That is beginning to change as developers recognize the opportunities that are available in Pueblo and other communities are limited by their water supply. Today, three communities in Colorado which have grown much more rapidly than the City of Pueblo are leasing water from the Pueblo Board of Water Works; Pueblo West, Colorado Springs and the City of Aurora. Usually there is only one reason that a community leases water from someone else. They don't have enough to supply their customers.

You have heard me express my belief that the City of Pueblo has the best municipal water supply in the State of Colorado, perhaps the best municipal water supply in the Southwestern United States. As we monitor developments on the Colorado River the importance of that water supply for future growth and economic development will become more apparent.

The number of land use applications and certifications filed with the City of Pueblo Planning Department totaled 1,880 in 2022, compared to 1,610 in 2021. In 2022 single-family and multi-family residential building permits increased 26% from 2021. Land use applications for subdivisions, rezoning, annexations, and land use plans increased 15% from 2021. This is the largest growth the City has seen in a decade.

This increased development activity is important because in the fall of 2021, the City of Pueblo received the results of a housing study that indicated that over the next 10 years Pueblo County will be 9500 housing units short of providing housing to our citizens. This is an economic development issue. Employees must have a place to live. We want Pueblo workers to be able to live in Pueblo.

Over the last year we have been working with developers to bring more housing units online and that is reflected in the increased numbers from the Planning Department. This is a slow process that to some extent is affected by the national economy and national interest rates. But it must move forward and the City of Pueblo and the BOWW are committed to making the development of new housing stock more affordable to build by providing incentives to developers.

We are also working on a new, novel way to increase our housing supply and that is by putting existing vacant properties back into productive use. In many cases these properties are a blight on our neighborhoods, they are abandoned and boarded up.

On April 17, 2021 the Vacant Property Registration ordinance was passed by City Council. Following its passage, 2599 properties were identified as perhaps meeting the criteria of the ordinance.

Notice was sent to the owners of those properties and the number was reduced to 1068. Of those, 575 were determined to be under construction, just sold or were occupied and they were removed from the list.

187 properties were registered in 2022 and paid a \$500 registration fee to keep the property vacant. Those that did not register were assessed the \$500 fee and a \$500 penalty was imposed for failing to register. As of December 6, 2022, 184 liens have been filed on properties that failed to register and were vacant.

Those liens are for \$1000 each and we are in the process of selling those liens to the private sector which will purchase the liens from the City, foreclose the liens and obtain title to the property. Then they will begin the process of rehabbing the homes for occupancy by tenants or new owners. Our belief is that this will increase the affordable housing supply and help clear the blight from some of our neighborhoods.

# Mayor's Address (continued)

Additional housing is needed not only for our residents but for individuals who want to come to Pueblo to live or work. We have tremendous amenities in the City of Pueblo and our parks and trail system are the crown jewels of those amenities. We have 80 developed parks and 613 irrigated acres of vegetation. We are blessed with another 3849 acres of open space. Those parks include 38 acres of multi-purpose sports fields. We have 27 miles of paved walking and biking trails.

After years of advocacy and begging, the old, dilapidated tennis courts at Mineral Palace Park have a new life as Pueblo's first municipal Pickleball complex. The highly anticipated project took approximately four months to complete. Pickleball lessons were offered at the City Park Tennis Complex to garner interest for the new Pickleball court complex. Along with the established recreation and sports programs, Parks and Recreation was able to expand youth tennis, flag football and baseball offerings to include additional age groups.

With numerous new and expanded lessons and leagues, the sports division saw an increase of over 36% in participation. Also, the summer Movies in the Park program, a free family-friendly event for the entire community, was revitalized this past year and saw record numbers in attendance and sponsorships.

In October, \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were authorized by City Council to create neighborhood cleanup projects in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) of the city. This project was created to clean up our neighborhoods and provide employment to low-income or unemployed and underemployed individuals who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is not a substitute for all of us doing our part to keep our property, alleys and community clean. We will continue to vigorously enforce our codes to make sure that homeowners and landlords are doing their part.

The number one complaint we hear from our citizens is the condition of our streets. We are working hard to change that. In the last three years we have rebuilt and repaved more than 59 lane miles of streets in the City of Pueblo. We have just completed an assessment of nearly 500 miles of roads in the City and segments of each of those roads have been analyzed. This assessment provides us with the data to determine which roads should be prioritized and how they should be repaired.

In November of 2021, the citizens of our city debruced allowing the city to retain excess TABOR revenues which has allowed us to spend much more on street repairs than we have ever spent in our history. Last year, we repaired Hudson from 4th Street to Highway 50, N. Grand from City Center to 24th Street, W.15th from Court to Santa Fe, Covina Court, Northern from Pueblo Boulevard to Prairie.

We contracted to have W. Abriendo from Cleveland to I-25 and Ridge Drive from Highway 50 to Eagleridge repaired in 2022 but the contractor ran out capacity and time and those will be completed in 2023.

This process will continue with 10 million budgeted for street repairs in 2023, including the rebuilding of Prairie Avenue. In addition to Prairie Avenue, in 2023 we will repair or rebuild Joplin, Dillon Drive, Troy Avenue, Cheyenne and Court Street. We intend to continue to be aggressive in repairing our streets.

To advance new initiatives we have created a number of new positions in the Mayor's office, Pueblo Food Project Coordinator, ARPA Coordinator and a Just Transitions Coordinator. The last of the new positions created in the Mayor's office in 2021 was a grant writer. Grants are paying for most of the new positions in the Mayor's office and the grant writer position is paying dividends that will inure to the benefit of Pueblo for years to come. It was especially timely as the federal government has made billions of dollars available to municipalities.

In 2022 the City of Pueblo secured 41 grants totaling just over \$30,000,000. Funded projects included Pueblo Memorial Airport, the Pueblo Fire Department, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Pueblo Police Department, Public Works, Pueblo Food Project and Transit. We have an additional 15 grants submitted, pending approval and in the review process at this time.

Approximately one half of total awards received in 2022 is from the largest single grant ever received by the City, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. During the grant application process 936 applications were forwarded to the United States Department of Transportation; 303 of them were advanced to the Secretary of Transportation for review; 106 were awarded funds. Pueblo received an allocation of \$16.8 million to modernize roads, upgrade bus stops and design a bridge over the railroad tracks to connect the West Side to downtown, which is called the West Side Connector Project.

This investment in this historically underfunded neighborhood will lead to development and increased economic activity. The City of Pueblo has committed an additional 6 million dollars to upgrade the sanitary sewer system on the West Side to accommodate this growth and development. These are expenses that developers would ordinarily have to incur, which is why there has been little development in that area. NeighborWorks is planning a 600-unit housing project, and a private developer is planning a 300-unit market rate apartment complex at 31st and Pueblo Boulevard. You also know that the County has selected 24th street as the site for the new jail.

We are also building a new fire station to service the West Side near 24th and Pueblo Boulevard. It will be one of four new fire stations that we will build in the next couple of years. These new stations will improve service to the city and will protect the health and wellness of the firefighters. They will help us remedy the disparate practices that were a carryover from the time when all of our firefighters were male. Three of the new stations will replace outdated stations. These will also be relocated for better response distribution in the city. These fire stations are currently in the design stages.

One of the problems we continue to face in this community is that of the homeless, a problem that is not unique to Pueblo. Homelessness is a problem in Pueblo. It is not a criminal justice problem and we won't solve our homeless problem by making it illegal. It is a human services problem. On January 24, we will do another point in time count statewide and will get data for what is happening to the homeless population, is it increasing, decreasing, staying about the same?

When I became Mayor, we did not have a homeless shelter. In collaboration with the State and Pueblo County we now have a permanent homeless shelter operated by the Pueblo Rescue Mission. It has about 100 permanent beds and can expand in extreme cold situations. This year we have also established a warming shelter with Crazy Faith Ministries for those extremely cold nights when the Pueblo Rescue Mission is full and individuals are seeking shelter from the bitter cold.

In the last 4 years we have invested more than \$660,000 in General Fund dollars in providing services to the homeless. In addition to that, we have spent nearly \$900,000 of our ARPA and CARES funds on the homeless. At my request, on Monday night the City Council approved a contract to purchase land adjacent to the homeless shelter that will expand our ability to protect people from extreme weather conditions. We closed on that purchase yesterday. There is still much to be done and our goal should be to ensure that services are available to every homeless person who wants to change their situation in life and that those homeless who commit crimes are held accountable.

This is a problem that we will continue to work on, but it is not one that the City can solve by spending money. The Pueblo Rescue Mission tells me that 90% of the clients they serve have a mental illness. Crazy Faith Ministries tells me that 100% of the clients they serve at the warming shelter have a mental illness. Until we can develop a service system that provides mental health treatment to these individuals, we will not improve this situation and we will have difficulty holding them accountable.

I intend to reconstitute the Commission on Housing and Homeless and work with service providers to coordinate our response to the multiple causes of homelessness.

Crime remains another major concern for me. To reduce crime, we need more police officers and in November the voters extended the Public Safety Sales Tax, by passing ballot measure 2B. We have had difficulty recruiting police officers and this is not unique to Pueblo. To encourage applicants we have increased the starting pay for police officers by \$500 per month and are allowing officers to transfer from other agencies and give them credit for up to five years of service. This has been only moderately successful. It is tough to be a police officer in the United States of America today.

More police officers mean that we can engage in more community policing and be proactive rather than reactive. We have two Directed Investigations and Community Engagement or DICE teams and are expanding those operations. This unit has four officers and is directed to focus on low-level crime to include shoplifting, loitering, public decency and other crimes affecting the business community and our citizens quality of life.

Just this week Chief Noeller reported that our Police Department was contacted by the local Home Depot store about the DICE team. Home Depot Corporate had reached out to the local store because the loss from shoplifting in the Pueblo store was far below what other stores were reporting and they thought there must be some mistake. There wasn't a mistake. The shift in loss reporting was due to the proactive and good work of the DICE team.

Before Covid, crime was being reduced. When Covid hit, bad guys were let out of prison and jail to try and control the spread of the infection. It is a small group of people that are committing most of the crimes and locking those people up will make a difference. We are not talking about the young person who makes a mistake or the first-time offender. We need to focus on the career criminals and when we lock them up, crime will come down.

Reducing crime will require the involvement of the entire criminal justice system and the police department is only a part of that. We need to work with the judicial system, the county jail, the parole system and the probation system to reduce crime. Each of them play a part in keeping the bad guys in jail.

# Mayor's Address (continued)

In response to what we are hearing from our community the City is partnering with Pueblo Crime Stoppers and Black Hills Energy to develop a program designed to increase property safety for our local small businesses and nonprofit organizations and providing energy management education. Participants will have an opportunity to apply for a free energy audit and lighting assessment. The audit will provide solutions that will increase safety by providing exterior lighting and security cameras. This program will be funded by Black Hills Energy and the City of Pueblo in the amount of \$400,000. You will here more about this program in the next few days.

As I said earlier, Pueblo has a bright future. We have a Harvard Fellow in the Mayor's office for the next two years working with us on diversity, equity and inclusion in our community and city government. We continue to address the poverty level in Pueblo by working with the United Way with the Bank On initiative and work with high school students on financial literacy. We have an innovation grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies that has established, in cooperation with District 60 a program to work with at risk students in middle schools to reduce youth violence.

All of these initiatives will make a difference in our community, none of them will be successful overnight. I mentioned the amenities in the City of Pueblo earlier. We are working on a grant to create a new position that will inventory and market our outdoor recreation opportunities in Pueblo County and attract new visitors.

I am excited to be working with the arts community on ways to incorporate our arts into our economic development efforts. We have a robust Energy Advisory Commission that helps us work toward renewal energy and we continue work on electrifying our fleet and adding public and private charging stations in our community.

We have ambitious plans for our future. I want to close by asking you to remember what Dizzy Dean said, "If you can do it, it ain't bragging". We can do it Pueblo.

Thank you.



Nick Gradisar, Mayor of Pueblo



State of the City Address at Pueblo Convention Center

# PUEBLO QUICK FACTS

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Pueblo is a community known for its proud traditions and cultural diversity. As a full-service City, Pueblo provides many essential services. The 688 full-time and 388 temporary or seasonal 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 Street Utility, Wastewater and Stormwater Departments.

The City of Pueblo also carries the title of "America's Home of Heroes." This moniker was in a speech in 1993 by then Colorado Representative Scott McInnis as he spoke to Congress about the uniqueness of a city Pueblo's size having a record four recipients of the Medal of Honor claiming Pueblo as their hometown: William J. Crawford, Army WWII; Carl L. Sitter, Marines Korea; Raymond J, "Jerry" Murphy, Marines Korea; and Drew D. Dix, Army Vietnam. At the time, all four men were alive. The Historic Arkansas Riverwalk and Colorado State Fair are landmarks of Pueblo and its beautiful community. With a history in steel and a future in green energy, Pueblo is the backbone of Southern Colorado.

The following departmental information is included in this report: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), City Council, Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Sales Tax, Finance, Pueblo Memorial Airport, Housing and Citizens Services, Grant and Resource Development, Community Engagement, City Clerk, Municipal Court, Municipal Boards & Commissions, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Public Works, Pueblo Food Project, Stormwater, and Wastewater. The City Departments work together for the benefit of all Puebloans under the direction of the Mayor.



# PUEBLO BY THE NUMBERS

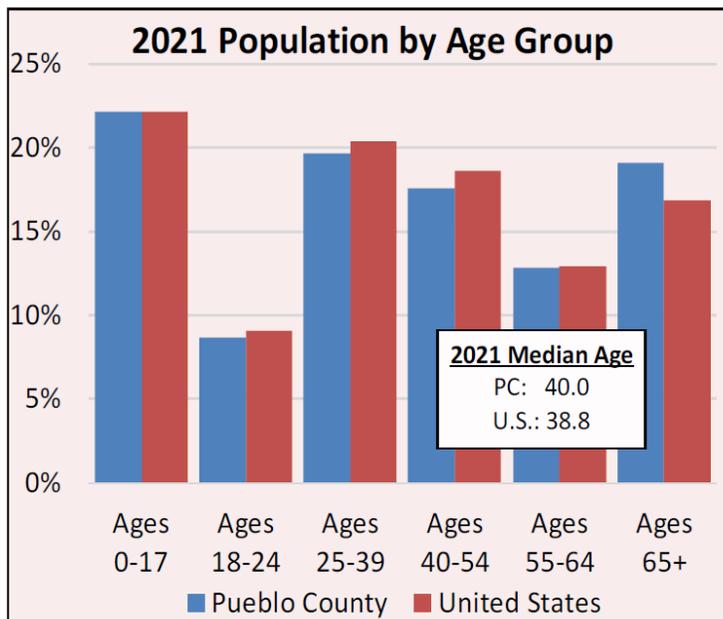
Current population	112,368
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Race & Hispanic Origin	
White alone	89.3%
Black or African American alone	2.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	3.4%
Asian alone	1.2%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	0.2%
Two or more races	3.2%
Hispanic or Latino	43.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	51.0%

\*US Census Bureau Quick Facts, retrieved 2022

The City of Pueblo launched an Economic Dashboard in May 2022. The dashboard is an online resource tool for business, economic development and a pulse of the community published on a monthly basis.

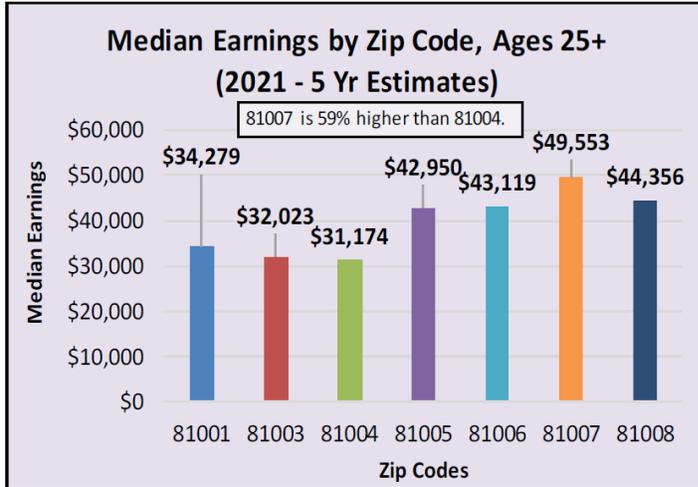
The Pueblo City Council and Mayor Gradisar were consulted for their advice alongside other Pueblo partners including Pueblo Economic Development Corporation, Pueblo Community College, Colorado State University Pueblo, the Colorado Workforce Development Center, and the various regional entities that provided data for the dashboard. Their combined expertise and support were critical in moving forward a Pueblo monthly economic dashboard. As a result of this collaboration, an introduction was made, and a relationship started with Tatiana Bailey, Ph.D. She has assisted in the compilation of economic and workforce development metrics.



This page contains information from the Pueblo Economic Dashboard provided by Tatiana Bailey, Ph.D. on a monthly basis. Information shared reflects the December 2022 report which also can be found on the website [www.pueblo.us/2820/Economic-Dashboard](http://www.pueblo.us/2820/Economic-Dashboard).

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program; American Community Survey 1-year estimates

# PUEBLO ECONOMIC DASHBOARD



Five-year estimates are more accurate due to small sample size in many zip codes. Data for 5-year estimates lags, so 2021 should be released in December 2022.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Median Earnings 2021 (All Ages Full-Time)	
U.S.	Pueblo County
\$53,888	\$50,970

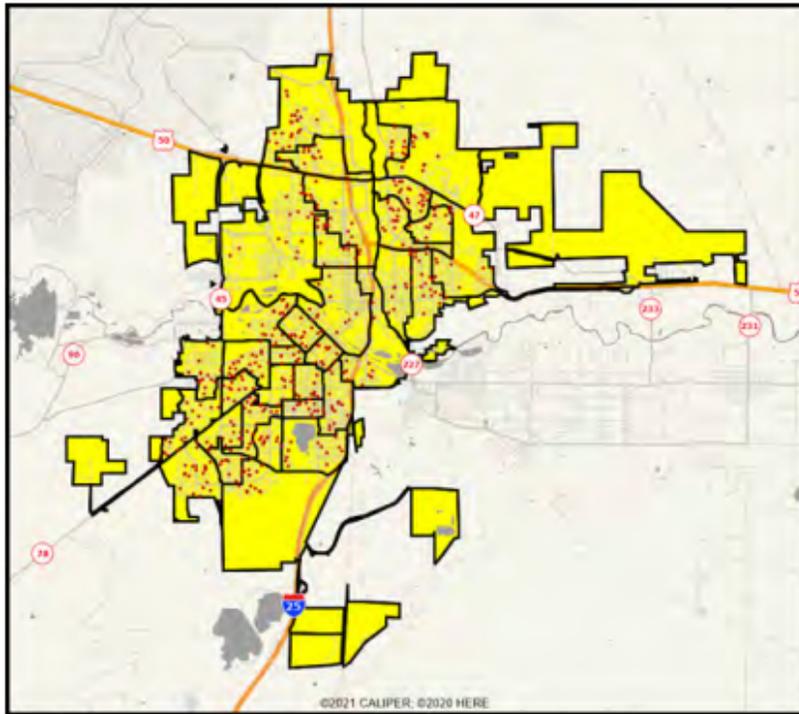
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates

Pueblo Percentage with HS Diploma by Zip Code, 2021 - 5 Year Estimates							
Zip Code	White Alone	Black Alone	Amer Ind/ Native Alaskan	Asian Alone	Other Race Alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic/ Latino Origin
81001	90.5%	97.7%	71.1%	91.1%	<b>72.3%</b>	89.7%	81.0%
81003	<b>82.8%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>	<b>87.9%</b>	79.5%	86.0%	85.3%	<b>79.8%</b>
81004	90.7%	87.6%	80.5%	92.2%	78.4%	85.2%	84.2%
81005	<b>95.1%</b>	95.1%	76.2%	<b>100.0%</b>	78.9%	96.8%	88.9%
81006	93.7%	<b>100.0%</b>	67.9%	<b>100.0%</b>	88.5%	93.6%	89.6%
81007	93.1%	98.4%	86.4%	96.1%	81.1%	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>89.7%</b>
81008	92.1%	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>55.4%</b>	<b>72.0%</b>	<b>96.0%</b>	<b>84.6%</b>	85.5%

Pueblo Percentage with Bachelor's Degree by Zip Code, 2021 - 5 Year Estimates							
Zip Code	White Alone	Black Alone	Amer Ind/ Native Alaskan	Asian Alone	Other Race Alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic/ Latino Origin
81001	20.1%	37.8%	<b>1.0%</b>	47.4%	<b>3.8%</b>	23.6%	10.4%
81003	<b>15.9%</b>	21.9%	11.6%	47.0%	20.5%	23.0%	15.1%
81004	22.1%	<b>12.0%</b>	2.4%	<b>34.8%</b>	8.8%	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
81005	26.0%	47.6%	4.0%	42.8%	7.9%	38.6%	16.5%
81006	26.3%	36.1%	1.9%	<b>100.0%</b>	8.5%	15.1%	16.2%
81007	29.1%	19.8%	<b>18.9%</b>	57.8%	18.6%	<b>43.8%</b>	18.9%
81008	<b>30.8%</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	14.5%	59.3%	<b>23.5%</b>	26.6%	<b>20.7%</b>

Note: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander category excluded due to extremely high margins of error (sample size too small). Margin of error can be larger for smaller populations. Five-year estimates are more accurate due to small sample size in many zip codes.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates

# 2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY



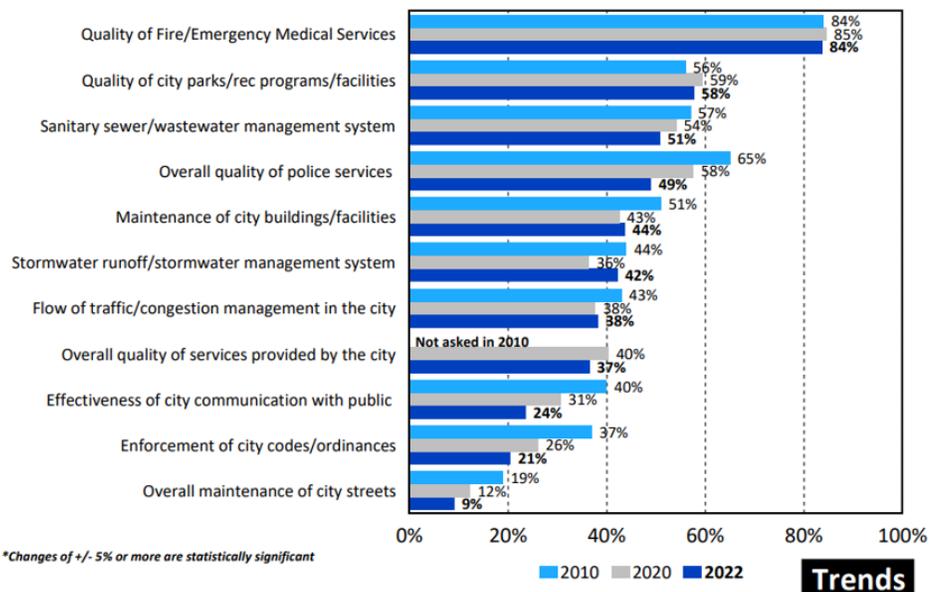
For more than 20 years, the City of Pueblo has contracted with an external organization on a bi-annual basis to administer a Community Satisfaction Survey. In 2022, ETC Institute administered a survey to residents through a random sample selection. In total 33 questions were asked which focused on city services and key demographic information.

The goal to obtain 400 completed surveys from residents was exceeded in 2022, with a total of 484 residents having completed the survey. The overall results for the sample of 484 households have a precision of at least +/-4.4% at the 95% level of confidence. To better understand how well services are being delivered by the City, ETC Institute geocoded the home address of respondents to the survey.

2022 City of Pueblo Community Survey: Findings Report

## Overall Satisfaction With City Services by Major Category - 2010 to 2022

by percentage of respondents who rated the item as a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding "don't know")



**Trends**

# 2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY

## City services that should receive the most emphasis over the next two years by major category

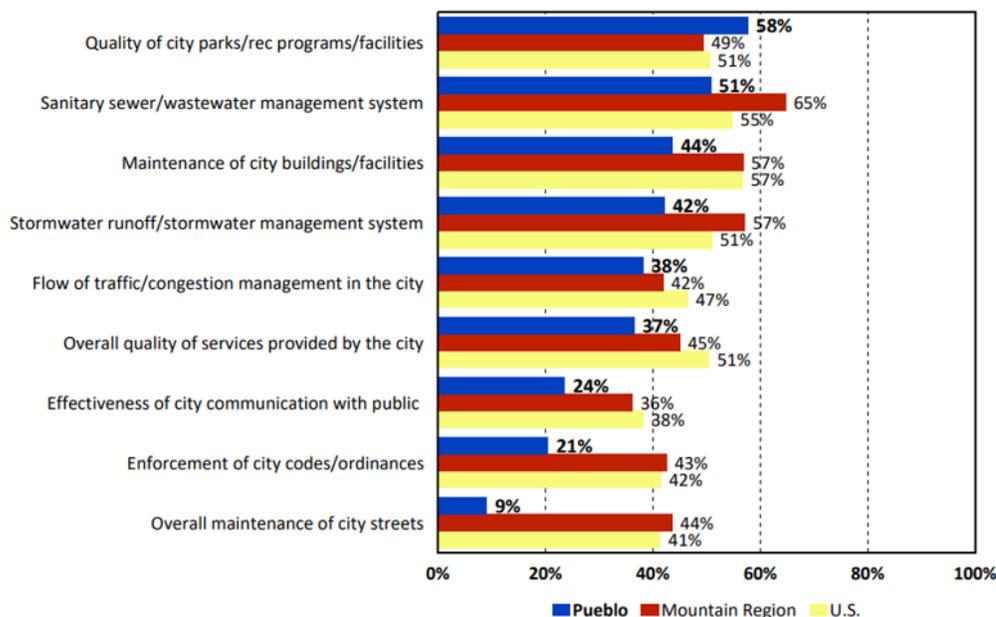
- Maintenance of city streets
- Overall quality of Police services
- Enforcement of City codes/ordinances
- Effectiveness of City communication with public
- Flow of traffic/congestion management in the City
- Quality of city parks/rec programs/facilities
- Overall quality of services provided by the City
- Quality of Fire/Emergency Medical Services
- Stormwater runoff/stormwater management system
- Maintenance of city buildings/facilities
- Sanitary sewer/wastewater management system

2022 City of Pueblo Community Survey: Findings Report

### Overall Satisfaction with Various City Services

#### Pueblo vs. Mountain Region vs. the U.S.

by percentage of respondents who rated the item 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale where 5 was "very satisfied" and 1 was "very dissatisfied" (excluding don't knows)



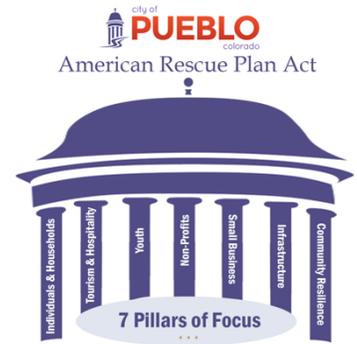
### Key Takeaways

The areas that residents thought should receive the most emphasis from the City of Pueblo over the next two years include:

- Maintenance of city streets
- The quality of Police services
- City communication

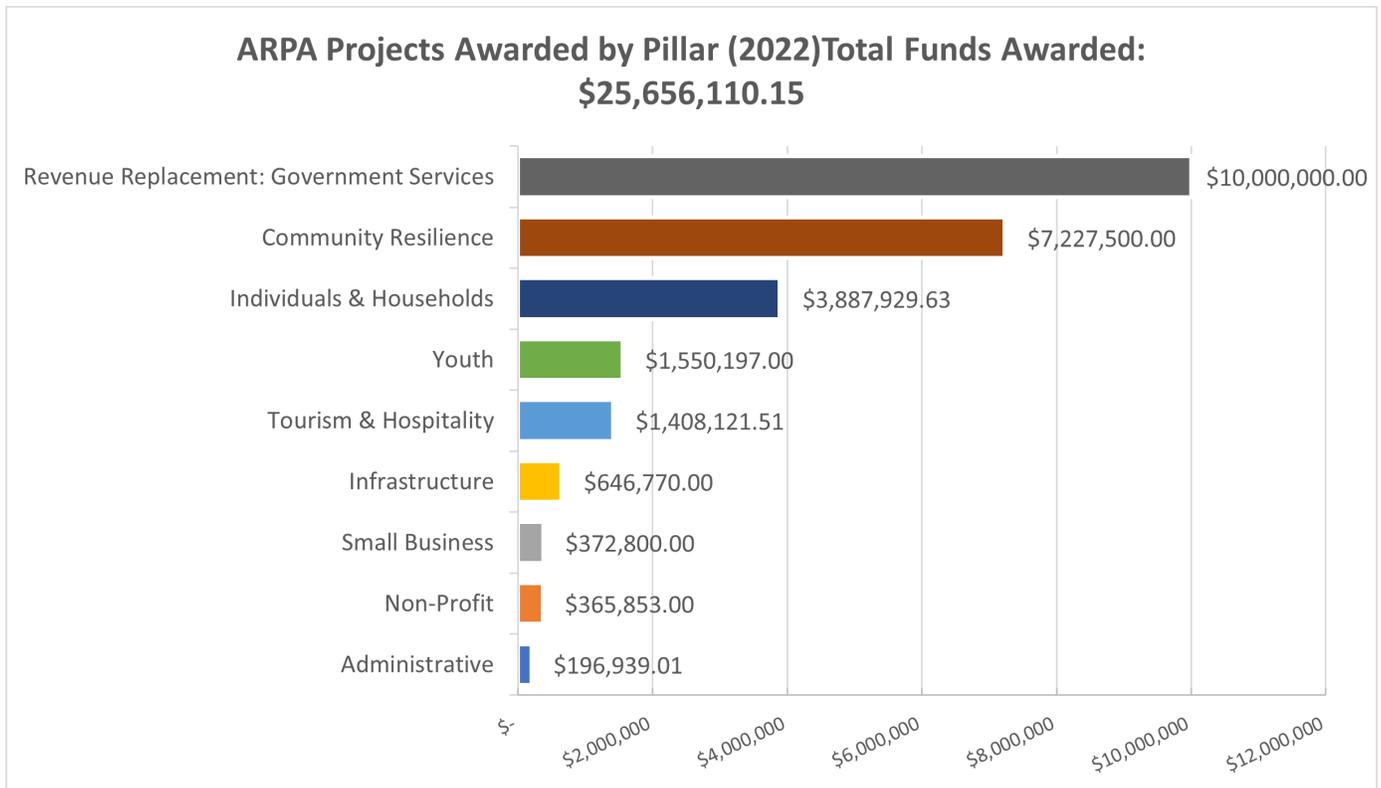
# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The City of Pueblo was the recipient of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, authorized to address negative impacts caused by the public health emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City was authorized to receive a total of \$36.7 million dollars. \$18,203,500.50 was received May 11, 2021; out of which \$10 million dollars was approved for revenue replacement, government services expenditures. The second \$18,203,500.50 was received on June 7, 2022.



The US Department of Treasury, 31 CFR 35.6 provided that American Rescue Act Plan Funds are approved to be used for:

- Replace lost public sector revenue; funding to provide government services.
- Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative impacts of the pandemic; by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector.
- Provide premium pay for essential workers; those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors.
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand affordable access to broadband internet.



The preliminary financial results as of December 31, 2022, provide the total receipt of ARPA funds in the amount of \$36,897,858.28 which includes \$490,857.28 in interest earned through December 31, 2022.

City Council has approved ARPA projects and expenditures in the amount of \$15,656,110.25 with an additional \$10,000,000.00 for revenue replacement, governmental services expenditures. ARPA funds remaining, not including pending projects, total \$11,241,748.13. Pending projects, not yet approved by City Council as of December 31, 2022, equal \$5,915,400.00. ARPA funding remaining after pending projects and available in 2023 equal \$5,328,348.13.

In 2022, the Mayor and City Council worked strategically to identify, support, and approve funding for projects under the major categories of Revenue Replacement, Community Resilience, Individuals & Households, Youth, Tourism & Hospitality, Infrastructure, Small Business, Non-Profits, and coordination and compliance administrative costs.



The following graphs and charts provide a snapshot of the ARPA projects awarded in 2022, totaling \$25,656,110.15.

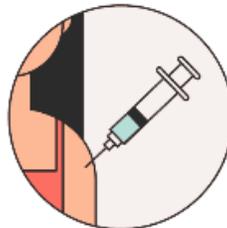
Column 1	Amount Awarded by Pillar
Administrative	\$196,939.01
Non-Profit	\$365,853.00
Small Business	\$372,800.00
Infrastructure	\$646,770.00
Tourism & Hospitality	\$1,408,121.00
Youth	\$1,550,197.00
Individuals & Households	\$3,887,929.63
Community Resilience	\$7,227,500.00
Revenue Replacement: Government Services	\$10,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,656,110.15</b>

Individuals & Households	21
Tourism & Hospitality	9
Youth	15
Non-Profit	5
Small Business	4
Infrastructure	5
Community Resilience	7
Administrative	2
Revenue Replacement: Government Services	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>



**3** new Behavioral Health positions responding to calls with Pueblo PD

*Health Solutions*



**681** City employees received a vaccine incentive

*City of Pueblo Vaccine Incentive*



Premium pay for **331** Police and Fire employees

*City of Pueblo Premium Pay*



**49** individuals received **\$50** /day for trash collection efforts

*Pueblo Rescue Mission*



**6,577** youths earned **\$100** for reading

*Pueblo City-County Library District*



**3** new childcare providers, and **1,500** childcare referrals

*Children First*



**33,171** Nutrition on Wheels meals, and **2,873** Power Up Kidz Sacks

*Pueblo Cooperative Care*

The following non-inclusive list of projects have been recommended by the Mayor and approved by City Council from the Revenue Replacement, government services funds for priority projects such as.

- Gateway Arches "Improvement to the Public Row" on Northern Ave., Union Ave., and 8th Street
- Renovations to El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center
- Mineral Palace Park Greenhouse renovations
- New Fire Department Pumper
- New dump trucks, snowplows, mowing and spraying equipment
- Resources for community trash clean-up projects

# CITY COUNCIL

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City Council is the legislative and policy setting body representing the citizens of Pueblo in the creation and operation of municipal services, functions, and activities. In 2022, the City Council swore in four newly elected officials: At-Large Representative Dennis Flores, District 1 Representative Regina Maestri, District 3 Representative Sarah Martinez, At-Large Representative Heather Graham and District 4 Representative Vicente Martinez Ortega.

## Mission Statement

We, the City of Pueblo, representing a community of diverse culture, character, and history:

- Commit to upholding the City Charter, all City Ordinances, and the highest standards of conduct.
- Commit to promoting and enhancing the well-being and quality of life for Pueblo's residents, visitors, and businesses by providing excellent services in an efficient, respectful, and courteous manner.
- Commit to responsible stewardship of community resources and values and to support all segments of the community.
- Commit to a model of professionalism that ensures respectful and complete consideration of all decisions and decrees; and
- Commit to strategic growth, all facets of economic development, and sustainability.

## Vision Statement

By uniting our energies and working cooperatively with the citizens of Pueblo, we will develop Pueblo, Colorado into one significant, influential, and prosperous community with opportunities for all.



**Front left to right:** Larry Atencio, District 2; Heather Graham, At-Large; Regina Maestri, District 1.

**Back left to right:** Vicente Martinez Ortega, District 4; Sarah Martinez, District 3; Lori Winner, At-Large; Dennis Flores, At-Large.



1-3. Pueblo City Council members Heather Graham, Sarah Martinez and Vicente Martinez-Ortega volunteered for the "Team Up to Clean Up" event in October.



4. City Clerk Marisa Stoller swears in Dennis Flores, Regina Maestri, Sarah Martinez, Heather Graham and Vicente Martinez Ortega as newly-elected members of Pueblo City Council.



5. Councilor Flores presents a proclamation to honor the late Scott Richards of PCC and CNM Media for his service to Pueblo City Council and the community.



6. Councilor Martinez presents a proclamation to Southern Colorado Equity Alliance for Pueblo Pride.



7. Councilor Maestri presents a proclamation to Frankie Cirullo during Italian Heritage Month in October.



8. Ribbon cutting of the new Pickleball courts at Mineral Palace Park featuring Vice-President Atencio, Councilor Winner, Mayor Gradisar and President Graham.

# FINANCE & SALES TAX

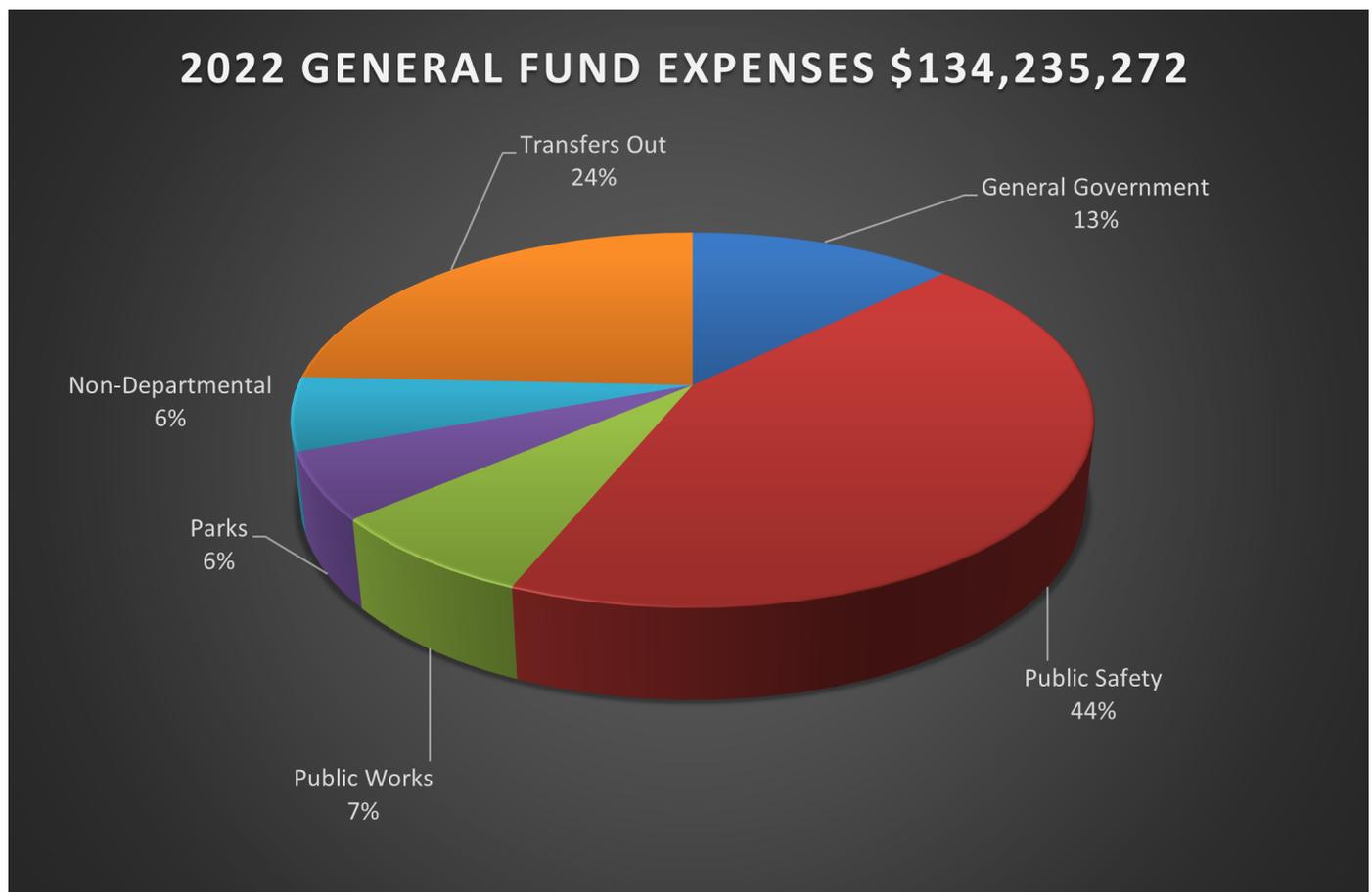
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For FY2023, it is projected that the total revenue and other sources of funds is approximately \$117.3 million dollars; an increase of approximately 5% relative to FY2022 adopted budget.

## SALES TAX

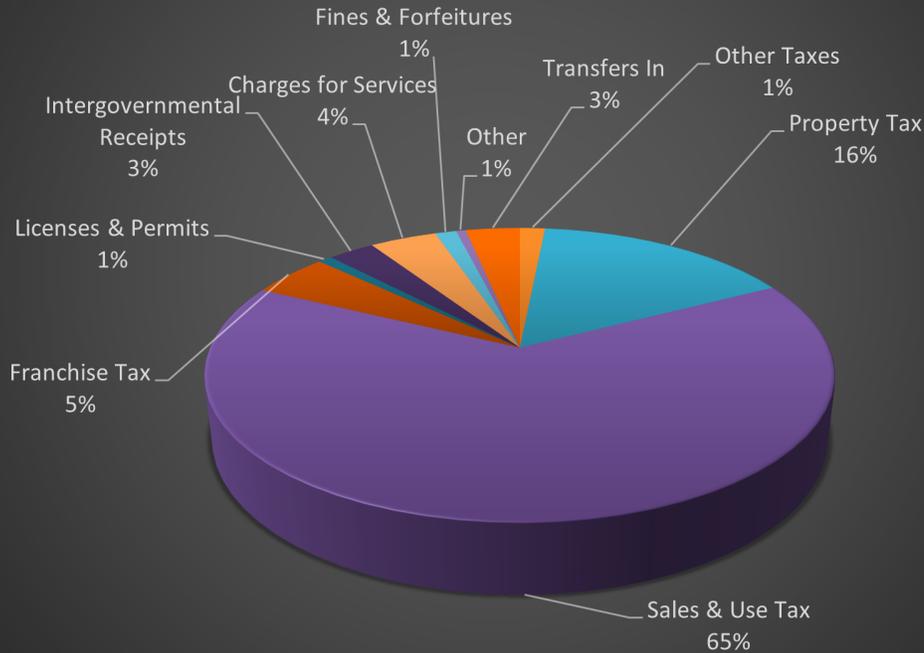
In 2022, there were over 871 new sales tax licenses issued by the City of Pueblo. That signifies increased economic activity which reflects in the increase in sales tax collections. Most of those new applications were from online retailers who remit their City sales tax they are collecting from Puebloans, which is a new requirement of the Sales Tax Division. Approximately 65% of the City's budget comes from sales tax. For the first 10 months of 2022, Sales Tax collections were up over 5.5%. This is a good indicator of economic growth in Pueblo.

At the end of the 2022, the 2023 budget was submitted and approved by City Council. The budget calls for expenditures of \$134.2 million to provide services to the citizens of Pueblo and the City of Pueblo is committed to providing those services in an efficient, effective and transparent manner.



Public Safety is a core service provided by city government, and accounts for 44% of the city budget.

# 2023 GENERAL FUND REVENUE \$117,373,313



General Fund Sales and Use Tax Collection Summary 2018 - 2022\*\*

Gross Sales & Use Tax Receipts General Fund	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual
January	\$3,705,320	\$3,809,969	\$3,899,609	\$4,644,553	\$5,252,247
February	\$3,659,145	\$3,783,801	\$3,867,356	\$4,703,075	\$5,198,051
March	\$4,510,813	\$4,678,440	\$4,152,725	\$6,554,999	\$6,321,402
April	\$3,806,727	\$4,125,045	\$3,796,533	\$6,181,903	\$5,873,035
May	\$4,335,113	\$4,349,769	\$4,592,783	\$5,613,571	\$6,013,871
June	\$4,584,973	\$4,608,230	\$5,144,153	\$6,274,574	\$6,787,599
July	\$4,196,338	\$4,431,027	\$4,736,521	\$5,658,482	\$6,067,434
August	\$4,304,722	\$4,830,567	\$4,801,070	\$5,813,580	\$6,543,247
September	\$4,347,626	\$4,624,476	\$4,972,940	\$5,936,694	\$6,311,939
October	\$3,876,833	\$4,211,280	\$4,527,389	\$5,753,943	\$5,885,160
November	\$4,068,489	\$4,291,501	\$4,540,092	\$5,656,403	\$5,769,531**
December	\$4,915,902	\$5,192,944	\$5,794,007	\$7,196,966	\$7,340,906**
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 50,312,001</b>	<b>\$ 52,937,049</b>	<b>\$ 54,825,178</b>	<b>\$ 69,988,742</b>	<b>\$ 73,364,422</b>

\*\*November and December 2022 receipts estimated.

# GRANTS & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

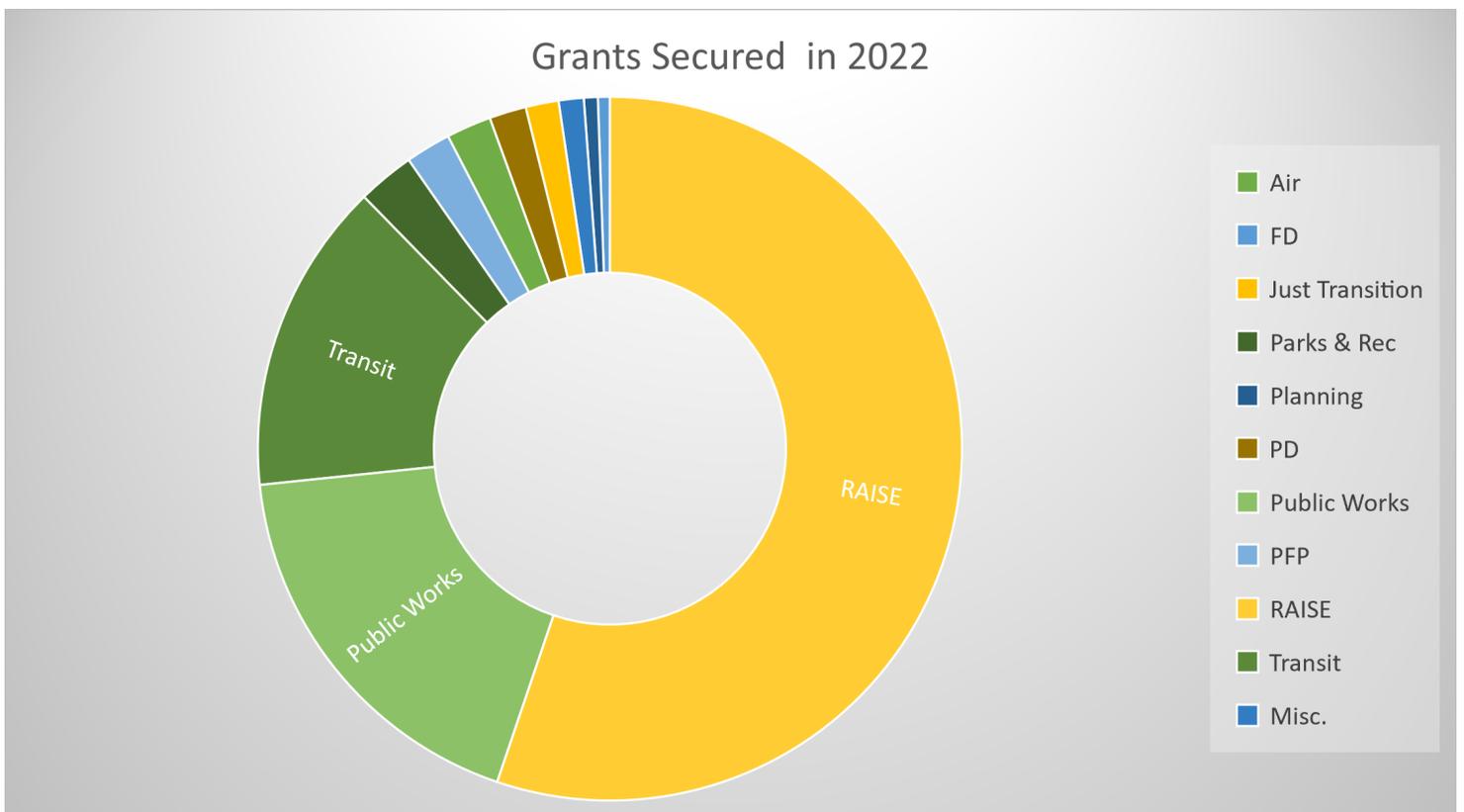
Grant funds received by the City of Pueblo support important programs and services that the City provides to the community. These funds allow the City to extend preexisting services, introduce new initiatives, and gain technological advances. Grant funds are dispersed throughout the City and impact a variety of efforts including security, economic development, public safety, transportation, recreation, and infrastructure improvement and maintenance, among others.

## **Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Funding, does not include American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):**

Aggregate	Secured (Notice of Award Received)	Pending (In Review by Funder)
Number of Awards	41	18
Cash	\$30,518,093	\$62,596,334
In-Kind	\$330,000	\$50,000
<b>By Department</b>		
Airport	\$629,549	\$3,409,517
Fire	\$167,711	
Human Resources		\$175,000
Just Transition	\$461,538	
Municipal Court		\$60,000
Parks & Recreation	\$799,000	\$1,124,000
Planning	\$195,000	\$406,080
Police	\$517,192	\$185,465
Public Works	\$5,540,578	\$3,913,897
Pueblo Food Project	\$634,000	\$53,960
RAISE*	\$16,834,724	
Transit	\$4,373,444	\$52,868,415
Multiple Departments	\$359,658	\$450,000

# GRANTS & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

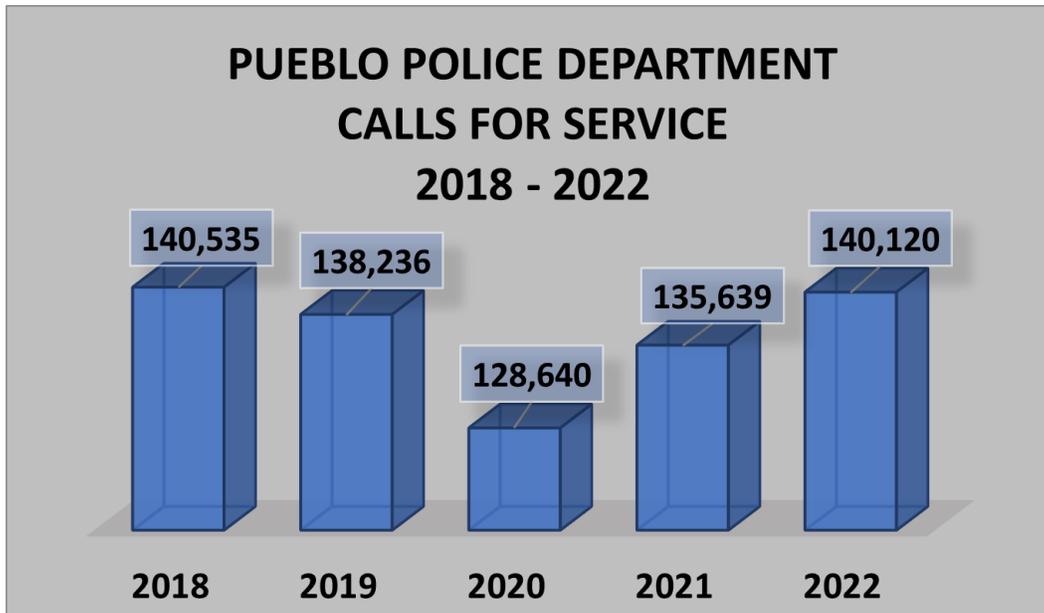
\*Approximately one half of total awards received in CY/FY22 is from the largest single grant ever received by the City, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Of the 936 applications which were forwarded to the USDOT; 303 of them were advanced to the Secretary of Transportation for review; 106 projects were awarded funds throughout the nation. Pueblo received \$16.8 million allocation to modernize roads and main streets in Pueblo’s West Side.



Pueblo is experiencing unprecedented funding opportunities as a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Grants under the BIL can help rebuild Pueblo’s roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every Puebloan has access to high-speed Internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and invest in neighborhoods that have too often been left behind.

# PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

The year of 2022 continued to be filled with challenges and opportunities for the Pueblo Police Department beginning with a 3.2% increase in calls for service. The department also saw an increase (12%) in self-initiated calls for service, where officers are conducting proactive enforcement, often consisting of traffic stops, suspicious persons contacts, Community Oriented Policing (COP) calls, etc. In 2022, officers conducted 29,083 self-initiated calls.



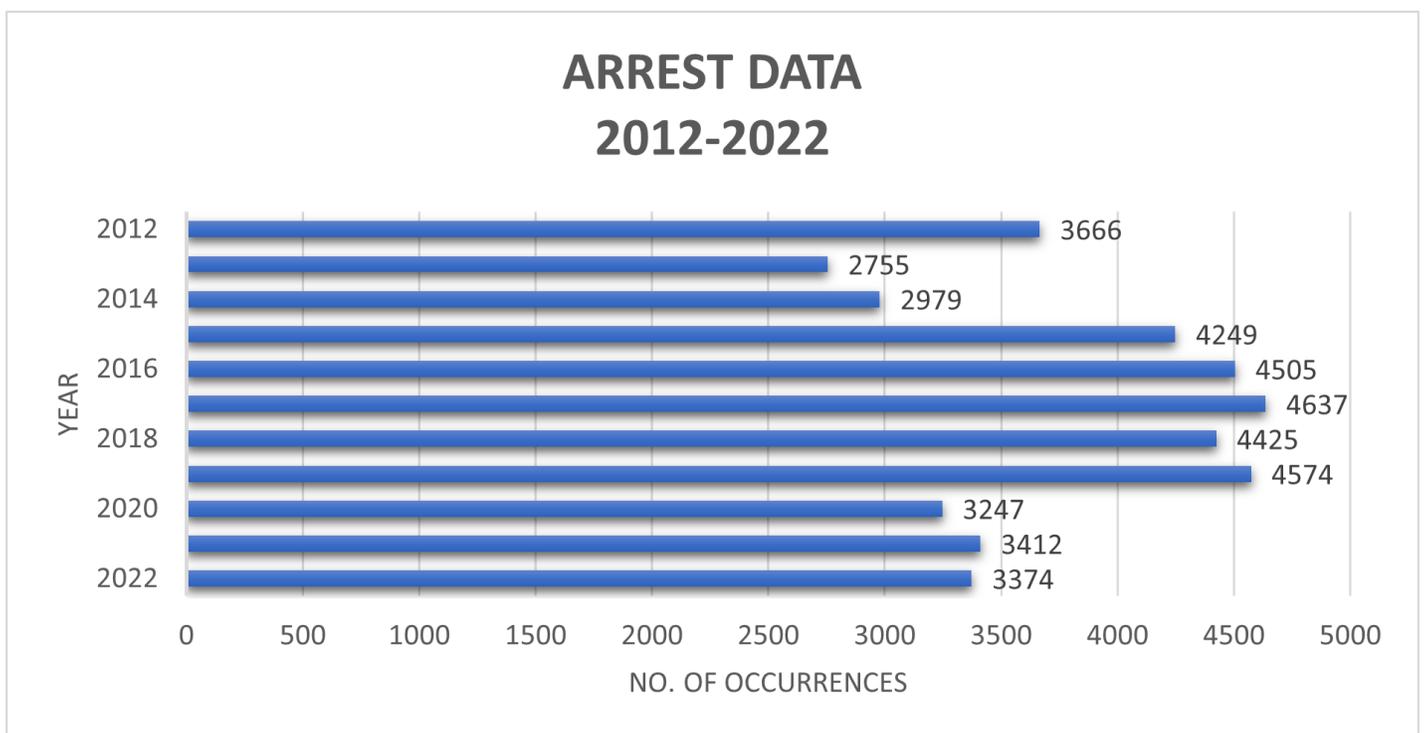
There are several measures police departments use to measure performance, one of these is response times to calls for service. This measure is often a significant factor from a customer service standpoint. While the response to calls for service did increase in 2022, these increases were minimal considering the manpower and other issues Pueblo Police Department faced this past year.

YEAR END RESPONSE TIME (Call Received to 1st Arrive)				
	2020 (Year End)	2021 (Year End)	2022 (Year End)	Difference (Year End)
Priority	2020	2021	2022	Response Time Change
1	000:10:20	000:10:46	000:12:17	+ 1 Min 31 Sec
2	000:16:11	000:18:03	000:20:32	+ 2 Min 29 Sec
3	000:28:25	000:34:14	000:38:22	+ 4 Min 8 Sec
4	000:40:53	000:53:16	001:00:13	+ 6 Min 57 Sec
5	000:43:51	000:59:25	001:01:24	+ 1 Min 59 Sec
6	000:47:55	001:03:00	000:59:23	- 3 Min 37 Sec

Crime continued to increase over 2021 numbers with a 13% increase in Part 1 crimes. The largest increases came in the categories of Aggravated Assault (22%), Auto Theft (23%), and Robbery (43%).

<b>Pueblo Police Department</b>				
<b>Part 1 Comparison</b>				
<b>Nature</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% Δ '21-'22</b>
Aggravated Assault	632	756	923	22%
Arson	59	88	86	-2%
Auto Theft	949	1427	1752	23%
Burglary	888	1268	1291	2%
Homicide	15	30	28	-7%
Robbery	203	250	357	43%
Sexual Assault	325	306	272	-11%
Theft/Larceny	3510	3812	4231	11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6581</b>	<b>7937</b>	<b>8940</b>	<b>13%</b>

**Arrest data from the past ten years. Year by year totals.**



In 2022, there was a 7% decrease in homicides.



## A Proactive Approach

While there are a variety of reasons for the increase in crime, the Pueblo Police Department continues to focus efforts and resources in a variety of ways to become more proactive in addressing and reducing crime.

First, in April of 2022, the Directed Investigations and Community Engagement (DICE) Team was created within the Patrol Division. This unit started with two officers and was directed to focus on low-level crime to include shoplifting, loitering, public decency and other crimes affecting the business community and our citizens quality of life.

In November of 2022, this unit was increased to include another two officers so that 7-day a week coverage could be implemented. Since its creation, the DICE Team has had a dramatic impact on addressing low-level crime and has received accolades from the community and business owners. The DICE Team has allowed the department to free up patrol officers to handle other higher priority calls and at the same time provided for more proactive patrolling related to these crimes.

Since the inception in April of 2022 the DICE Team has made 1,618 citizen contacts, issued 265 citations, recovered eight stolen motor vehicles, made 215 warrant arrests, issued 80 PR bonds, conducted 44 COP calls, recovered \$20,576 in stolen merchandise, handled 52 calls for service, seized 3.38 grams of methamphetamine and 2.18 grams of Fentanyl, issued 146 trespass notices and recovered one stolen handgun.

## **A Proactive Approach (continued)**

The DICE Team was also involved in several homeless outreach projects in 2022. The largest was along the Fountain Creek between Cesar Chavez and Highway 50 Bypass. This clean-up was coordinated by Code Enforcement and included multiple City Departments to include Public Works, Stormwater, Fire Department and Parks and Recreation. The Pueblo Police Department also partnered with several non-governmental organizations to include Triple Aim, Health Solutions and others to provide resources to those living along the Fountain River. This was all accomplished with only four officers.

The second initiative was the creation of the Community Service Officer (CSO) position within the department. The CSOs handle a variety of cases where suspects are no longer on scene to include burglaries, motor vehicle theft reports, recovered (unoccupied) motor vehicle thefts, criminal mischief, frauds and forgeries, missing persons, and runaway reports, found property, handle traffic hazards, conduct follow up for cases and more.

The Mayor supported and City Council approved four CSO positions in the second quarter of 2022. The first CSO Academy was held in July of 2022 and the CSOs started on the street training August 11, finishing their training in the middle of September. The CSOs have had a dramatic impact on the response times and number of calls holding for service by handling 1,844 calls for service and writing 830 reports. This has also allowed patrol officers to be more proactive despite the manpower issues the Pueblo Police Department has faced.



The Mayor included two more CSO positions in the 2023 budget which will be hired and trained in the first quarter of 2023. This will give the department a total of six CSO positions.

In addition to the DICE Team and CSOs, the Property Crimes Unit conducted 22 Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement (BATTLE) operations in Pueblo working with the Colorado State Patrol, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Department of Corrections Parole, Canon City Police Department and Fountain Police Department. These operations focus on addressing auto theft and recovering stolen automobiles. These operations were very successful and resulted in the recovery of 73 stolen vehicles and trailers, with a combined value of \$949,450.00. They also arrested 42 individuals, 26 of whom were charged with motor vehicle theft. This unit is also currently a four-person unit.

The Special Investigations Division, which consists of the Gang and Narcotics Unit also had a huge impact in 2022. With the rise in violent crime the past two years, the work of this unit has become more important. The unit works with the FBI Safe Streets Task Force and the Alcohol Tobacco and Fire Arms (ATF) Task Force to address these crimes and bring the suspects to justice. This past year the Division, working with federal partners obtained 31 federal convictions with sentences totaling over 237 years for violent crimes.

Also, 2022 saw the cumulation of a federal RICO case against the Ace Gang resulting in numerous arrests and a major disruption of the gang's hierarchy.

In addition to the work done with our federal partners, the Pueblo Police Department also continues to work with the Pueblo District Attorney's Office to address Pueblo's increased violence. This year, eight known gang members were arrested and convicted with sentences in the Department of Corrections (DOC) of over 46 years for shootings or drive-by shootings. The Gang Unit consists of five officers and a sergeant.

## Traffic Safety

Traffic safety is another area of concern and responsibility for the department and unfortunately this is an area where the department saw a significant decrease in productivity. In years past, patrol officers were detailed to help address traffic issues with the Department's Traffic Unit and volunteered to work extra overtime, which is funded through a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant. With the impact to manpower, Pueblo Police Department has not been able to assign patrol officers to work portions of their shift to addressing traffic issues.

While traffic accidents in 2022 (3,570) were slightly higher than 2021 (3,566) they remained lower than pre-COVID numbers, for example 2019 saw 3,814 accidents. Pueblo also saw a decrease in the number of fatal traffic accidents (13) to more typical yearly average.

The goal of the Traffic Unit is to increase traffic safety through a combination of education and enforcement without the emphasis of the number of citations written. However, looking at the number of citations written is one method of determining productivity of a traffic unit. Citations were up slightly in 2022 (5,575) over 2021 (5,109) and Driving While Under the Influence (DUI) arrests were at the lowest point in the past five years with only 212 arrests made. This is due largely to the inability to move additional personnel into the Traffic Unit.

Currently seven personnel are assigned to the Traffic Unit with an authorized strength of 12 officers. Other departments around the state and country, who are facing the same manpower issues have disbanded their traffic units to redeploy personnel to patrol duties. Thus far, the Pueblo Police Department has been able to avoid moving staff from this unit.

A Sergeant with the Pueblo Police Department assists with the clean up, citation and traffic control after a car accident.



## New approaches

In October of 2022, the department went to a CompStat intelligence and data driven approach to addressing crime. CompStat is used in departments across the country, starting with the New York Police Department. Every week, the Pueblo Police Department Crime Analyst gathers crime statistics and compiles the data showing what crimes are increasing over the prior week and creates heat maps showing where the highest number of calls for service are occurring. This data is then shared throughout the department to allow Watch Commanders, Sergeants and patrol officers to make daily decisions on allocation of manpower and resources between calls for service. This approach gives officers the information they need to identify areas of concern during their shifts to address crime in a proactive manner and it provides accountability within the organization.

With every challenge, opportunities are found, and the Pueblo Police Department has identified several opportunities in addition to the DICE Team and Community Service Officers. For example, efforts toward recruiting are being stepped up with a fulltime Recruiting Officer position which was created in the fourth quarter of 2022. This position will allow for directed recruiting at a variety of venues to include colleges, military installations, etc. It will also allow for more directed communication with applicants as they move through the process and help them with obtaining documents, getting their application up to date, understanding where in the process applicants are, helping with study sessions, etc.

The Pueblo Police Department is also working with a variety of internal City departments and outside organizations to identify ways to recruit and retain officers. While numbers fluctuate frequently throughout the year, the department did see gain in personnel in 2022 from January to June numbers. However, through the year retirements and officers leaving the state or profession led to a decrease in manpower to 199 at the end of 2022.



## Dispatch

Another vitally important function of the Pueblo Police Department is having a high-quality, responsive Dispatch Center. The staff assigned to this important function receives and dispatches all of the calls for service that come in from the citizens. Dispatch is also experiencing the challenges of short staffing, operating at 54% staffing. The hiring to fill these critical positions is ongoing throughout the year and remains a top priority for both the Pueblo Police Department as well as the Civil Service and Human Resources Departments of the City.



The Pueblo Police Department in the community throughout 2022.



Pueblo youth participating in the Pueblo Police Department Explorer Cadet Program.



# PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Public Safety Sales Tax

Finally, the voters overwhelmingly showed their support for the Pueblo Police Department when they voted 74% in favor to continue to Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) or 2B. The funding that this PSST generates will afford the department the opportunity to attract, hire and retain highly qualified personnel and support the ongoing efforts of the Pueblo Police Department to maintain and implement progressive best practices in delivering public safety services to the citizens of Pueblo. This will help attract future officers, dispatchers and civilian staff to the department.

The tax was initially passed in 2017 and increased our authorized strength from 209 to 231 sworn officers.

In 2019, the department reached the highest staffing level of Police Patrol Officers at 224. From 2017 to 2020, the department was successful in decreasing Part 1 crime nearly 23%. There is a clear connection between staffing levels and the ability to positively impact crime levels. The continued availability of the PSST funding will help impact crime through retention and hiring going into 2023.

While there were many challenges in 2022, the work completed by the limited staff of the department shows a level of work that far exceeds the number of employees in the organization. It also demonstrates the level of commitment to the Pueblo community. The Pueblo Police Department will continue to capitalize on opportunities as the department moves forward into 2023.



The Pueblo Police Department was honored for their service at an event at the Pueblo Riverwalk in spring of 2022.

# CODE ENFORCEMENT

## A division of Pueblo Police Department

The City of Pueblo Code Enforcement Unit is a division of the Police Department. Code Enforcement deals with quality-of-life issues that are important for all citizens, and for a healthy and attractive community. This year, in addition to removing over 400 tons of litter from private properties, the unit participated in illegal dump site cleanups and cleanup along the Fountain Creek. Code Enforcement partnered with other city agencies and those cleanups resulted in over 150 tons of litter removed and taken to the landfill.



Like other units within the department, staffing shortages have presented challenges for Code Enforcement during 2022. However, the dedication of unit staff was demonstrated through their continued hard work to handle a heavy call load and also took on additional duties of special clean-up assignments. Between Code Enforcement, Police Patrol, Stormwater, Public Works, Transportation, Pueblo Parks and Recreation and Streets, over 162,000-person hours have been dedicated to cleaning up the city. City staff have demonstrated the power of partnership.



Fountain Creek cleanup site during a City Department collaborative cleanup effort.



Left: Before

This one residential property required removal of over five tons of litter.



Right: After

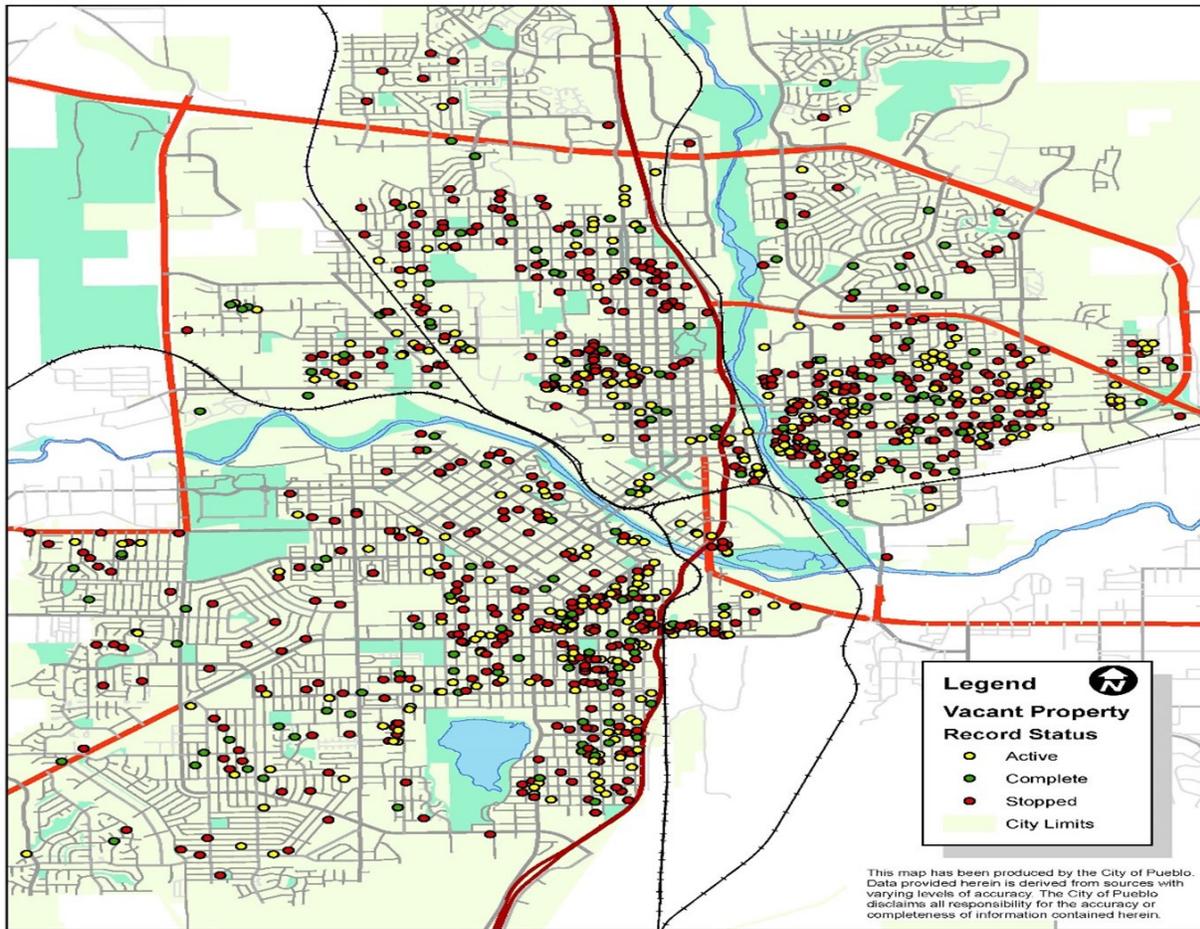
May 9, 2022 at 10:12:04

As always, Code Enforcement does what it can to partner with the community to beautify Pueblo and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

Despite a significantly smaller abatement crew and vacancies in other full-time position, the Code Enforcement Unit did an admirable job in 2022 resulting in increases in the number of complaints and violations processed in litter removal and storage, junk vehicles, zoning and international property maintenance. Moving into 2023, another full-time Code Enforcement Officer has been assigned to the unit and there will be efforts to try and attract more candidates to join the part-time abatement crew.

Complaint/Violations Handled						
Type	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Litter	2366	2415	2331	2457	2028	2178
Weeds	2267	2867	2196	2944	1631	2073
Litter removal and storage	1914	1549	1483	1362	214	
Junk vehicles	855	722	775	740	541	525
Zoning	755	468	447	383	409	437
International Property Maint.	467	285	220	279	267	168
Marijuana	32	5	22	54	57	94
Graffiti	25	21	8	26	5	2
Board up	177	168	193	199	188	158
Other	943	627	641	516	173	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>9801</b>	<b>9321</b>	<b>9984</b>	<b>8960</b>	<b>5513</b>	<b>5935</b>
Case Status	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Notice of Violation Issued	2007	2835	2697	3220	2008	2099
Summons Violation issued	1052	1007	1130	2370	1984	603
Completed	1911	2336	2797	2679	1964	1950
Other or In Progress	1466	1379	878	265	842	
Abatements Performed	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Litter	165	192	228	242	199	194
Weeds	148	207	232	233	176	184
Board up	27	44	70	64	85	24
Graffiti	0	2				
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>402</b>
Solid Waste	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Tons to Landfill	389.10	418.85	468.54	656.83	768.41	602.81
Tires	1460	2434	1141	2603	1694	<b>1447</b>

**Vacant Property Registry  
2022 Properties By Record Status**



*Code Enforcement  
01/06/2022 09:39:00*

In 2021, Code Enforcement was tasked with handling the Vacant Property Registry adopted by City Council. Since 2021, processes have been created, notifications made and liens filed.



*July 28, 2022 at  
10:03 AM*



Code Enforcement is now preparing for 2023 and sending reminder letters to all who registered, and notices to those who did not. Vacant property owners on the registry in 2022 will be receiving letters and notices in 2023 to encourage compliance.

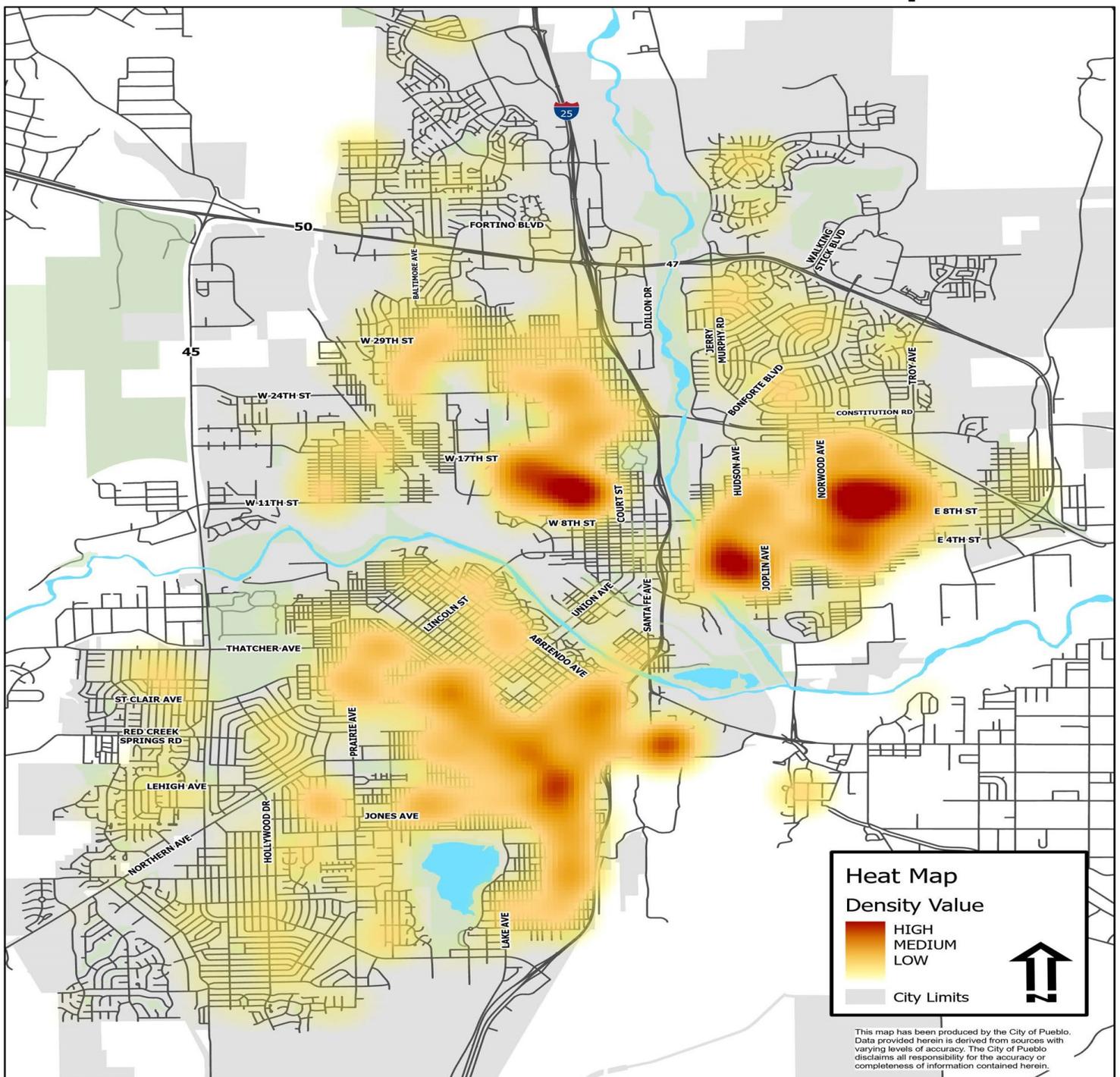
Notices of Violations Sent		Notices sent to properties who did not respond to warning letters.
Active	317	Have not yet paid the fees, liens are in progress.
Paid	183	Completed the 2022 registry, no lien required and no late fee.
Stopped	544	Stopped due to building permit/not vacant/other reason exempting property.
Leins	184	Liens filed for registration fee and late fee.
***		Several banks have paid the fees due to foreclosures etc. even without being notified.
		Part of the process was setting up the ability to appeal. A total of 15 appeals were filed, nine were upheld, six were deemed not vacant by either the Judge or the Mayor's Office. Reasons included: lack of residential structure/two residential structures on one lot, one occupied.

# CODE ENFORCEMENT

## A division of Pueblo Police Department

This heat map shows that the code violations tend to occur more frequently in areas where there are higher numbers of vacant properties. Moving forward, armed with this important data, the Code Enforcement unit will deploy more resources to these hot spots to make meaningful improvements to those neighborhoods most impacted.

### 2022 Code Enforcement Heat Map



# PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT



The year of 2022 was busy for the Pueblo Fire Department. The wildfire season continued into 2022 from 2021. Fortunately, some late spring rains helped to decrease the wildfire activity throughout the rest of the year. The Fire Department handled three large wildfires; the PAWS Fire, CSU Pueblo Fire and Lake Minnequa Fire. These fires relied heavily upon mutual aid resources from neighboring departments as well as the State Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

The Pueblo Fire Department also sent resources to the Bent's Fort Fire in Otero County and the Marshall Fire. The department remained an active participant in the Chemical Stockpile Preparedness Program (CSEPP) as well. The annual full-scale exercise was held the first week in May and agencies and personnel performed well. The relationships within the response community in the greater Pueblo area continue to be positive which builds confidence in readiness to perform when emergencies arise.

Pueblo Fire Department responds to Colorado State University Pueblo Fire

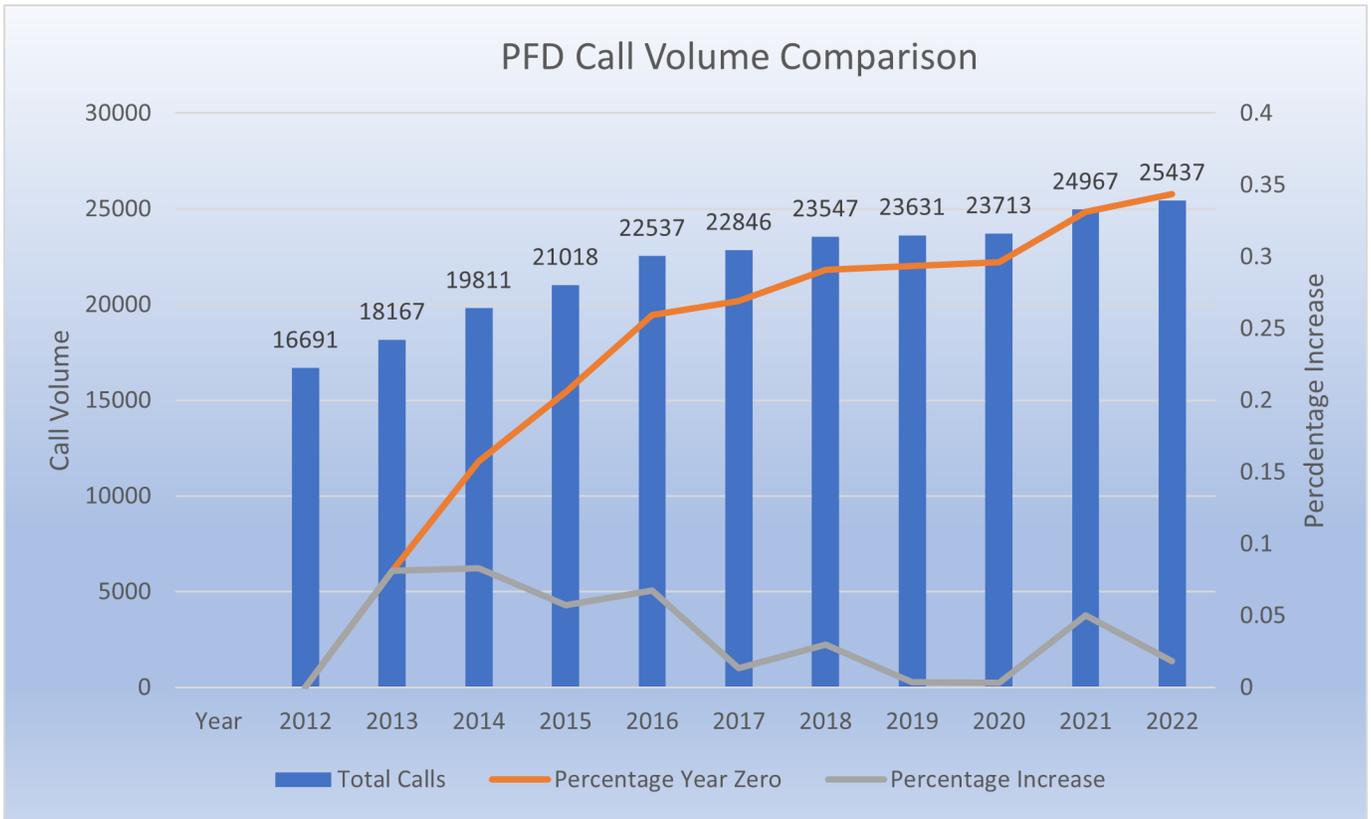


Lake Minnequa Fire took place in early June. The fire was approximately 52 acres and no homes were threatened. Multiple agencies and a helicopter from the State responded.



PAWS Fire Incident  
Command Area

In 2022 Pueblo Fire Department call volume averaged 74 calls for service per day. Below the graph shows the call volume comparison over the last 10 years for Pueblo



Pueblo Fire Department ranks in the 90th percentile nationally with response times. Below is a chart of response time comparison of the last five years to date.

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Percentage change
Alarm Handling	1:21	2:11	2:26	2:49	2:35	-8.28%
Turnout Time	2:09	2:14	2:08	2:13	2:17	3.01%
Travel time	6:15	6:17	6:23	6:21	6:18	-0.79%
Total Response Time	8:38	9:29	9:53	10:00	9:54	-1.00%

# PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## Community Risk Reduction Programs:

### Homeless Camp Mitigation

The Pueblo Fire Department provided medical support and brush trucks along the river bottom during the October clean up. Pueblo Fire Department is slated to have a State Wildland Inmate Fire Team (SWIFT) come to Pueblo to do wildland mitigation along the Fountain and Arkansas river in January 2023; this support is provided from a state grant awarded in 2022.

### Directing Others to Services (DOTS)

The Pueblo Fire Department received several grants to assist with community outreach for the Directing other to Services (DOTS) program. One grant provided 30 tablets with internet service to enrolled patients along with a part-time, temporary position to help train the community on connecting via the internet. This position provided 68 service calls from May-October 2022.

The DOTS team made 790 calls from January through October 2022. The DOTS team effectively reduces call volume and emergency room (ER) usage by over 50% on average. A civilian position is being added to the team in 2023 and funded for nine months through a grant.

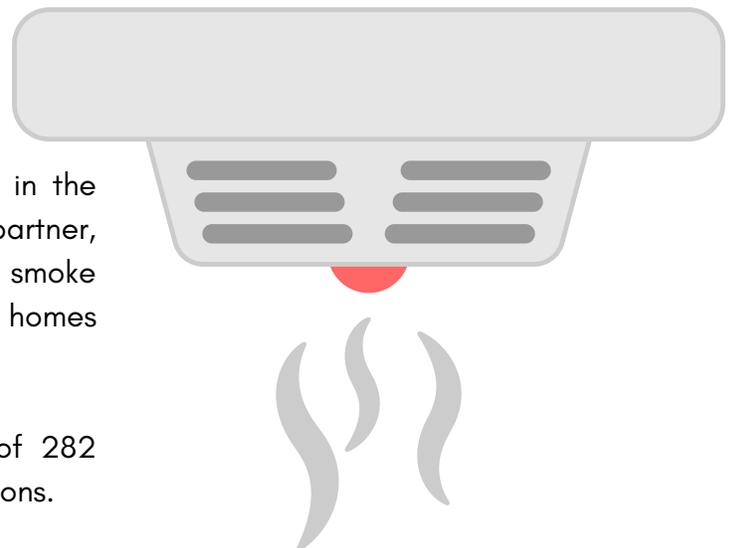
### Sound the Alarm

The City of Pueblo Fire Department participated in the 2022 Sound the Alarm program with community partner, The American Red Cross. In Pueblo alone, 266 smoke detector alarms were installed which made 121 homes safer.

As a result of this important program, a total of 282 Puebloans were made safer through these installations.

### Alternate Responses

This year, the Pueblo Fire Department received a grant from Firehouse Subs for the purchase of electric bikes. These bikes allow for a more efficient response as well as increased interaction at large crowd events, such as the Pueblo Chile and Frijoles Festival.



## Fire Fit Kids

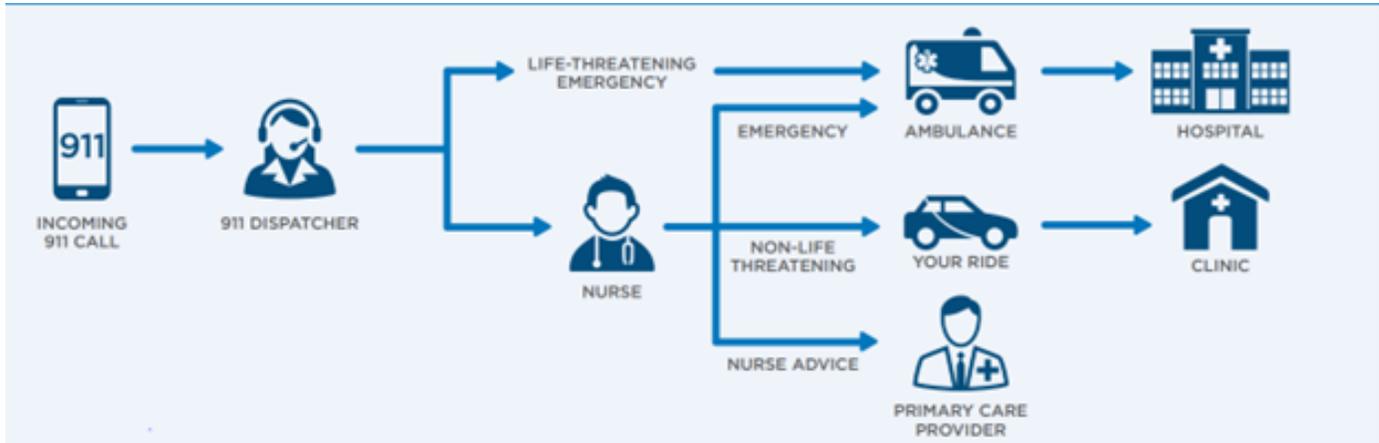
Fire Fit Kids continues to be a positive public outreach program for kids in the community, providing hands on “playtime” as a firefighter in training.



Fire Fit Kids provides an opportunity for children in the community to be introduced to firefighters in a safe, playful way. In December of 2022, Pueblo Fire Department welcomed the Pueblo United Way for a field trip with students from District 60 and District 70 to Fire Station #4 for a tour, day of education and Fire Fit Kids experience.

# PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Nurse Navigation



Home of Heroes Nurse Navigation kicked off in 2022. This program is part of a state grant pilot program and American Medical Response (AMR) partnership. At the inception of the program, Pueblo Fire Department projected as a goal to reduce call volume to 911 responses by 10%. From July 2022 (program kick off) until November 21, only 60 calls or less than 1% went to the Home of Heroes Nurse Navigator program. The program is not meeting this goal currently and the team is working to improve this program.

Transaction Breakout						
Client Name	Calls Triaged	Returned to 911	REF-TELE-RR	SELF CARE	Avg Transport Time (Overall)	Avg Score (1-5)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pueblo CO 911	60	44	3	13	00:00:00	5.0
911 CO, Pueblo - Medicaid	22	19	1	2	00:00:00	5.0
911 CO, Pueblo - Medicare	18	14	1	3	00:00:00	5.0
911 CO, Pueblo - Other	12	5	1	6	00:00:00	
911 CO, Pueblo - Commercial	5	3	0	2	00:00:00	
911 CO, Pueblo - Uninsured	3	3	0	0	00:00:00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>00:00:00</b>	<b>5.0</b>

## Permits/Inspections

An additional inspector position was funded in 2022. This allowed for improved customer service with quicker turn-around time. Part of improved services was the City of Pueblo's implementation of the Open Gov online permitting program.

# PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## Infrastructure and Growth

To improve service to the city and the health and wellness of the firefighters, the City of Pueblo is working to build four fire stations. Three of the new stations will replace outdated stations. These will also be relocated for better response distribution in the city. The fourth station will be an additional station to serve the west side of Pueblo. Three fire stations are currently in the design phase of this project.

## Fleet needs

The Pueblo Fire Department has one pumper on order to replace Engine 2's current pumper. If approved, the pumper for new Station 11 and two ladder trucks will be ordered as part of the ongoing fleet needs.

## Personnel

The department has an Academy of nine new recruits, that started in November 2022 to fill vacancies. If approved, the Pueblo Fire Department will hire six of 15 new positions needed in preparation of staffing new Fire Station 11.

## Accreditation

The Pueblo Fire Department will go through its third re-accreditation process in 2023. The panel meets in Chicago in August of 2023 as part of this re-accreditation process.



Members of Pueblo Fire Department participated in the fall event "Rake Up Pueblo" as a community service event. Front the left to right: Tyler Wittrup, Jessica Vigil, Cody Guasta, Taylor O'Neal. Back left to right: Deputy Chief Keith Novak, Drew Golob (in the back), Chief Barbara Huber, Deputy Chief Chris Harner.

# PUEBLO MEMORIAL AIRPORT

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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. Since 2019, the Airport has received more than \$12 million in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), CDOT-Aeronautics, and County A-1 grants which helped improve airfield pavement, the Master Plan Study, storm water drainage and other projects in and around the airport. The Airport also received Federal COVID Relief funds to assist with operational expenses.

2022 was seen as a return to normalcy for passenger demand across the nation. However, airlines still faced challenges with lingering pilot shortages and aging aircraft fleets.



Pueblo Airport is proud to partner with Southern Airways for continued daily round trip service to Denver International Airport and beyond.

Southern Airways will provide three to four daily round trip flights with a more desirable morning and evening schedule.



# PUEBLO MEMORIAL AIRPORT

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Pueblo Airport has a full calendar of projects for 2023. Construction projects like rehabilitation of the main runway, repaving the general aviation ramp and the acquisition of a new snowplow, illustrate the outstanding partnerships the airport has with the FAA and the State to continue to fund infrastructure improvements.

Shown right is a drone photo of the runway at Pueblo Memorial Airport during the springtime.



Despite the many challenges facing the aviation industry, the Pueblo Airport is committed to growth and is finding creative ways to promote and enhance the community. Pueblo Airport is partnering with the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum (PWAM) to host a February Free Fly-In, which provides free admission to the museum for pilots and passengers who fly-in to Pueblo, and the annual Wings and Wheels Car Show.

## PUEBLO WEISBROD AIRCRAFT MUSEUM



# CITY CLERK

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The City Clerk's Office continues to provide quality support as the record-keepers for the City Council, City Administration and Departments and the citizens of Pueblo, serving as a direct link between the community and their government. In addition to running the 2022 City election in conjunction with the County Clerk & Recorder, the City Clerk's Office maintained its support and service of the liquor, tobacco and marijuana business licensing needs of the City of Pueblo.

The 2022 City election had three citizen initiative measures put forward, none of which made it to the ballot and two items that City Council voted to place on the ballot. The two initiatives for the ballot were 2A: Expand Local Broadband Services and 2B: Extension of the Public Safety Sales Tax.

The City of Pueblo was represented by the Clerk's Office in Denver during the Opioid Abatement Conference hosted by Attorney General Phillip Weiser, and is helping to oversee the disbursement of the settlement funds granted to the City by multiple opioid lawsuits.

Local businesses have hailed the office's Liquor Compliance Checks, instituted in 2021, as incredibly helpful in educating business owners. Businesses appreciate that the Clerk's office is coming personally to their place of business, and often take advantage of the opportunity to speak with someone about liquor questions that have come up over the course of the year.

Type of Tobacco License	2022
Tobacco	142

Type of Marijuana License	2022
Retail Grow	6
Retail Testing	4
Retail Store	8
Retail Product Manufacturing	2
<b>Total Retail Licenses</b>	<b>20</b>
Medical Grow	2
Medical Testing	2
Medical Store	2
Medical Product Manufacturing	2
<b>Total Medical Licenses</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Active Marijuana Licenses</b>	<b>28</b>

Type of Liquor License	2022
Art Gallery	2
Beer & Wine	3
Brew Pub	2
Cabaret	34
Club	7
Hotel & Restaurant	65
Lodging & Entertainment	9
Off Premise Fermented Malt Beverage	64
On Premise Fermented Malt Beverage	4
Racetrack	0
Retail Store	34
Special Events	34
Tasting	1
Tavern	40
<b>Total Active Liquor Licenses</b>	<b>299</b>

The online Pueblo PLACE portal for licensing applications has also fully launched after its build out in 2021, allowing licensees to submit their forms and documentation at their convenience and communicate easily with various City Departments without the need to set aside time out of their day to come into City offices.



### **Liquor and Cabaret Licensing**

Liquor License Common Consumption Area Application, Liquor License New Application and Renewal + 8 more



### **Marijuana Licensing**

Marijuana License Application and Renewal, Marijuana Conditional Use Permit + 2 more

Pueblo Place can be found online by visiting the City of Pueblo website at [www.pueblo.us](http://www.pueblo.us) and can be found at the center of the homepage. Above is an example view of the permitting found on the Pueblo Place website.

## **Professional Development**

Two members of the City Clerk's Office attended and graduated from the City of Pueblo's Leadership Academy, a 16-week course for City leaders with courses taught by college professors and workplace professionals. The City Deputy Clerk also attended and graduated from the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Pueblo Class of 2022, learning about the innerworkings of Pueblo and working hand and hand with other up and coming leaders in organizations throughout the city.

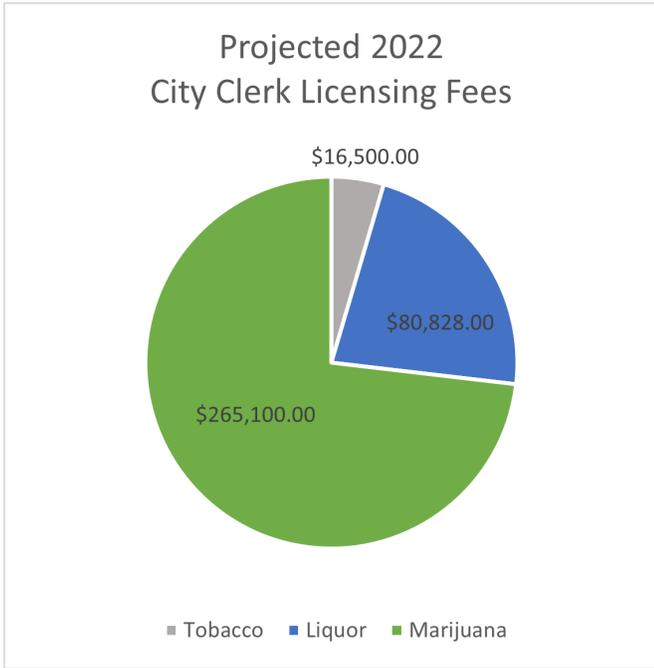
The Pueblo City Clerk also served as the Project Manager for the City's Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University Innovation Training, facilitating the project and team over the 11-month training period which led to several new initiatives to attempt to address youth gang violence

## **New Updates**

In 2022, the City Clerk's Office tested and launched a new agenda management system. Cross-departmental staff were trained in the new system internally, and the public now enjoys greater access and ease to City Council meeting data. Citizens can access the digital agenda and see how an item was motioned and voted on almost right after the vote is taken instead of having to watch the meeting live or scroll through the recordings the next day.

At the request of the City Clerk, City Council and the Liquor Board both passed ordinances to allow administrative approval of items that do not require hearings, such as renewal applications. This will allow for a faster turnaround time for current liquor license holders, and hopefully help to prevent future issues with distributors which some local businesses experienced this year due to licensing delays at the state level.

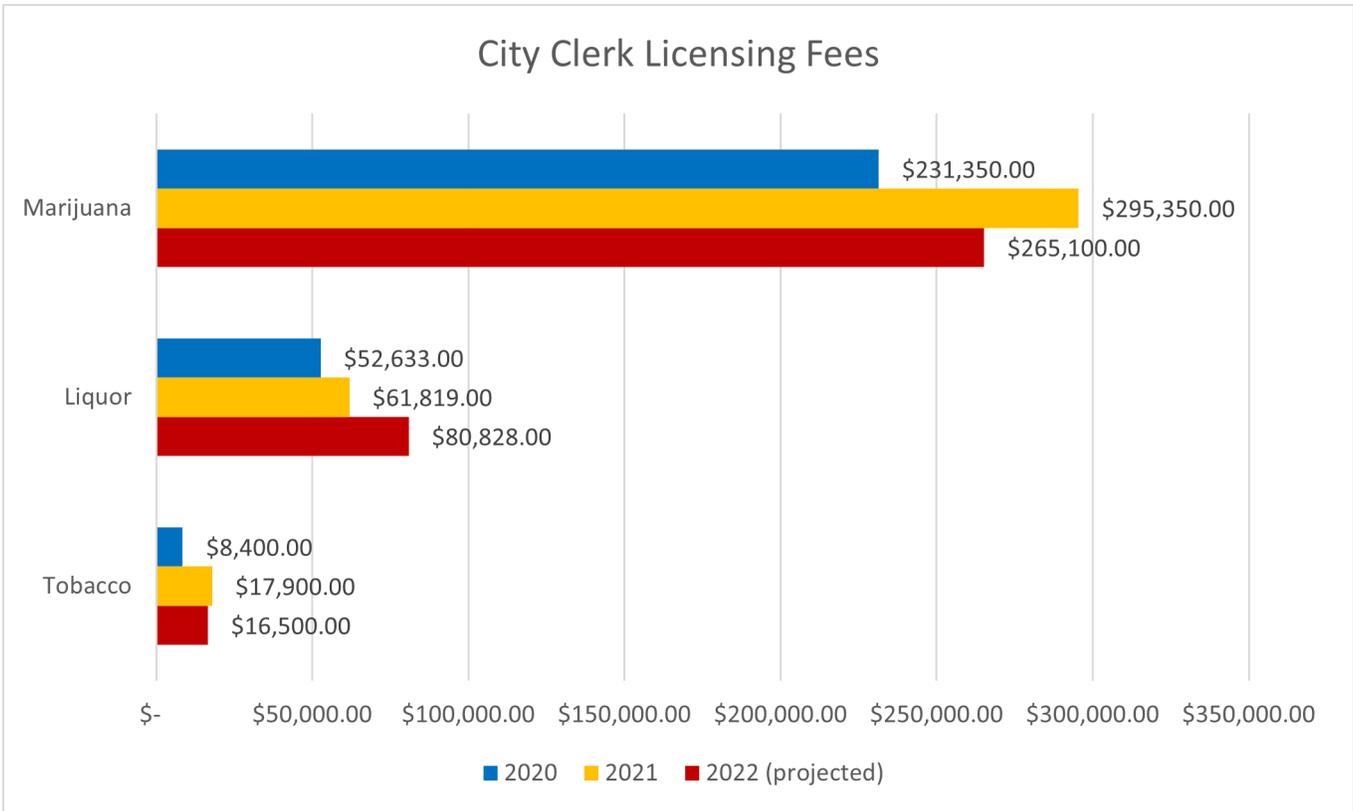
Types of Licenses	2020	2021	2022 (projected)
Tobacco	\$8,400.00	\$17,900.00	\$16,500.00
Liquor	\$52,633.00	\$61,819.00	\$80,828.00
Marijuana	\$231,350.00	\$295,350.00	\$265,100.00



Tobacco	\$16,500.00
Liquor	\$80,828.00
Marijuana	\$265,100.00

Licensing Fees remained steady for Liquor, Tobacco and Marijuana.

There was an increase in the fees collected for Liquor due to the enforcement of a number of violations from various licensees, which resulted in fines and suspensions. There was a slight drop in Marijuana licensing revenue as a few businesses opted to close their doors and surrender their licenses this year in the competitive marketplace. The City Clerk’s Office also processed approximately 140 Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) requests in 2022.



# MUNICIPAL BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City of Pueblo is supported by over 30 Boards and Commissions comprised of over 250 citizen volunteers and staff.

In 2022, the City completed an assessment aimed to bridge the gap existing between board and commission members and the Pueblo community. A digital toolbox for board members, the new name of Pueblo Engaged Advocates for Community (PEAC) City Boards and Commission Program, and online recruitment sessions were a few products of this collaboration between participants of this effort.

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. The City appreciates and thanks the following members of its boards and commissions for their contribution and service.



Board or Commission	Members
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADA Advisory Committee</b></p>	<p>Sharon Campbell                      Heather Norton                      Kristen Castor                      Donald Bruestle                      Dale Buterbaugh                      Tura Cowan                      Deborah Macllory                      Tiffany Garcia                      Laura Leyba</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Board of Appeals - Building</b></p>	<p>Chad Pulsifer                      Steve Weidner                      Andrew Hayes                      Brian Gray                      Robert Leverington                      Mark Kleven</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Board of Appeals- Electrical</b></p>	<p>Seth Boutilier                      Larry G. Moore                      Royal Trivett                      Daniel F. Henderson                      Charles Montera                      Robert Berrier                      Albert Herrera</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Board of Appeals- Mechanical</p>	<p>Steve F. Girodo Robert D. Vigil Patrick Grubb Brian Gray Pat Noga</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Board of Appeals- Plumbing</p>	<p>Kenneth R. Gulley Dan White Lance A. Harvey John D. Chrisman Steven Contreras Kent Stringer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Board of Elections</p>	<p>Sharon Sullenberger Alvin Rivera</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Board of Health</p>	<p>Garrison Ortiz Dr. Michael Nerenberg Ed Brown Eileen Dennis, RN Donald Moore</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Commission on Housing &amp; Homelessness (CCHH)</p>	<p>Chris Wiseman Sarah Martinez Brandi Adakai Chad Albaugh Christina Maestas Dustin Taylor Heather Maio Jimmy Duffner Melissa Nereson Sarina Adame Steven Rodriguez Susan Anderson Allison Rea Christine Zeitvogel DesiRae Armeta Joshua Montelongo Judy Solano Kathy Cline Kim Bowman Mary Lee Reah Santangelo Richard Burns Veronica Gold Ashleigh Winans Brittney Moudy Bryan Gallagher Caroline Trani Donald Moore Joe O'Brien Melanie Rapier Shanna Farmer Teah Miller Alexis Ellis Bart Mikotowicz</p>

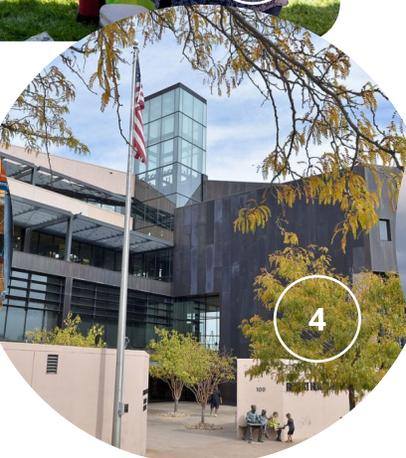
Board or Commission	Members
<p align="center"><b>Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC)</b></p>	<p>Tony Montoya David "Nick" Potter Steven Rodriguez Nancy Zimmer Michael Messervy Nick Trejo Mary Lee Dynelle Abeyta Julie Fairman Cindy Lau Sandra Sherrer</p>
<p align="center"><b>El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center Board of Directors</b></p>	<p>Timothy Trujillo Joseph Latino Thomas Carrigan Maria Lopez Mindy Armijo</p>
<p align="center"><b>Fire Board of Appeals</b></p>	<p>Robert Hudgens Frank Nemick Shawn Shelton Michael Carlisle Gary Micheli</p>
<p align="center"><b>Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control &amp; Greenway District Governing Board</b></p>	<p>Larry Atencio Dennis Flores Richard Skorman Greg Lauer Longinos Gonzalez Leroy Mauch Irene Kornelly Garrison Ortiz Terry Hart Nancy Fortuin</p>
<p align="center"><b>Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Authority Board of Directors</b></p>	<p>Dennis Maroney Chris Wiseman Heather Graham Don Banner David Anderson Rita Fox Sam Krage</p>
<p align="center"><b>Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Foundation Board of Directors</b></p>	<p>David Anderson Matt Centner Marty Garcia Beth Gladney Eppie Griego Laurie Kilpatrick Meagan Kroeze-Butkovich Brian Lucas Betty Martinez Larry Ohrdorf</p>

Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Foundation Board of Directors (continued)	Bill Vidmar Ken West Ken White
Historic Preservation Committee	Gregory Howell Anthony P. Perko Susan McCarthy Laurel B. Campbell Suzanne Kuehn Jocelyn Martinez Amy Scoby
Honor Farm Enterprise Citizens Advisory Board	Bob Neumeister Kyle Rayburn Christopher Bratnick Matthew Larimore Kristin Blackburn Zach Pittman Michael Riley
Housing Authority of the City of Pueblo Board of Directors	Andrea Aragon Jack Quinn Melanie Bravo Phyllis Sanchez Catherine Allen Steven Trujillo
Liquor and Beer Licensing Board	Steven Cornetta Modesto Cartegena Tom Rose Elizabeth (Liz) Chapman Carma Loontjer
Planning & Zoning Commission	Sarah Martinez Alexandra Aznar Mike Castelucci Elizabeth "Lisa" Bailey Christopher Pasternak Patrick Avalos Cheryl Spinuzzi
Pueblo City-County Library District Board of Trustees	Marlene Bregar Lyndell Gairaud Larry Atencio Sarah Martinez Stephanie Garcia Jacquelyn Keith Doreen Martinez Dustin Hodge Fredrick F. Quintana
Pueblo Conservancy District	Barabara Bernard Jerry Martin Roger (Bud) O'Hara Donna Phillips Corinne Koehler

<p>Pueblo Conservancy District (continued)</p>	<p>Ronald Serna Paul Willumstad Dennis Maroney Matt Cordova</p>
<p>Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority Board of Directors</p>	<p>Larry Atencio Patsy Cresswell Kurt Madic Allan McConnell Jason Schierling Terry Hart Eileen Dennis</p>
<p>Pueblo Energy Advisory Commission</p>	<p>Larry Atencio Laura Getts Adam Haman David Lucas Alan Ward Joshua Montelongo Tyler Surat John Vigil Kenneith Danti Woody Percival Edgie Walrath Joe Waneka Martin Adams Steve Nawrocki Monica Younger</p>
<p>Pueblo Human Relations Commission</p>	<p>Kathleen D. Javaneau Benji Caldera Richard Blair Kennedy Pugh Orlando Rodriguez Adelia Tripp-Sean Cody Jame Rsmussen Jean Flynn Ray Gloria Gutierrez Jesse Sena Callico Bargas Adelia Hayes</p>
<p>Pueblo Memorial Airport Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Terrence Terrill Chris Wiseman Vicente Martinez Ortega Regina Maestri Ken Johnson Walter L. (Scott) Ross Jr. Jay Rice Robert Childers Todd Engel Janet Schraner Michael Occhiato Nathanael Dinsmore Kenneth Sanchez</p>

<p>Pueblo Municipal Golf Course Enterprise Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Karen Conry Jerry Thomas Tony Montoya Michael Riccatone Joseph A. Latino</p>
<p>Pueblo Regional Building Commission</p>	<p>Chris Wiseman Larry Atencio John Ribal Anthony Nunez Mark Kleven Ace Spriggs Diana Oldermeyer Albert Herrera Kent N. Stringer David Vaughn</p>
<p>Pueblo Streetscape Advisory</p>	<p>William (Bill) Adams Michael Carlisle Jean Latka William (Bill) Zwick Jean Eskra Cici Sparkman Rebecca Knapp</p>
<p>Retail &amp; Medical Marijuana Licensing Authority</p>	<p>Joseph J. Perko Carla Flores Richard Berry Kimberly Archuletta Tom Rose</p>
<p>Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Alice Hill Chris Milliken Constance Yanke Duane Nava Garrison Ortiz Harvi Callaham Janet Cresswell Janet Cresswell Joe Arrigo Joey Andenucio John Lee Jon Broome Lee Bachlet Leslie Martinez Pat Gonzalez Paul Valdez Ray Romero Rebecca Diaz Reid Weber Rita Fox Rosemary Breckenfelder Rosina Sonntag</p>

<p>Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center Board of Trustees (continued)</p>	<p>Susan McCarthy Tommy Farrell Warren Diodosio Wendy Rapp</p>
<p>Urban Renewal Authority of the City of Pueblo</p>	<p>Dennis Flores Garrison Ortiz David Abeyta Patrick Avalos Donald Banner Betty Martinez Dr. James R.Valenzuela Elizabeth Gallegos Jeanette Garcia Louie Carleo Ralph A. William</p>
<p>Zoning Board of Appeals</p>	<p>Mike Castellucci George Way Steve Anselmo Elizabeth "Lisa" Bailey Yvonne Lujan-Slak</p>



1. The Pueblo Human Relations Commission members featured at the Pueblo Pride event in August 2022  
 2. A child featured at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center's Buell Children Museum  
 3. The Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo  
 4. Pueblo City-County Rawlings Library  
 5. Pueblo Memorial Airport

# HOUSING & CITIZEN SERVICES

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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.

This year, the City reserved its \$6,185,143 Private Activity Bond allocation for multi-family project financing to be issued through the Colorado Housing Finance Authority. The allocation provides an additional funding source for the residential housing market, and is reserved for families making less than \$126,200, annually. Through this bond financing, CHFA offers a variety of programs specifically targeted to assist veterans, first-time home buyers, and individuals with permanent disabilities.



The City collaborated with private developers, non-profits, and the State Division of Housing to accelerate affordable housing construction. Ninety-three units of affordable housing are under construction.

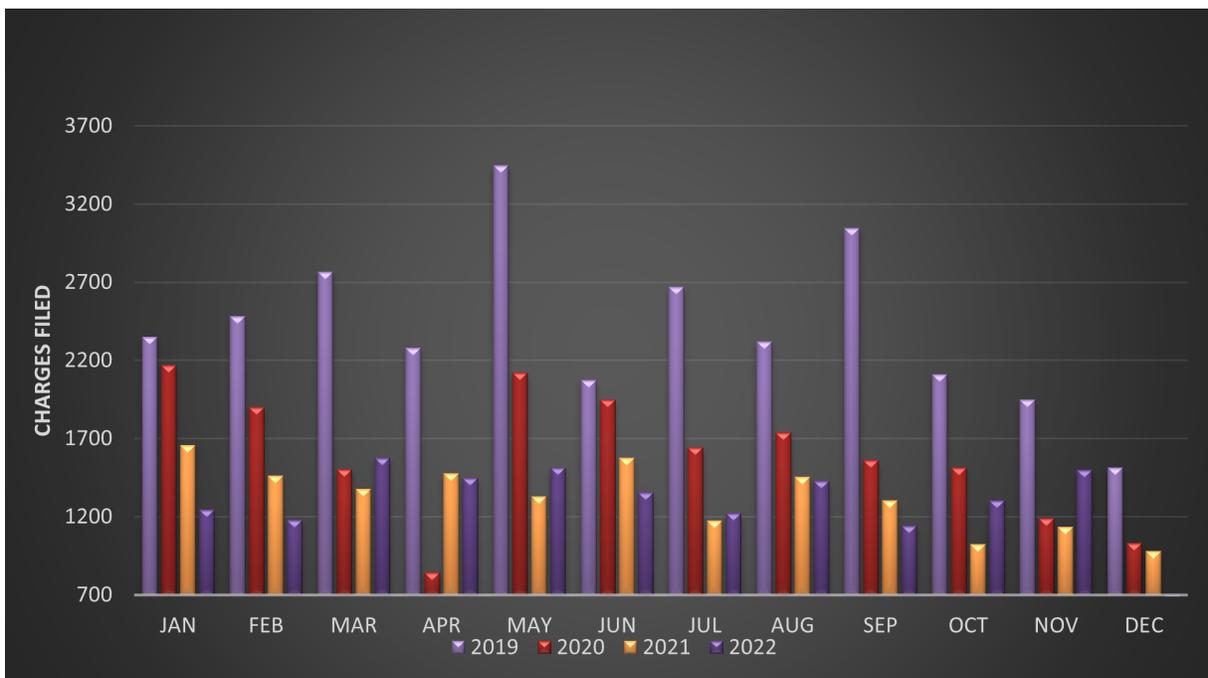
Community Development Block Grant funds were used to rehabilitate 18 owner-occupied homes throughout the City. Projects entailed selective demolition, mold remediation, roof replacement, accessibility modifications, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical repairs and retrofits.

Enlisting the help of local non-profit agencies and service providers, the Community Services Advisory Commission and the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended grant funds to 30 agencies, distributing \$1,117,666 in local and federal assistance to community service organizations in 2022. The Department managed \$5.3M in grant service contracts providing affordable housing financing, 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.

2022 Activities Quarters: 1, 2, 3	Units
Public Infrastructure--Accessibility Improvements	\$882, 995 in infrastructure improvements were installed using CDBG funding for streetscape, ADA curb ramps, sidewalk replacement and demolition in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	18 low-income households served
Direct Financial Leverage	\$12.3 million were invested in affordable housing. Funding from the HOME Investment Partnership and the City of Pueblo leveraged outside funding sources to create 49 new affordable housing units.
2022 Activities Quarters: 1, 2, 3	Individuals
Public Services- Total	\$1,117,666 invested in Public Services
Senior Transportation	The City used \$30,146 of CDBG funding to match State funds for two ADA compliant buses to provide senior transportation.
After School Programs and Youth Recreation	Youth programs served 3,515 unduplicated individuals
Childcare	324 children were provided daycare service
Healthcare/Women's Services	286 individuals received healthcare services provided by a funded program
Homeless Prevention	134 unduplicated youth and 399 families with children received assistance through funded programs. 371 homeless individuals received shelter and case management services. 916 unduplicated individuals received shelter.
Substance Abuse	308 unduplicated individuals received assistance through substance abuse programs.
Food Assistance Programs	The homeless shelter provided 18,176 meals. 1,375 tons of food were distributed by Care and Share and their partnering food pantries.
2022 Activities Quarters: 1, 2, 3	Individuals
Victim Services	1,688 unduplicated individuals received services through funded programs.
Summons Violation issued	3,114 unduplicated individuals received job training, employment and services to maintain independent living.
Completed	141 unduplicated individuals received assistance to obtain their GED, individualized tutoring, or assistance applying for higher education scholarships.
Other or In Progress	12,448 individuals visited a funded museum or cultural event.
Abatements Performed	911 individuals received tax preparation services.

# 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 decreased over the last several years from 28,992 in 2019 to 14,901 in 2022 (through November 30, 2022). This trend began during 2020 as a result of COVID; however, the number of charges filed 2022 increased slightly over 2021.

2022	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TRAFFICTICKETS	448	433	586	266	262	251	343	514	287	349	358		4097
GENERAL OFFENSE-ADULT	136	123	134	188	254	207	133	165	114	148	178		1780
GENERAL OFFENSE-JUVENILES	20	33	27	33	25	14	29	18	29	32	40		300
ANIMAL OFFENSES	62	88	74	52	53	71	64	74	107	83	105		833
MISC. OFFENSES	292	199	290	323	282	412	370	290	221	317	381		3377
CODE ENFORCEMENT	60	61	78	162	344	140	63	56	86	57	112		1219
PARKING TICKETS	227	242	386	421	293	258	219	311	298	318	322		3295
	1245	1179	1575	1445	1513	1353	1221	1428	1142	1304	1496	0	14901

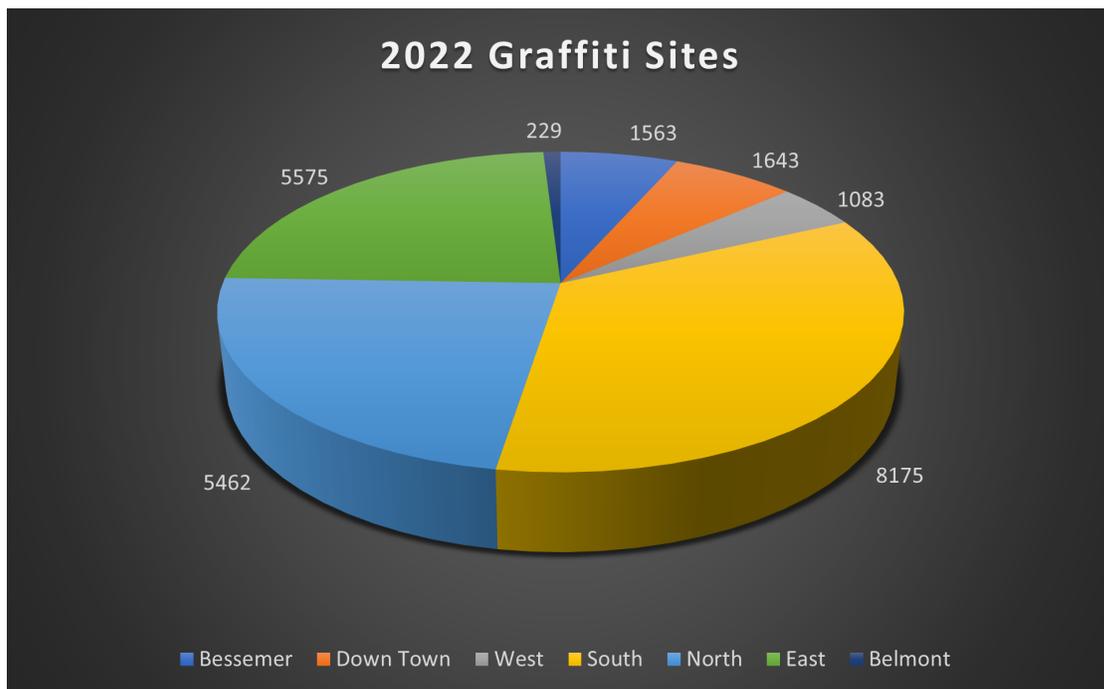
# MUNICIPAL COURT

## Community Service

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 \$72,813.00 in fines and provided 7,282 hours of useful public service to the community. In addition, adult defendants received a total of \$12,791.00 in credits against court fines for completion of over 1,279 hours of drug, alcohol or mental health treatment.



The Court operates its own community service program for juveniles and adults. The primary mission of the program is graffiti removal. Graffiti removal occurs citywide.



# MUNICIPAL COURT

## Community Service

Graffiti removal is the primary mission of the community service program; however, the program also oversees the City's community garden, assists with community clean-up events and helps local non-profit agencies. The community garden is maintained by community service crews and all food grown in the garden is donated to the local soup kitchen or food bank. Defendants participating in the community service program may also take home some of the fruit and vegetables grown in the garden.



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 2022, the adult probation case manager monitored approximately 348 cases and the juvenile probation case manager monitored approximately 212 cases.

## Restorative Justice Program

The Court's juvenile probation department has collaborated with the Police Department, community volunteers, non-profit agencies and school districts to establish an ever growing restorative justice program. The restorative justice program diverts juveniles from the justice system, allows them to meet with the victim, take responsibility for their actions, and develop their own consequences. Juveniles do not need to have an open case in Municipal Court to participate in the court's restorative justice program. School Resource Officers, school teachers and administrators, and families can request restorative justice through the Court's probation department to help resolve conflicts or poor behavior. As a result, the number of juvenile tickets filed in Municipal Court have decreased.

# PARKS & RECREATION

The Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department provides diverse recreational and leisure opportunities in safe, clean and attractive parks and recreational facilities. The Department continues to operate their expansive footprint to keep the City's parks healthy, safe, and green.



The Department employs 45 full-time employees (FTEs) and relies on approximately 300 seasonal and temporary employees throughout the year to maintain City of Pueblo parks and oversee the many recreation and sports programs and facilities. Some of the most notable facilities include:

Facilities	Number
Developed Parks	80 parks (613 irrigated acres)
Open space	3,849 acres
Streetscapes, Medians and Highway ROW	39 acres
Playgrounds	39
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
Pickleball Courts	8 courts
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	32 courts (20 lighted)
The Rides at City Park	9 rides
George R. Willams Memorial Carousel	1
Softball/Baseball Fields	5 adult, 3 youth
Large Indoor Pavilion (rental)	1
Municipal Golf Courses	2 courses (45 holes)
Mountain Park with amenities	1
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	4
Splash Pads	2
Dog Park	1
Picnic Shelters and Outdoor Pavilions	11

Whitewater Kayak Park	1
Community Recreation Center	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
Concessions Sits ( in-house)	7

The 2022 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Performance Benchmarks indicate that the nationwide median for annual operating expenditures per capita for parks and recreation agencies at \$93.01. The Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department continues to do more with less with \$53.40 per capita annual operating expenditures.

The Mayor and City Council recognize the importance of Parks and Recreation within the community by increasing FTE staffing levels and operating funding to help provide the team with the tools to produce the best parks and recreation experiences that the City can possibly offer. The Department continues to deliver quality services and programs.

The Department’s popular biannual program guide went digital in 2020 and continues to be an important resource to provide customers with the most accurate program and facility information available in a timely manner.

The Recreation and Sports Division continues to offer a rich variety of youth and adult programming in 2022. Youth flag football, t-ball, coach pitch baseball, youth winter and summer basketball, youth and adult tennis and pickleball lessons, adult softball and kickball leagues, Movies in the Park, recreational open swimming and The Rides at City Park just to mention a few of the popular programs that Pueblo patrons were excited to see offered again this past year.



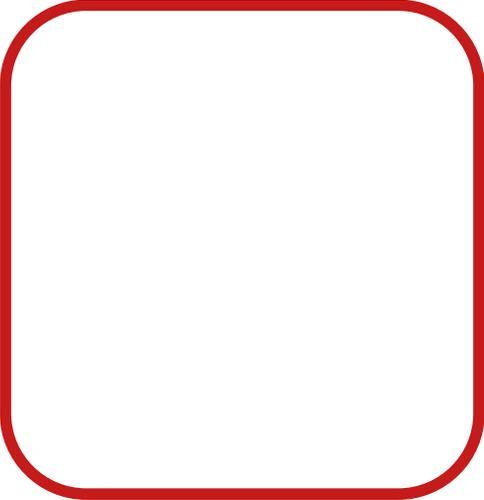
Along with the established recreation and sports programs, Parks and Recreation was able to expand youth tennis, flag football and baseball offerings to include additional age groups.

Cornhole was introduced and very well received as a new offering with spring and fall leagues for adults. Pickleball lessons were offered at the City Park Tennis Complex to garner interest for the new Pickleball court complex that opened in the fall at Mineral Palace Park.

With numerous new and expanded lessons and leagues, the sports division saw an increase of over 36% in participation. Also, the summer Movies in the Park program, a free family-friendly event for the entire community, was revitalized this past year and saw record numbers in attendance and sponsorships.



On May 7, 2022, Bessemer Park was renamed Ray Aguilera Park in memory of City Councilman Ray Aguilera who passed away unexpectedly in 2021. Past and present City Council members, family and friends gathered in front of the Ray Aguilera Park Pool to celebrate Ray's life and the legacy he left. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted by the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce.



In July, the Department was awarded a \$25,000 Pools Special Initiative 2022 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in collaboration with the office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) to support operations of the City's four public swimming pools during the 2022 season. The City of Pueblo was one of the fortunate Colorado communities that operated summer municipal swimming pools that had no issues with hiring and training lifeguards this season.

The funds received for this grant were used to pay aquatics staff to extend the summer pool season through the Labor Day weekend and to provide bonus pay for the aquatics staff who worked through the end of the season.

The Aquatics Division experienced an increase in attendance at the four outdoor swimming pools. This was due to offering sponsorship opportunities to local businesses for free swim days.

Below are the participation numbers reflective of the popularity of the City’s recreation, sports, ice skating and aquatics programs:

Recreation Program	Number of Participants 2021	Number of Participatns 2022
Tennis (all ages)	1,297	1,560
Aquatics (all ages)	56,842	57,074
Basketball (youth)	664	715
Flag football (youth)	168	207
Baseball (youth)	517	526
Softball (adult)	360	456
Kickball (adult)	120	288
El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center	2,692	8,058
Rides at City Park	364,862	329,067
Movies in the Park	720	2,725
Park Facility Reservations	6,050	6,579

In September, City Council approved and accepted a Lease and Management Agreement between the City of Pueblo and the Pueblo Bulls Hockey Club, Inc. (PBHC) for the management, operation and promotion of the Pueblo Ice Arena.

The initial term of the agreement runs through August 2027. The PBHC has been an integral part of the Pueblo Ice Arena since coming to the community in 2019. PBHC is a JR ‘A’ U20 hockey team that are members of the United States Premier Hockey League and will join the National Collegiate Development Conference Tier II in 2023-2024 which focus on developing young players to move on to careers in NCAA college hockey and into the professional ranks.





The old, dilapidated tennis courts at Mineral Palace Park have a new life as Pueblo's first municipal Pickleball complex. The highly anticipated project took approximately four months to complete with the ribbon-cutting for the new eight-court Mineral Palace Park Pickleball Complex taking place on September 20. City Council members along with local pickleball enthusiasts could hardly wait to take to the beautiful new courts.

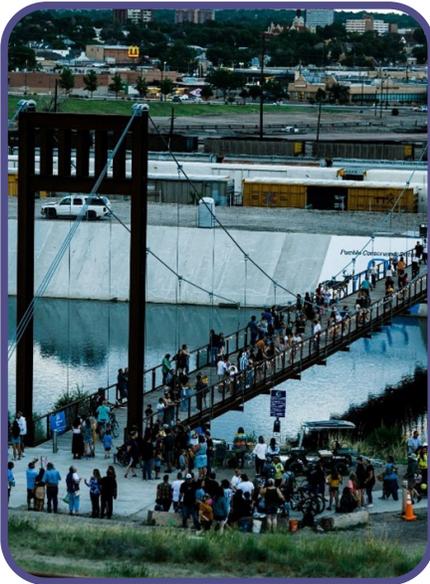
As part of the opening ceremonies, Mayor Gradisar and Parks and Recreation Director Steven Meier took to the courts along with Pueblo County Pickleball Association board members Larry Belkin and Clinton Tamada for a friendly exhibition match. The eight-court complex is open daily 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., weather permitting.

The Lake Minnequa Park - 1A Project received \$2.5 million in funding from Pueblo County in FY 2020. Components of the project that were completed in 2022 include:

- Concession, restroom, sheltered picnic area and plaza area opened to the public.
- LED lights were installed at the four, full-sized outdoor basketball courts.
- Large canvas shelter purchased from HARP was installed in 2022. Shelter provides cover for large gatherings, concerts and Movies in the Park events.



- New cross fitness playground equipment purchased in 2021 is being installed by the Department's staff late 2022 and early 2023.
- A grant application was submitted in late 2022 for 2023 funding to convert the three-mile crusher fine trail around Lake Minnequa Veteran's Memorial Park into a 10-foot-wide concrete trail. This upgrade would be valuable in improving access to this popular amenity at Lake Minnequa.



In 2018, the Arkansas River Levee Trail Construction Project received approximately \$3.3 million in grant funding towards the \$6 million project to purchase and install two pedestrian bridges that will connect the existing trail along the Arkansas River to the new trail which is located on top of the levee.

The first pedestrian bridge was installed in 2021 and the second is anticipated to be in place before summer of 2023. This project also gives access to emergency rescue efforts along the levee, shelters and site amenities.

The two new Arkansas River Levee pedestrian bridges were named after two members of the first Conservancy District Board following the Great Pueblo Flood of 1921, Mr. Charles W. Lee, and Mr. G. Harvey Nuckolls.



Parks Department staff and volunteer efforts continue to clean up trash and debris along the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek Trail systems and the Lake Minnequa Open Space. In 2022, approximately 100 volunteers (21,118 volunteer hours) removed approximately 5,000 bags of trash, over 300 tires and 2,000 plus needles from the community.

# PARKS & RECREATION

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Pueblo was named TREE CITY USA for the 42nd consecutive year. Only Colorado Springs (45 years), Fort Collins (44 years) and Wheat Ridge (43 years) have been named a Colorado TREE CITY USA Community longer than Pueblo.

The City received \$5,371 in additional tree replacement funds from the Colorado State Forest Service as part of their "Teaming Up for Trees" project grant. In 2019, the City received \$27,900 through this grant which allocated funds to reimburse the City the costs associated with the removal and replacement of trees within the City's beautiful park system.



## **Pueblo Aquatic Center Master Plan**



In 2019, the City of Pueblo entered into an agreement with Perkins & Will, Inc. for design services for the Pueblo Aquatic Center Master Plan (CI2109). The final Public Meeting was held at the Pueblo Convention Center on August 25, 2022, and the final presentation to City Council took place at a Work Session on September 26, 2022.

Perkins & Will Principal Planner Chris Kastelic gave Council an overview of the project by going over the proposed service areas, demographics, community survey results, programming opportunities (recreational and competitive), concept design with site analysis, conceptual site and floor plan, operational and revenue analysis and estimated construction costs. The aquatic facility is the final phase of the State of Colorado's Regional Tourism Act (RTA) Grant project. In 2023, the Department will develop some potential funding alternatives to build this new aquatic facility.

## American Rescue Plan Act Funding

In October, \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were authorized by City Council to create neighborhood cleanup projects in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) of the City. This project was created to provide employment to low-income unemployed and underemployed individuals who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two goals were established, with the first goal of this program to build strong, healthy communities by removing trash, garbage and debris from neighborhoods located in QCTs in the City. The second goal is to mitigate poverty in the city by providing work opportunities to low-income adults and giving them the opportunity to earn real wages and connect with services, while cleaning up the low-income neighborhoods in the city. Cleanup projects were scheduled to begin late December 2022. Other ARPA projects include:

- Mineral Palace Park Greenhouse - \$1,500,000
- Park mowers and new trash truck - \$378,110
- El Centro del Quinto Sol kitchen renovation and HVAC - \$1,000,000

Parks Maintenance and Horticulture Division staff continue the exemplary maintenance of the over 613 irrigated acres and streetscapes within the city. The team of dedicated staff continues to keep Pueblo's parks, trails and streetscapes green and safe. Some of the projects completed by Park staff in 2022 include:

- Bradford Park playground installation
- Historic Pioneer Cemetery clean-up
- Ray Aguilera Park fountain renovation
- Ongoing City tree maintenance
- Streetscape planter maintenance and repairs
- City fountain maintenance and repairs



## “Experiencing the Collaboration and Community Engagement”

Since the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the need to collaborate with other agencies as well as to create opportunities for community engagement became a necessity to continue to work to bring the community back together. The following events and projects are shining examples of successful community partnerships and collaborations.

With support from the Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department, the Southern Colorado Farmers Market and Craft Fair saw its third successful season at beautiful Mineral Palace Park. The market relocated from the Midtown Shopping Center to Mineral Palace Park in 2020. This successful weekly event was held every Friday morning from early July through the end of September.

Vendors at the farmers market accepted Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for purchase of their fresh food and produce. A smaller version of the Southern Colorado Farmers Market was held every Tuesday afternoon throughout the summer months at Lake Minnequa Veteran's Memorial Park.

A special event permit was granted to the Food Truck Union in 2022 to host a Friday food fest every week at Mineral Palace Park into the fall, weather permitting.



The Food Truck Union event grew as the summer went on. The number of food trucks in attendance initially was 11 and by the end of the summer, over 20 food trucks attended Mineral Palace Park. The event became so popular that the Food Truck Union added City Park to the permit for Sunday events.

The Colorado Lottery, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center and the Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department's annual "Runyon to Res" cleanup in October of 2022 saw over 125 volunteers pick up trash along the heavily used 7.5 mile stretch of the Arkansas River Trail. This was the fourth annual conservation and stewardship event sponsored by the Colorado Lottery. The City of Pueblo and the Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department was well represented in this year's event and appreciate the partnerships and dedicated volunteers who make this event successful.

# PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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The Planning and 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 and 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 1,880 in 2022, compared to 1,610 in 2021. In 2022 single-family and multi-family residential building permits increased to 262 permits, an increase of 26% from 2021. Land use applications for subdivisions, rezoning, annexations, street vacations, rearrangement of property boundaries and land use plans totaled 60 applications, resulting in an increase of 15% from 2021.

A Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan for NeighborWorks of Southern Colorado’s Pikes Peak Park affordable housing development was approved in 2022. The zoning allows for a total of 1,065 apartments, townhomes and single-family homes within the 75-acre area located on the Westside north of 24th Street between Pueblo Blvd and Tuxedo Blvd. The zoning for another Westside project, Pueblo Springs Apartments was approved which allows for 199 apartments to be developed on an 18-acre site east of Pueblo Blvd and south of 31st Street.

## Land Use Applications and Zoning Compliance Reviews Comparison 2020-2022

	2020	2021	2022
Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	34	52	56
Planning & Zoning (Actions)	7	7	4
Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)	53	34	45
Historic Preservation Commission	17	16	21
Administrative Approvals	98	91	85
Administrative Certifications	773	924	1,163
Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	482	478	506
<b>Total</b>	<b>1456</b>	<b>1610</b>	<b>1,880</b>

The Pueblo Regional Development Plan was adopted by City Council on August 8, 2022. This new regional comprehensive plan will guide future land use and development for the next five to 10 years. The Regional Comprehensive Plan was a cooperative effort with the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, Pueblo West Metropolitan District, towns of Rye and Boone, and was a countywide effort involving the city and county residents' participation in developing the new plan. The Regional Comprehensive Plan covers a wide range of topics including land use, transportation, housing, natural resources, utilities, parks and open space. The new plan incorporates a water "element" to enhance collaboration among regional stakeholders—Pueblo County, the City of Pueblo, Pueblo West, the seven water districts in the region, agricultural and conservation interests and other water-related issues.



Sawyer Ridge housing development located on the northside of Pueblo

This iteration of the Regional Comprehensive Plan also places an expanded focus on the critical role of water in Pueblo County's future.

In addition to serving as a guide for day-to-day decision-making, the Regional Comprehensive Plan:

- Articulates a shared vision and goals for the region
- Defines where and how the region wants to grow
- Establishes a coordinated strategy for the implementation of initiatives that are a priority to the Pueblo region

Working with the City's Planning and Zoning Commission, the Planning Department staff completed an amendment to the City's Land Use Code establishing development standards for multifamily housing within the city. City Council approved the new standards on March 16, 2022. Work is continuing into 2023 for the establishment of provisions within the City land use code that would allow for secondary dwelling units to be added within the city. The land use code amendment would allow for secondary dwelling units to be incorporated within existing residential lots. Provisions for allowing for secondary dwelling units will address needs that are identified in the Pueblo Housing Assessment and Strategy completed in September of 2021.

The Planning Department's major project for 2023 is the completion of a Unified Development Code that will be adopted as a section of the City's Municipal Code. The Unified Development Code will modernize the land use, zoning and subdivision codes are making the regulations more easily understood and implemented; and streamlining development while continuing to protect the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the City as enabled by the State of Colorado, §31-23-301, Colorado Revised Statutes.



Southside  
development on  
Pueblo Blvd.



The City of Pueblo Title XVII, Zoning Code was adopted in 1968 and has been modified numerous times over the past 54 years. These selective modifications have resulted in conflicts, technical errors and outdated regulatory tools within the code.

With the approval of the new comprehensive plan in July 2022, there is a prime opportunity to undertake an overall revision of the current zoning and subdivision codes into a Unified Development section of the municipal code. A new Unified Development Code will utilize best practices and new approaches specific that will address the following:

- Mixed use districts—incentivizing downtown mixed-use and fostering economic vitality;
- Affordable housing—encouraging new types of housing, exploring ways to expedite the planning and construction process;
- Commercial and industrial—incentives and development standards that provide aesthetic appeal while encouraging design flexibility; and
- Adaptive reuse and incentives for revitalizing older neighborhoods.

The Planning Department staff is also working in cooperation with other City departments and the Pueblo Conservancy District to construct a second bike/pedestrian crossings of the Arkansas River south of Main Street. The new bridge provides an additional trail connection to the reconstructed Arkansas River Flood Levee that includes a trail and shelters. The new bridge will improve connectivity from the Mesa Junction and Grove neighborhoods to the Arkansas River Trail.

In 2022, a new 10-year list of transportation projects including state and federal highway projects and transit projects was adopted by the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG). In July 2022, PACOG awarded the City \$2.9 million from the Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund, for four projects. Three of these projects are to extend existing trails to better connect to other trails and the broader community. The third project is a transit vanpool, which will subsidize a vanpool for local businesses to provide transportation to their places of work. In December of 2022, PACOG adopted the Transportation Improvement Program that identifies funded projects for 2023 to 2027. PACOG Transportation Planning funds continue to provide work to support City projects, grant support, data collection and sharing.

### Land Use Applications and Zoning Compliance Reviews

Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	2020 Applications	2021 Applications	2022 Applications
Property Rezoning	13	21	22
Annexations	5	1	6
Subdivisions	9	11	14
Right of Way (ROW) Vacations	5	3	9
Street Name Changes	2	4	1
Urban Renewal Plan	0	0	2
Special District Service Plans	1	12	3
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>56</b>

Planning & Zoning (Actions)	2020 Applications	2021 Applications	2022 Applications
Subdivision Special Area Plans	13	21	22
Phased Subdivision Master Plans	5	1	6
Development Plan Reviews	9	11	14
PUD Sit Plan Reviews	5	3	9
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>56</b>

Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)	2020 Applications	2021 Applications	2022 Applications
Variances & Special Use Permits	53	34	45
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>45</b>

Historic Preservation Commission	2020 Applications	2021 Applications	2022 Applications
Certificates of Appropriateness	7	12	11
Certified local Gov't 106 Reviews	5	4	5
Historic Landmark Nominations	0	0	1
CLG & ADM DET	5	0	4
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>

Administrative Certifications	2020 Applications	2021 Applications	2022 Applications
Business License Zoning Approval	420	545	695
Single- Family CO Inspections	132	132	165
Single- Family Applications	158	187	227
Zoning/Legal Non-Conforming Certificates	63	60	76
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>1,163</b>

Administrative Approvals	2020 Applications	2021 Applications	2022 Applications
Commercial/Industrial Site Plan Review	28	29	22
Cell Tower Permits	19	21	17
Conditional use Permits- Marijuana	27	25	27
Subdivision- Lot Line Rearrangements	10	13	15
Extraterritorial Water	8	2	2
Interim Use Permits	4	1	2
Activities of State Interest (HB-1041)	2	0	0
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>85</b>

Permit Approval, COs, Demolitions	2020	2021	2022
Single Family	147	208	227
Single Family C.O.'s		132	165
Single Family Attached	158	1	6
Single Family Attached C.O.'s	63	8	0
Resident accessory structure	114	79	79
Resident additions	21	28	26
<b>Demos</b>			
Residential	11	9	3
Mobile Homes	43	13	0
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>506</b>

# PUBLIC WORKS

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## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Public Works Department is to provide high quality, cost effective, and timely infrastructure services to the public and other City departments. The dedicated team of professionals design, construct, operate and maintain the public infrastructure resources that are entrusted to our care and provide valuable public services that better our City. Public Works employees enable quality of life enhancements and economic development for the entire Pueblo community by providing safe, compliant and reliable public infrastructure solutions in a cost effective and efficient manner.

## **Department Organization and Functions**

### Engineering

- Performs all planning, design, and construction work for City facility and roadway projects.
- Provides facilities management and engineering expertise to support the continued operation and maintenance of City buildings and other infrastructure.
- Supports the procurement of all architecture, engineering, construction, and environmental services required by the City.
- Supports development efforts within the City by providing reviews for compliance with City and other applicable standards for subdivisions and individual properties.
- Coordinates construction planning efforts between City departments, utility providers, and other partners.
- Updates and adopts City standards and specifications to support the long-term operation and maintenance of City facilities and roadways.
- Provides construction management services for City facility and roadway projects.
- Prepares and updates the City's corporate map and maintain files and records for reference by property owners, engineers, and subdivision developers.
- Develops a recapitalization plan for the City's road network and develop a long-term asset management strategy for all roadway infrastructure.

### Transportation/Traffic Maintenance

- Provides transportation engineering services to support the safe and efficient operation of the City's road network for all users.
- Analyzes traffic operations and develops projects for roadway improvements and upgrades.
- Reviews applications for construction and development within the City for compliance with established construction standards.
- Reviews temporary traffic control plans for projects that conduct work in the right-of-way to ensure efficient traffic operations and the safety of drivers, construction crews, and the general public within the work zone.

## Transportation/Traffic Maintenance (continued)

- Reviews applications for revocable permits for use of the public right-of-way.
- Reviews applications for oversize/overweight vehicle permits.
- Inspects, maintains, and repairs traffic signals and roadway markings.
- Fabricates and installs all roadway signage.
- Coordinates with the Colorado Department of Transportation for issues involving the state highway network.
- Issues permits for use of City-owned parking facilities.
- In coordination with the Police Department, provides parking enforcement services.

## Streets Maintenance and Street Sweeping

- Builds in-house capacity to perform required roadway maintenance activities including pothole repair and patching, crack sealing, mowing operations, snow and ice plowing and treatment, tree trimming, and other activities required to maintain a safe and reliable road network.
- Improves the pedestrian and bicycle transportation system to support a continuous, safe, and desirable walking and biking environment.
- Identifies and implements projects to improve accessibility to City infrastructure located in the public right-of-way.
- Develops service level standards for operation and maintenance activities within City roadways.
- Where required, facilitates upgrades for roads, sidewalks, and associated infrastructure that do not currently meet City standards.

## Facilities Maintenance

- Develop a long-term asset management strategy for City facilities and real property.
- Build a facility preventive maintenance program that optimizes the life cycle costs for City facilities and supports the long-term facility asset management plan.
- Identify opportunities to achieve operational cost savings where appropriate through cost-effective energy-saving projects and selecting projects based on the long-term cost of ownership.
- Improve accessibility to City facilities to maximize public access to City services.
- Manage facility use agreements between the City and other stakeholders.

## Solid Waste

- Support the continued operation of Pueblo RecycleWorks and identify opportunities to broaden participation and program effectiveness through collaboration with outside stakeholders.

# PUBLIC WORKS

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In addition to the specific functions listed previously by department area, the Public Works Department (in cooperation with other City Departments) also supports efforts to eliminate blight from economically depressed areas within the City through the vacant property registration program and, where necessary and appropriate, demolishing and abating dangerous properties located within the City. Public Works also provides coordination, labor, and equipment support to City-wide clean up efforts to combat illegal dumping sites.

In October of 2022, the Stormwater Department merged into the Public Works Department and will function as a division within Public Works in the future. Stormwater's activities for 2022 are documented in a separate section of this report, but will be incorporated with Public Works in future State of the City reports.

## Pop Up Clean Ups

In 2022 Pueblo City Council approved funding to help clean up Pueblo, as a result Public Works began hosting "Pop Up Clean Ups" in neighborhoods to assist with debris and trash removal. More will be held throughout 2023 in various neighborhoods across the city.

Local neighborhood residents are informed with a door hanger flyer about the event 72 to 48 hours prior and a dumpster is provided the day of the clean up for a couple of hours.



Mayor Gradisar, employees of Public Works and residents of the neighborhood cleaned up Goat Hill in November 2022.

## Engineering

The Engineering Division has 22 staff positions supporting a variety of projects across the City. One of their primary functions is leading the City's construction management program which includes planning, design, and construction execution for City projects that maintain, repair, upgrade, and/or construct public infrastructure. In 2022, the Engineering Division oversaw more than 50 capital improvements projects including design and construction of both vertical and horizontal construction, supporting Public Works road and facility projects as well as projects for other City departments such as Parks and Recreation, Airport, Fire, Police, Municipal Court, and Housing and Citizen Services. Several projects completed this year are highlighted below:

- Construct Pickleball Courts - Mineral Palace Park
- Art Guild Roof Replacement
- Replace Flooring in Municipal Court Offices and Courtrooms
- Various Road Repairs and Maintenance (see below for additional detail)

Another key support function performed by the Engineering Division is the review of applications for new land development. These include applications for annexations, subdivisions, special area plans, vacation plats, rearrangement of property boundaries and commercial construction site plan reviews which facilitate ongoing economic development within our community and ensure that quality infrastructure is provided for public use and enjoyment.

## Road Repairs and Maintenance

The Public Works Department currently maintains approximately 1,300 lane miles (approximately 500 roadway centerline miles) in the City of Pueblo. Work on the City's roads completed in 2022 was funded primarily from two sources:

- HUTF/FASTER Funds (State of Colorado)
- General Fund (City)

Fees for the City's Street Repair Utility Enterprise were initially suspended in January of 2022 and will remain suspended through the end of 2023.

Hudson Ave. at E. 9th Street after completion of the milling and overlay project.

In 2022, \$10M was budgeted to repair City roadway infrastructure. This represented a significant increase in the amount invested from previous years. The additional funding allowed for the resurfacing of over 21 lane miles (approximately 4.41 centerline miles) of aging roadways across the City. Not only were deteriorated pavements repaired, but damaged sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and curb ramps were also upgraded. Road repair projects completed in 2022 included the following:

- Hudson Avenue (from US Hwy 50 to E. 4th Street)
- Grand Avenue (from Victoria Avenue to W. 24th Street)
- W. 15th Street (from Santa Fe Avenue to Court Street)
- City Center Drive (from Main Street to Interstate 25)
- Northern Avenue (from Hollywood Drive to Pueblo Boulevard)
- Covina Court (full length)



ADA curb ramps were also upgraded on Abriendo Avenue and Ridge Drive in preparation for road resurfacing work that will take place on those streets in 2023. In addition, Public Works has completed the design work for the resurfacing of Prairie Avenue (between Pueblo Boulevard and Northern Avenue) and is in the process of obtaining the easements required to complete the work in 2023. A contract to build a two-block section of W. 18th Street between Perry Avenue and Sun Mountain Boulevard (formerly known as Spaulding Avenue) was also awarded in December 2022 with construction expected to start in early 2023.



Repairs and upgrades to concrete infrastructure along Ridge Drive, including curb and gutter, curb ramps, and drain pans were completed in 2022 in preparation for a paving project on Ridge Drive that will be completed in 2023.

The City invests over \$400,000 each year to upgrade curb ramps, ensuring safe and accessible pedestrian pathways for all City residents and visitors. These upgrades are typical examples of various upgrades made throughout the City in 2022.



Northern Avenue at Hollywood Drive/Lehigh Avenue



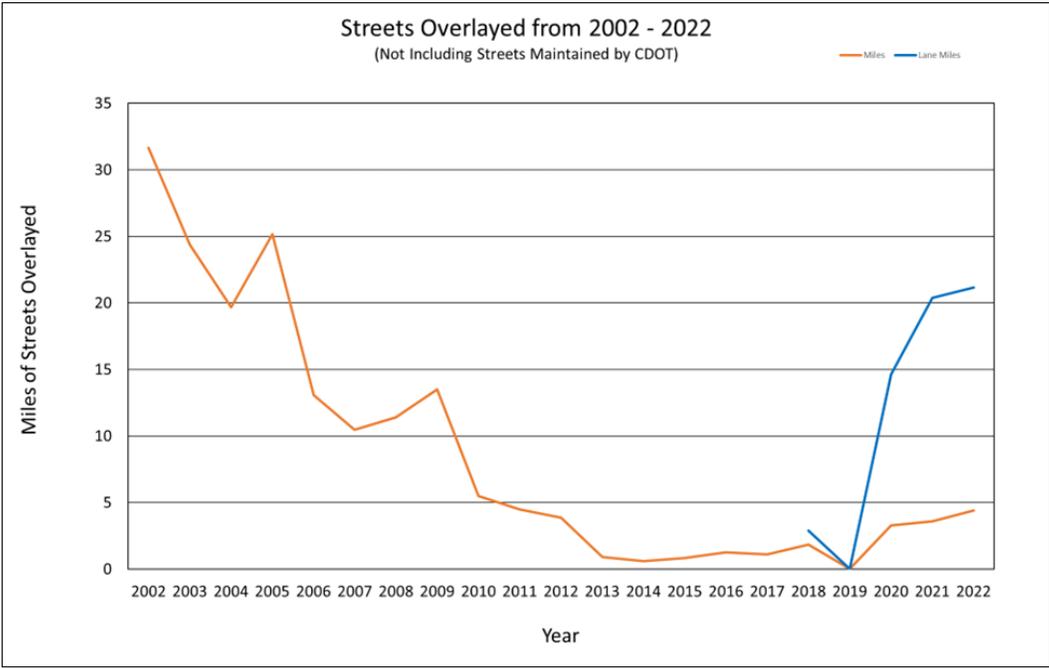
Grand Avenue at W. 12th Street

City Center Drive Resurfacing  
City Center Drive at Santa Fe Avenue



The City and Pueblo Conservancy District jointly designed and installed the new ADA-accessible pathway from Clark Street up to the Levee Trail in the Grove neighborhood.

The chart below highlights the number of miles of City roads that were resurfaced or rebuilt between 2002 and 2022. The orange line shows the number of centerline miles repaired while the blue line shows the number of lane miles of road repaired in each year. The distinction between centerline miles and lane miles is important because the City has been working on several arterial and collector roadways which are generally have more travel lanes, parking lanes, and other features such as dedicated bicycle lanes. Significantly more asphalt is required for these roads when compared to most residential streets. The number of lane miles repaired has been tracked since the Street Repair Utility Enterprise was established in 2018.



**Road Repairs and Maintenance**

Year	Miles of Paved Roadway	Miles of Roadways Resurfaced or Rebuilt	Percentage of Paved Roadways Repaired
2017	498.42	1.11	0.22%
2018	498.34	1.85	0.37%
2019	500.22	0	0%
2020	502.07	3.29	0.66%
2021	506.48	3.59	0.71%
2022	507*	4.41	0.87%

\* The length of new roads added to the City’s inventory in 2022 is still being finalized. Final acceptance of these roads is pending at this time.

The Engineering Division completed a City-wide pavement condition assessment in June which included every City street. The assessment provides a snapshot of the current condition of every street to assist in prioritizing maintenance projects and development of a long-range maintenance plan. Using modeling software, City engineers can predict the future condition of pavements and prioritize different types of maintenance activities which will maximize the service life of our roads and minimize overall lifecycle cost.

In the City's 2023 annual budget, the City has maintained a \$10M investment toward road improvements. In addition to Prairie, Ridge, and Abriendo, there are a number of road repair projects being planned for design and construction in 2023-2024:

- Troy Avenue (from US 50 to CO 47)
- Northern Avenue (from Prairie Avenue to Interstate 25)
- Cleveland Avenue (from Abriendo Avenue to Goodnight Avenue)
- Goodnight Avenue (from Cleveland Avenue to City Park)
- St. Clair Avenue (from Pueblo Boulevard to Jackson Avenue)
- Lehigh Avenue (from Kingsroyal Avenue to Northern Avenue)
- Joplin Avenue (from E. 4th Street to LaCrosse Avenue)
- Jones Avenue (from Hollywood Avenue to Abriendo Avenue)
- Dillon Drive (from Eagleridge Drive to Carruth Lane)

## **Street Maintenance**

The Street Maintenance Division is responsible for ensuring that Pueblo's streets and alleys are safe, clean, and available for the use of our residents, businesses, and visitors at all times.

Pueblo's Street Maintenance Division is staffed by 32 full-time, dedicated employees providing a variety of street maintenance, utility coordination, and cleanup services City-wide. Our primary focus is to ensure that pavement surfaces are maintained adequately by providing timely repairs and crack sealing in addition to other surface treatments.

Street Maintenance is tasked with roadway vegetation management during the spring and summer seasons as well as plowing and sanding services on major city streets throughout our community during the winter months. The Streets Maintenance Division is also responsible for the removal of unsightly illegal dumping from City roadways and assists with occasional mowing of unimproved city properties, as resources permit.

Additionally, the division provides street sweeping services in City roadways. The street sweeping program improves water quality, air quality, road maintenance, aesthetics, and, most importantly, enhances public safety. The street sweeping fleet consists of four street sweepers and four street sweeper operators along with two dump trucks and two truck drivers that accompany the sweepers. These trucks aid in the efficiency of our sweeping program as the sweepers do not have to drive to the collection area to dump.

# PUBLIC WORKS

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## Transportation and Traffic Maintenance

The mission of the Transportation Division is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic on the City's public roadways. This Division engineers and maintains all traffic control devices within the Pueblo City limits. In addition, the Transportation Division reviews all commercial site plans, subdivisions, and other related planning reviews and activities.

This year the Division reviewed numerous new commercial construction site plans, conditional use permits, marijuana license renewal applications, subdivisions, rearrangement of property boundaries, and performed other inspections and reviews. The Division also collects traffic data for planning activities.

The Traffic Maintenance Branch maintained a total of 163 signalized intersections. This number includes 106 traffic signals owned by the City of Pueblo. Also, through intergovernmental agreements, the City maintains 41 intersections that belong to the Colorado Department of Transportation and six signalized intersections that are located in and owned by Pueblo West.

Other traffic control devices that maintained include twelve flashing school speed limit signs, as well as one radar speed limit sign on Constitution Avenue. There are also ten intersections with flashing red lights above stop signs that are maintained by the Traffic Maintenance Branch.

In addition to the traffic signal maintenance work, Traffic Signal Technicians also perform underground utility location services for all traffic control devices within the City. All applications for work within the right-of-way are reviewed for potential conflicts and utilities are marked to minimize the risk of damage to City infrastructure during construction activities. A portion of the locates performed protect the City's fiber-optic cable network that belongs to the IT Department. The Traffic Maintenance Branch occasionally assists with repair to damaged fiber optic cables, as well as other various maintenance on the fiber network.



In addition to maintaining the City's traffic signals, the Traffic Maintenance Branch is also responsible for the installation and maintenance of all of the City's roadway signs, striping and markings. The sign shop produced numerous signs to replace those that were faded, peeling, or damaged, and for installation on newly-constructed roads.

In 2022, the City made its electric vehicle charging stations available to the public for free through September 30, 2024. Through its partnership with ChargePoint, the City currently operates three charging stations located within the City's downtown area.



210 W. 8th Street - City parking lot

214 Grand Avenue - Weisbrod Parking Garage

114 S. Main Street - Main Street Parking Garage



## Facilities Maintenance Division

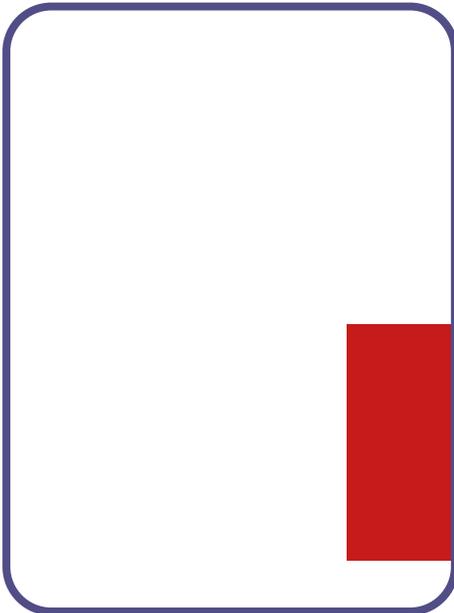
The mission of the Facilities Maintenance Division is to provide safe, healthy, and comfortable facilities for City employees and the public, and to protect the City's capital investment in those buildings and equipment. The current personnel responsible for the maintenance of the City's buildings include one working supervisor and nine highly-trained service technicians and craftsmen who perform a variety of skilled trade work.

The Facilities Maintenance Division is responsible for 130 buildings with an average age of 42 years. The insured value on said buildings is over \$140,000,000 and includes over 1.5 million square feet of building space.

This year, the Facilities Maintenance Division completed numerous renovations of administrative and office spaces, repaired water and sewer service lines to City facilities, and provided hours of support to various City departments with specialized work on their facilities and equipment.



Public Works Painters put the finishing touches on newly-refinished equipment for Rides at City Park on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department.



Public Works Carpenters work to upgrade City facilities.



## Pueblo RecycleWorks and Large Item Drop-off Program

Pueblo RecycleWorks opened to the public in 2018, offering a free recycling drop-off center for conventional recyclable materials.



Each year since opening, PRW has seen a significant increase in the volume of customers served. In its first full year of operation (2019), PRW greeted 13,500 customers. In 2022, that number has grown to over 30,000 patrons.

The table below illustrates the amount of plastic, cardboard, metals, and paper that were diverted from the landfill in 2022 and in previous years. The numbers clearly demonstrate increasing demand for recycling services each year.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
	tons	tons	tons	tons
Plastic	7	44	55	58
Cardboard	52	91	141	151
Metals	8	30		91
Paper/Newspaper	65	74	89	102

In addition to recycling conventional waste streams, Pueblo RecycleWorks also manages a large item drop-off program which is open to City residents. Items collected include sofas, mattresses, and other household furnishings. In 2022, Pueblo RecycleWorks took in more than 1,200 large items, many of which were dismantled into recyclable components that diverted nearly 50 tons of waste materials from the landfill and saved residents over \$40,000 in landfill tipping fees.

Pueblo RecycleWorks also manages a tire drop-off program for City residents. Through the course of the year, Pueblo RecycleWorks collected over 700 tires at the drop-off site.

In August, Pueblo RecycleWorks also partnered with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment to host a free, one-day Tire Drop-off event, which resulted in the collection and recycling of over 2,100 used tires.



## Other Public Works Support to the Pueblo Community

During 2022, the Public Works Department and community partners including the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado State Fair, Colorado State University Pueblo, Black Hills, and others, hosted two community-wide “Team Up to Clean Up” events. The events were open to all City residents who were able to bring large items, limbs and branches, tires, and other household waste items to centralized drop-off locations for disposal free of charge. The spring event in May was held at two sites – the Colorado State Fair Grounds and at the CSU Pueblo campus. In October, the drop-off location was at the Colorado State Fair Grounds. Over 1,500 households took advantage of the opportunities to clean up, filling nearly 90 roll-off dumpsters.



The Public Works Department, working with other City departments and the Colorado Department of Transportation, also worked to combat illegal dumping in City right-of-way and public property through direct cleanups. In October, the City removed over 100 tons of trash and debris from areas along Dillon Drive, Pueblo Mall Boulevard, 40th Street, CO-47, US-50, and Elizabeth Street.

# PUBLIC WORKS

Pueblo Mall Blvd – Before & After



CO Hwy 47 – Before & After



CO Hwy 47 – Before & After



The Public Works Department and City crews removed trash and debris from the area. Community members were excited about the cleaning up of the area and City staff appreciated the opportunity to interact closely with the citizens they serve.

# PUEBLO FOOD PROJECT

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Pueblo Food Project is a City and County initiative that uses the community's voice to create food systems change. The goal of the Pueblo Food Project (PFP) is to create a more vibrant, nutritious and equitable food system for every eater in Pueblo County.

PFP welcomes every Puebloan to join! Pueblo Food Project began in Spring 2019 after a visit from Senator Michael Bennet and Walter Robb, former CEO of Whole Foods. Since then, PFP has been awarded several competitive grants to support the mission of the organization. Our grants focus on a few key areas of healthy food access, food systems education and local food economy.

In spring and summer 2022 PFP launched their third season of the edible landscapes project, this time adding a new location at the Pueblo County Courthouse.



The three locations of the edible landscapes project are Central Plaza, Mineral Palace Park and the Pueblo County Courthouse. These gardens were supported by the CSU Extension Master Gardeners Program and the PFP Community Garden Sustainability Program.

The Community Garden Sustainability Program supported four community gardens in the community getting drip irrigation systems, high quality soil and new raised beds, to aid in the longevity of the garden programs. At the end of the growing season over 170 pounds of produce were harvested from the gardens and donated to food pantries around town.

# PUEBLO FOOD PROJECT

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## Community Pantries

The PFP community pantry was funded in 2022 for \$290,000 from various grants. These grants allowed PFP to fill the pantry for the majority of the year. The pantry is stocked with local foods such as: Milberger's green chile, Double J's Mexican chorizo, Rusler's Produce pinto beans, Gagliano's sausage and much more. The pantry is hosted on The Latino Chamber's Supporting Pueblo website; hunger relief organizations are able to make a 'free' order and fill their pantries with local food. Pueblo Food Project has now spent close to \$750,000.00 on local food for the use of the Pueblo Food Project Community Pantry.

## Fooducates

The PFP Youth Council, "The Fooducates" had a fantastic year. In February they prepared 500 fruit baskets for their Fruits of Love Project. The Fooducates are funded for over \$50,000.00 to support their efforts for the next three years from the Colorado Department of Law.



The group consists of over 15 high school aged students from all over Pueblo County. The group planned meal distributions where they gave ingredients for a meal and dessert. These meals came with a booklet on how to cook the recipe as well as links to videos of the Fooducates teaching a cooking class. So far, they have distributed 1,000 meal kits. The Fooducate's Intern, Geonna King was invited to speak on a panel at the 2022 Colorado Food Summit in Denver, Colo.



Pueblo Food Project hosted Family Meal Prep classes. September was Chile and Frijole theme. Sharing local food traditions with the community is important to the work at PFP.

# PUEBLO FOOD PROJECT

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One of Pueblo Food Project's key accomplishments in 2021 was the Sun Soil Water Summit. The 2022 Summit was unable to be held but will take place in March 2023. PFP struck a partnership with CSU Extension's Ag Expo to bring the summit together.

Save the date for the Sun Soil Water Ag Summit on March 17th and 18th, 2023 at Pueblo Community College.

## SUN SOIL 2023 WATER AG SUMMIT



PUEBLO COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



PUEBLO  
FOOD  
PROJECT



PFP held their first Entrepreneur Development Program from February - May of 2022. The program had 10 of 12 students involved in the program graduated. The pilot year was a success and Pueblo Food Project is excited to announce the program was funded for a second year of programming from the Gerone-Nickisch Foundation for \$20,000.

Finally, Pueblo Food Project had a banner year for funding. The Colorado Health Foundation Grant was renewed for \$400,000 over the next two years. PFP received \$290,000 in Food Pantry Assistance Grants. PFP was sub granted by One Colorado for \$44,000 and received \$20,000 for the Entrepreneur Development Program. Pueblo Food Project was also funded for \$250,000 over the next three years from the Colorado Department of Law.

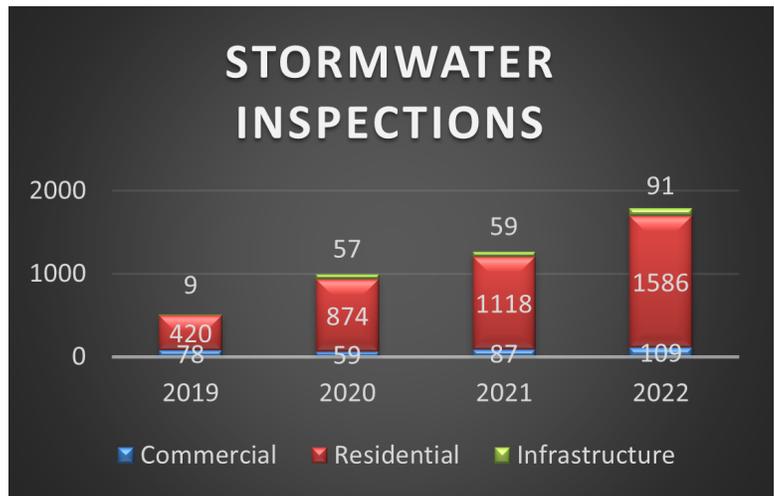
# STORMWATER

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

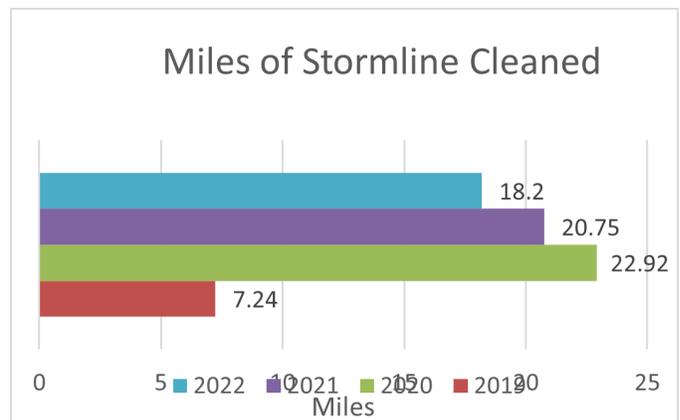
The Stormwater Department is comprised of engineering staff and maintenance staff. The engineering staff members are responsible for:

- 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 163 miles of storm sewer pipe.
  - Approximately 45 detention facilities.
  - Over 217 Acres of ponds and drainage channels.
- Constructing new stormwater infrastructure.
- Utility locates for construction & emergency purposes.
- Containing and removing illicit discharges.
- Removing trash and debris from waterways.



## Stormwater Pipe Installed - Linear Feet



## 2022 Stormwater Utility Projects

Project	Description	Cost
Emergency Point Repairs	Emergency repairs of failed stormwater infrastructure. 22nd and Grand Ave. Modesto and Encino 13th & Ogden	\$72,657.00
Rate Study	A study to independently assess and evaluate the City's Stormwater rates by conducting a comprehensive rate study. This study's ultimate goal is to provide adequate and sustainable funding for the Stormwater Utility's operations, maintenance and capital needs, while developing rates and charges which are equitable, and cost based.	\$73,340.00
Boulder Outfall	The existing storm sewer system that outfalls along Abriendo Avenue and Boulder Avenue is undersized causing surcharge during large storm events which causes flooding. This project consists of replacing the existing undersized storm sewer system with a larger capacity storm system in W. Abriendo Avenue from Lincoln Street to the storm system oufall at the Arkansas River along Boulder Avenue. Improvements will help mitigate frequent flooding events in this area and will included approximately 1,650 LF of 60" storm sewer, installation of new manholes, inlets, laterals, water quality and open channel improvements.	\$1,258,000.00
Crew Repaired Projects	Inlet repairs, damaged stormwater pipes, erosion and control projects.	\$4,351.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,408,348.00</b>



Images from the Abriendo Ave. and Boulder Ave. Outfall project

## 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 2023 are:

### West 29th Street Storm Sewer & Alabama Avenue Drainage Channel Improvements:

This is the final SRF loan project for the Stormwater Department. 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. The Stormwater Department has contracted with AECOM, our engineer of record, to evaluate how much of the project can be completed with the remaining SRF loan funds available. Design and construction is expected to be completed in 2023.



# STORMWATER

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## **Additional projects planned for 2023:**

### **Stormwater Replacement - Summit Avenue**

The neighborhoods around the Colorado State Fair Grounds have experienced significant flooding over the years due to an undersized storm sewer system in Summit Ave. This existing system lacks the capacity to handle even a small rain event, and property has been damaged due to the undersized storm sewer system. The Stormwater Department has been discussing plans with our engineer of record to perform a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic study in this area in order to design and construct a storm system that will minimize flooding. The plan is to construct this storm system in phases with the first phase starting in 2023 and subsequent phases being completed as funding becomes available.

### **CO Coal & Iron Subdivision Stormwater System Upgrade**

Several residences in this subdivision are in a low point that gets flooded frequently due to an undersized storm system. This project will be completed in multiple phases as funding becomes available. The existing stormwater system in Routt Ave., Cleveland St. and Abriendo Ave. will be upgraded to where it connects to the improved Boulder Ave outfall system.

### **McCulley & Abriendo Stormwater System Upgrade**

Residences and businesses at the intersection of McCulley and Abriendo Ave. are in a low point that gets flooded frequently due to an undersized storm system. The flooding has been reported to cause damage to the residential properties and poses a safety concern for this high traffic intersection. The Stormwater Utility plans to have a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic study performed in this area in order to plan, design, and eventually construct a storm system that will minimize flooding.

### **Routt Ave. Drainage Analysis and Capital Improvement Planning**

Residences and businesses in and around the Bessemer area experience frequent flooding that in some cases results in expensive property damage. The Stormwater Utility plans to have a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic study performed in this area in order to plan, design, and eventually construct a storm system that will minimize flooding.

### **Lake Minnequa Outfall Emergency Shutoff**

There are 2 outlet pipes that drain excess water in Lake Minnequa most of the year. These pipes connect into the City's storm sewer system and if one of these stormwater pipes fails and a sink hole develops, then there could be substantial flooding in residential areas until the outlet structure gets blocked off. Currently, Stormwater maintenance crews need to use plywood and sandbags to block water at the outlet structure from entering the pipes. This is a timely process. The Stormwater Department plans on installing a slide gate valve on each outlet pipe early next year. These slide gate valves would allow discharge water from the lake to be quickly stopped until emergency repairs can be made.

## New Programs for 2023:

- The Stormwater Utility will continue to develop a cleaning and point repair project for several locations within the existing storm sewer system.
- New Drainage Criteria Manual. The Stormwater Utility plans to release a new Drainage Criteria Manual. The updated manual is mostly finished and is under review now.
- Continue to Geocode the SW system and incorporate electronic detection methods on all new infrastructure.
- Fountain Creek Improvements including levee certification and outfall safety improvements.
- Plan upgrades to storm sewer facilities to mitigate flooding in several problem areas.

## Challenges:

Trash in the City's creeks and tributary drainage ways from homeless camps and illegal dumping continues to be a problem that the Stormwater Department maintenance crews work year-round to clean up.

Much of the stormwater infrastructure in the city is very old and undersized and needs to be replaced in order to prevent frequent flooding.

## Creek Week

Each year the City of Pueblo Stormwater Utility sponsors Creek Week as a Creek Champion. The purpose of Creek Week is to increase public awareness of water quality and pollution issues in the Fountain Creek Watershed and to encourage organizations and individuals to get involved in keeping the watershed clean and safe by collecting litter and debris. Stormwater staff volunteer for this 9-day cleanup effort that unites the Fountain Creek Watershed communities from Palmer Fountain Lake to Pueblo and beyond.

9<sup>th</sup> Annual



Sept. 24 – Oct. 2, 2022

Creek Week began in 2014 and has grown to be the largest watershed-wide cleanup in the State of Colorado. Locations for cleanups in Pueblo include Runyon Lake and along Creek heading south near U.S. 50.

# PUEBLO TRANSIT

The Pueblo Transit department participation in the State SB 22-280 funded “Zero Fare for Better Air” initiative. It was a huge success in the programs first year and ridership was increased by 59% in the month of August putting Pueblo Transit ahead of pre-pandemic numbers for the month. This added to an already successful recovery year with steady growth in ridership averaging 2.5% for the other 11 months of the year.



Throughout the month of August, Pueblo Transit and Citi-lift offered free ridership. All riders who rode Pueblo Transit or Citi-Lift were entered into a weekly drawing to win a free 35-day unlimited ride pass after the month of August was complete.

A grand prize drawing included one year of free rides for a rider with Pueblo Transit and a rider with Citi-Lift.

Special shuttles were also included throughout the month with partnerships with Care and Share Food Bank, Pueblo Pride with Southern Colorado Equity Alliance and during the Colorado State Fair.



# PUEBLO TRANSIT

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Pueblo Transit had eight personnel graduate from the Human Resources Leadership Academy increasing front line supervisors knowledge and filling their work tool boxes.

Two new Hybrid buses have been ordered using 2019 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Funds and will be receive and put in service the at the start of the new year. Received RAISE Grant Funding to Improve or build 100 bus stops in the west side corridor.

Year	Total road miles traveled
2020	656,120
2021	789,798
2022	766,162

## Goals

Pueblo Transit looks to re-purpose two trailer routes to better utilize areas that fit the cities changing needs. Transit will procure and install a new HVAC system and automatic doors for the Transit Center in May of 2023 the contract for the project has already been awarded.

A total system study is on the horizon in conjunction with Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) for 2023. Lastly a van pool pilot program has been funded with State of Colorado Multi Modal Funds and will be put into service by mid to late 2023.



## Challenges

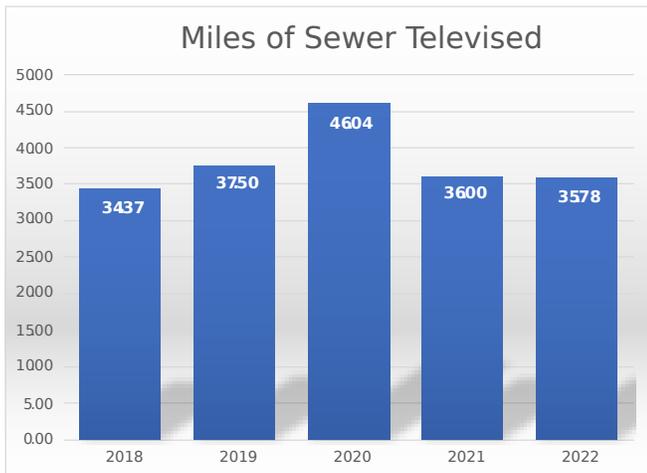
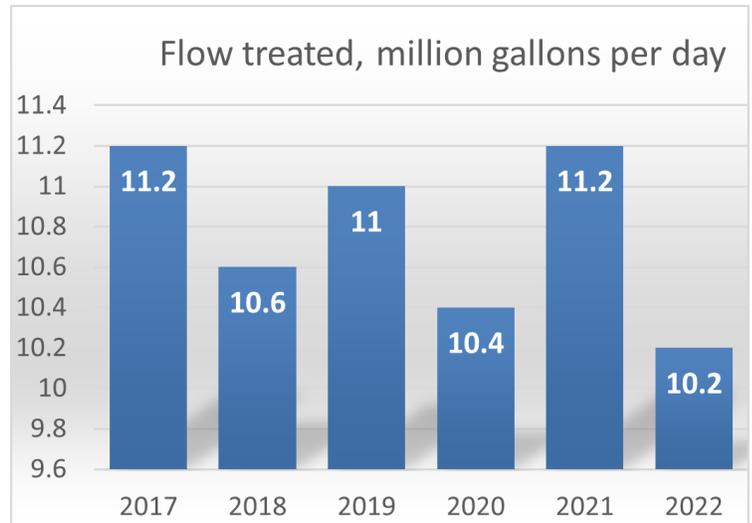
Two bus operator positions are vacant; the Operations Supervisor position is being vacated along with 2 Utility and 1 CSR position and need to be filled. The department is challenged to find funds (52,000,000.00) to procure land and construct a new Operations and Maintenance facility as the current facility has reached max vehicle capacity and expansion is hampered by space and the technology infrastructure that will come with a new facility.

# WASTEWATER

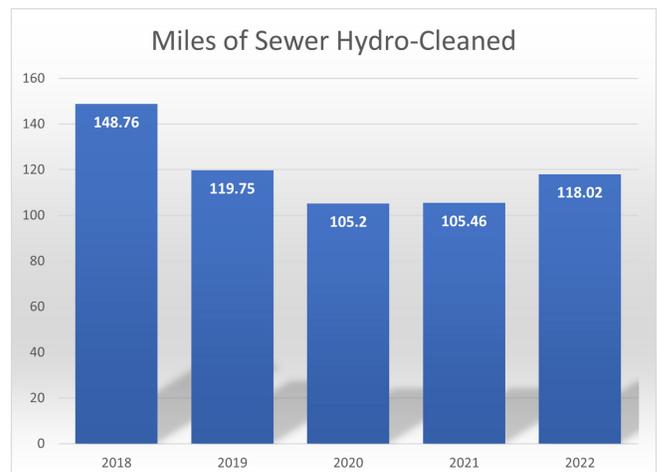
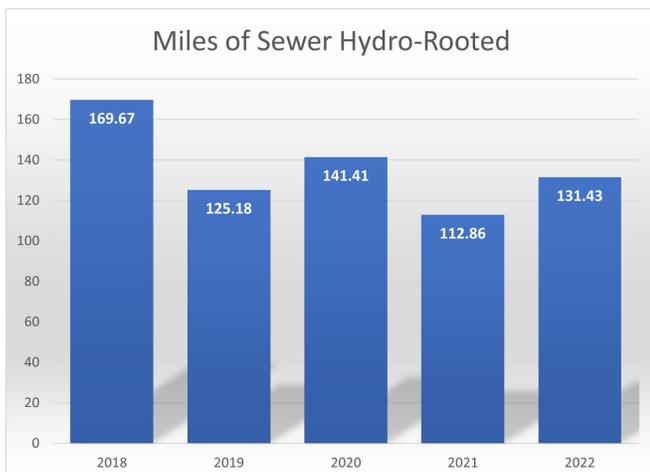
The Wastewater Department is an enterprise with the mission of collecting and reclaiming wastewater in a manner that is protective of public health and the environment. This is done by collecting sanitary sewage from residences, businesses, and industries; conveying sewage to the wastewater treatment 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 James R. Dilorio Water Reclamation Facility has the capacity to treat 19 million gallons per day (MGD) of municipal wastewater.

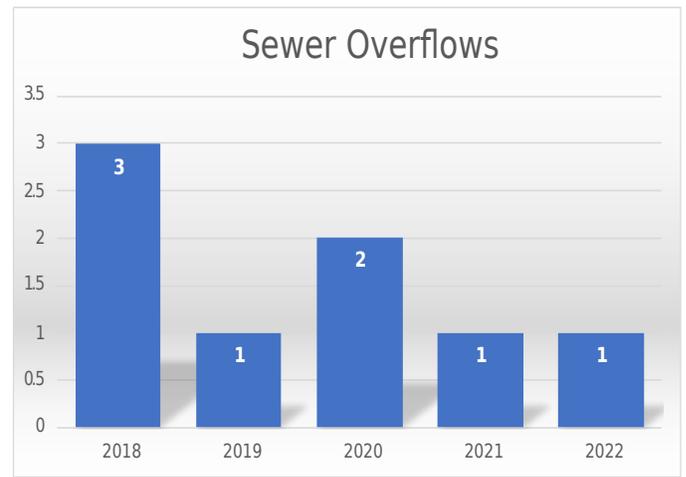
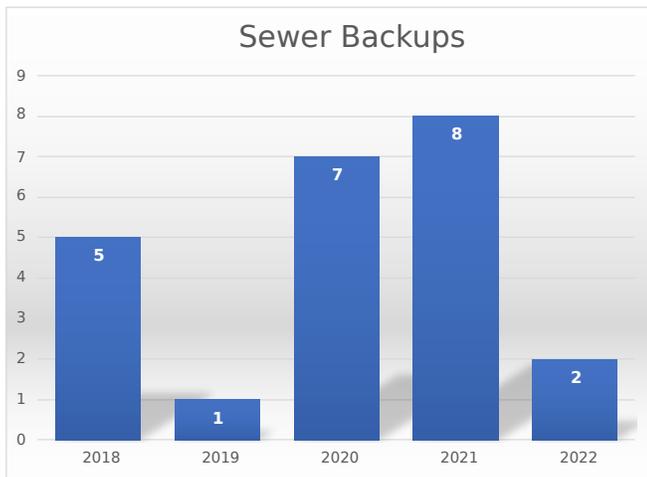
The Pretreatment staff inspect and monitor industries to protect the Wastewater Reclamation Facility from harmful discharges.



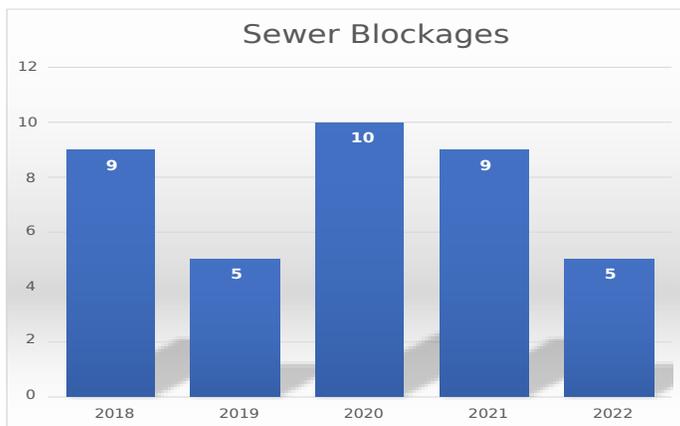
The Wastewater Collection Division maintains the sanitary sewer collection mains, including cleaning, rooting, televising, sealing, and repairing sewer mains.



In addition, the Wastewater Department has standby crews on call 24 hours a day to respond to plant emergencies or sanitary main blockages.



Engineering Division reviews subdivision plans, evaluates, and prioritizes sewer system rehabilitation, maintains computerized records, designs engineering plans for construction, 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.

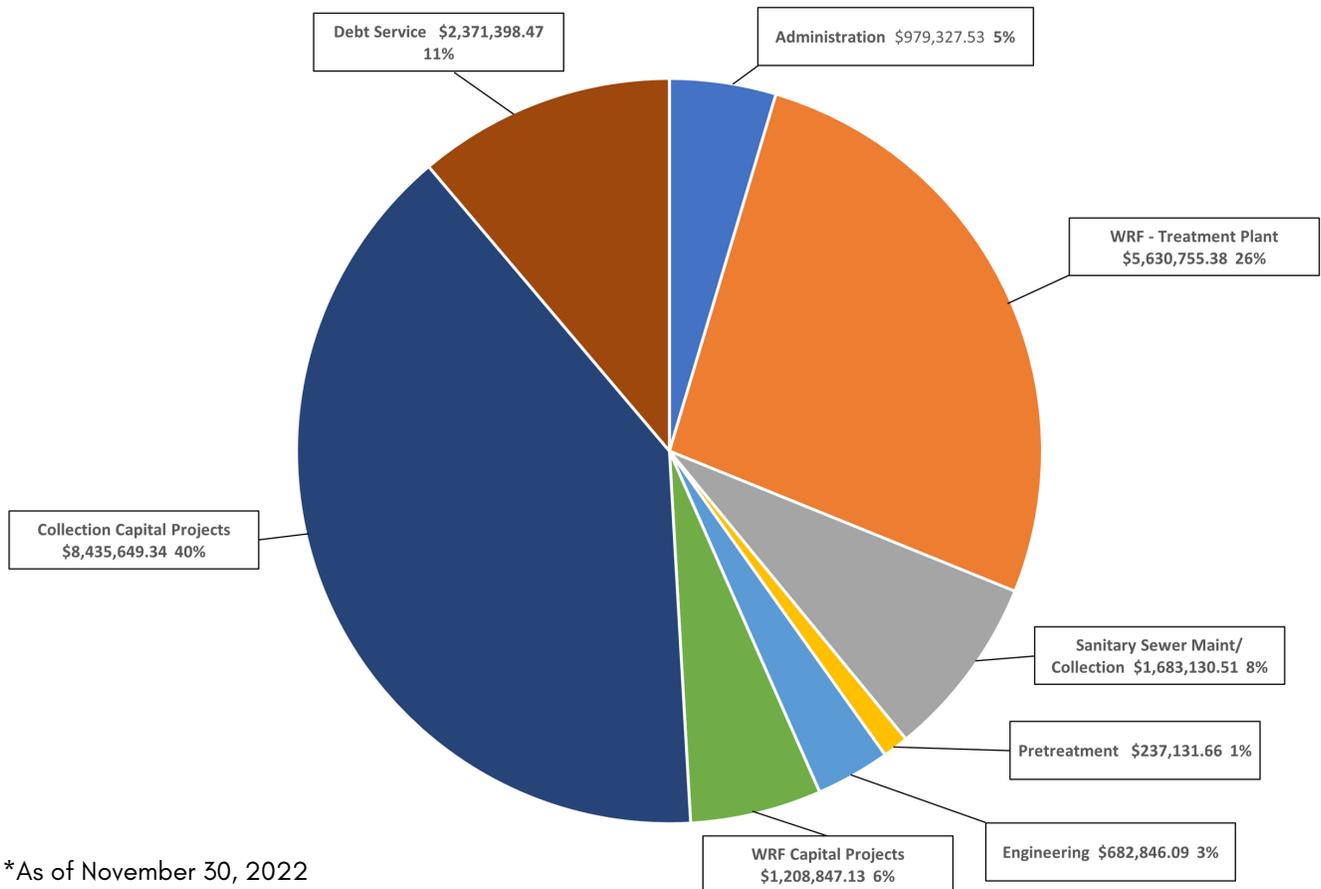


The Wastewater Department has a long record of compliance and good relationships with the State and EPA. In July of 2022, the Wastewater Department won a Peak Performance Platinum Award for 8 years full compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.



Mayor Gradisar and Chief of Staff Laura Solano joined the Wastewater Department to celebrate the 2022 Peak Performance Platinum Award.

### 2022 Wastewater Expenses & Encumbrances by Division\*



\*As of November 30, 2022

## Infrastructure Projects

Collections Projects	2022	Description
Large Main Lining	\$601,854	Line 21-inch, 36-inch and 42-inch sanitary mains with cured in place pipe and epoxy manholes within the project area.
Small Main Lining	\$3,362,243	Cured in place pipe and epoxy manholes where repairs can be done without digging up the main less than 24 inches. Eliminating the need for removal and replacement of the pipe and manholes as well as repairing the alley approaches, cross pan and road base, if impacted.
Annual Manhole Rehabilitation	\$644,035	Replaced or epoxy coated manholes that were in poor condition.
Emergency Projects	\$561,244	Emergency repairs to fix sanitary mains that have failed or have a blockage.

Water Reclamation Infrastructure	2022	Description
Phase 4 Electrical Rehabilitation Design 2020-2021	\$1,405,324	Completed design plans started the end of 2020 for project to replace Headworks and Primary Clarifier Area Control Panels and Motor Control Centers
Vertical Turbine Pump	\$185,841	Rehabilitated a vertical turbine pump at the Water Reclamation Facility
Replace HVAC	\$98,433	Replace several HVAC units at the Water Reclamation Facility
Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation	\$91,385	Repairs to one of the aging Secondary Clarifiers
Replacement of Aging Equipment	\$227,017	Replacement of aging equipment in the headworks and primary clarifiers
Boiler refurbishment	\$91,385	Refurbishment of the boiler tubes in one of the boilers used to heat the digesters

Selenium Projects	2022	Description
Selenium Reduction Project	\$2,199,993	Repair of high selenium area mains and manholes to reduce infiltration.

# WASTEWATER

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## 2022 Highlights

In addition to the Water Reclamation Facility infrastructure and Collection system infrastructure improvements in 2022, additional highlights include:

- Annual reports continue to be submitted to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission for the Discharger Specific Variance for selenium and sulfate. The next review hearing will be in 2024.
- All sanitary sewer mains are prioritization per the Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) that was established by the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO). Repair and maintenance of the Collection system is addressing the mains with the highest priority annually.
- Maintained a schedule of cleaning sanitary sewer mains at least once every two years to minimize backups and overflows.
- The Collection crew continued working toward televising 100% of all city sewer mains.
- Three million in ARPA funds have been awarded to extend the city sewer mains to the north near Wildhorse Creek to allow development in areas that were inhibited by lack of City infrastructure. The \$6.8 million project is expected to be done in 2024.
- Two million in ARPA funds were awarded to upsize pipe on the west side of the city to accommodate flows from housing development and the county jail
- Two million in ARPA funds were awarded to extend the sanitary sewer line in Northern to facilitate development in the area.

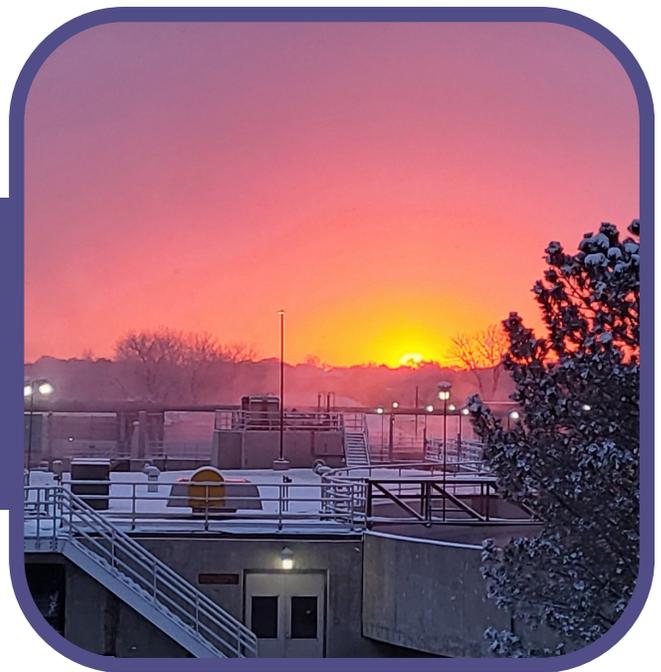
Photo taken at the James R. Dilorio Water Reclamation Facility during the 2022 Chile & Frijole Balloon Fiesta



## Goals

- Meet all Colorado Discharge Permit requirements.
- Improve the reliability of the aging water reclamation facility by completing the Phase 4 Electrical Upgrades. Design was completed in 2022 with modifications to reduce cost and will go to bid in 2023.
- Selenium Discharger Specific Variance will provide some regulatory relief or selenium and sulfate removal requirement. The variance allows 10 years to complete \$10 million of infrastructure improvements to reduce infiltration of ground water high in selenium and sulfate and to test pilot treatments that may be necessary to install if groundwater infiltration can't be reduced enough to meet stream standards. The stream standards have been met for selenium in dry weather for about two years, but wet weather increases groundwater infiltration causing increased levels of selenium and sulfate.

This photo was a submission for the Rocky Mountain Water and Environment Association calendar showing the sunrise at the James R. Dilorio Water Reclamation Facility.



- 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 provide hearing comments on regulatory and policy updates.
- Continue to analyze samples in the Wastewater laboratory to provide data to monitor each process in the Water Reclamation Facility, sample manholes in the collection system, verify compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit, analyze samples from potential sources of pollutants, samples from Fountain Creek and Arkansas River, and for special studies.
- With the passage of the 2021 Infrastructure legislation, potential funding for projects through grants and 0% interest loans will be requested if the program developed by the state is a viable source of funding for Pueblo's projects.

# WASTEWATER

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## 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. The City does not own the private service lines, but they can be a major source if the homeowners do not maintain them. Also, sump pumps that are illegally connected to the sanitary system can increase the selenium and sulfate concentrations. Extremely expensive treatment of the wastewater will be required if elimination of groundwater infiltration is not effective.
- The Wastewater Department continues to work on energy efficiency and upgrading the infrastructure. Cost of repairs/replacement makes it difficult to catch up with the needs.
- 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 but the rest of the facility is aging rapidly.
- 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.
- Significantly lower nutrients standards will be finalized by the Water Quality Control Commission in 2027 and will require an estimated \$20 million addition to the Water Reclamation Facility to reach the next level of required treatment.
- PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) have been determined to be a pollutant of concern by the Water Quality Control Commission. Monitoring will be required to identify sources and requirements are expected in our next discharge permit. It is unknown at this time if treatment will be required.



## Challenges (continued)

- The improper disposal of wipes and other consumer products cause extensive problems for wastewater utilities. Wipes are not engineered to quickly break down or dissolve when flushed down the toilet. They can adhere to other improperly flushed products such as fats, oils and grease or tree roots forming major blockages that can result in sewer overflows and environmental harm. Wipes also clog home plumbing and may damage wastewater treatment equipment, such as pumps. Many wipes are also made from plastics that can release particles into the environment and harm aquatic ecosystems. Improper labeling on disposal wipes products can result in substantial costs to wastewater utilities and the ratepayers they serve.
- The Collection crew responded to 154 emergency call outs in 2022 to check sanitary mains and clean them if blocked to assist the citizens. If the main is not blocked the affected homeowner is notified that there is an issue in their service line. This saves the homeowner from calling a plumber until it is verified that the issue is not in the city system. In addition, our crews have a very aggressive requirement to clean all lines at least once every two years to make sure we limit the number of issues. Most of the North Range cities have a standard of once every 3-5 years.

The Collection crew responded to 154 emergency call outs in 2022 to check sanitary mains and clean them if blocked to assist the citizens.



- The Water Reclamation Facility will begin to evaluate ways to reduce the environmental impact of treatment by energy reduction and resource recovery through hydropower, biogas production, solar, nutrient recovery, and chemical reduction to determine the most cost-effective improvements that can be made.
- Significant turnover in staff is anticipated within the next five years due to the age of the work force. Training new staff and incorporating new leaders into the organizational structure will present staffing challenges.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Mayor Nick Gradisar and Chief of Staff Laura Solano were invited to the White House in October to attend *Communities in Action: Building a Better Colorado* to participate in roundtable discussions regarding the impact of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding.

During the visit to the White House, Gradisar and Solano presented the success of ARPA funding in Pueblo. They also shared the good news of funding secured with President Biden's BIL which supported the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for \$16.8 million for the West Side Connector Project.



The City of Pueblo made existing electric vehicle (EV) chargers available at no-cost for the general public until September 2024. This came as additional good news to the announcement of six new EV chargers being installed throughout Pueblo as part of a new grant award from the Colorado Energy Office. By mid-2023, the City of Pueblo will have nine EV chargers available for public use.

Mayor Nick Gradisar and other employees of the City of Pueblo joined Black Hills Energy for their electric vehicle celebration in August. Colorado Energy Office, Black Hills Energy and Mayor Gradisar all gathered around the Pueblo Police Departments first electric vehicle (EV) purchased for the fleet. An additional 13 EVs will be added to the fleet in 2023.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



City of Pueblo Human Resources hosted a Chili/Chile cookoff this year during the Healthy Hoedown event for City employees. The Pueblo City Clerk's Office won best overall with Deputy Clerk Vince Petkosek's green chile recipe.

The City of Pueblo looks forward to celebrating and participating in the annual Chile & Frijoles Festival as a fun Pueblo tradition. This year Mayor Nick Gradisar and Pueblo City Council sponsored one of the hot air balloons during the balloon fest.

Emergency response members from Pueblo Police Department and Pueblo Fire Department were able to ride as passengers in the City sponsored balloon.

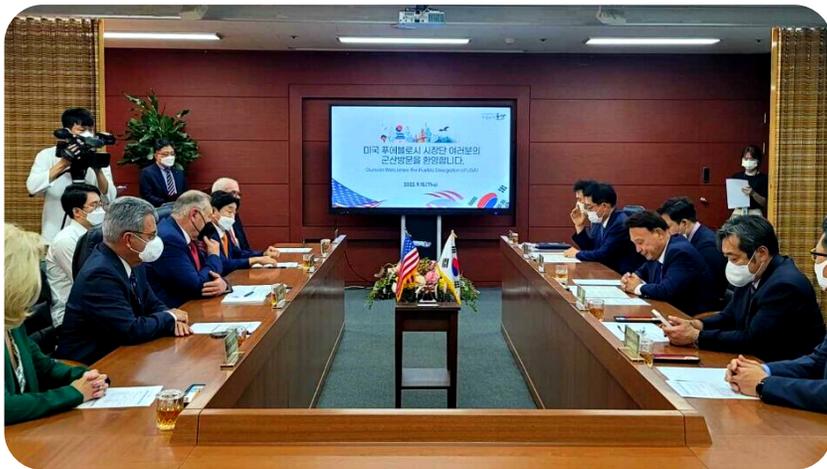


Pueblo Police Department provide extra security throughout the Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival and members of the Department also helped judge the Chihuahua and Friends dog parade in 2022.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Mayor Nick Gradisar, Councilor Dennis Flores, President of Pueblo Community College Patty Erjavec, Ph.D., Dean at Pueblo Community College Young Kim, Ph.D. traveled to South Korea with employees of CS Wind at the company headquarters in Seoul.



Pueblo constituents met with CS Wind executives to discuss expansion of the company at the Pueblo plant and to foster relationships moving forward.

Mayor Nick Gradisar and Gunsan, South Korea Mayor Imjune Kang shake hands during a meeting.



CS Wind officials from South Korea are planning another trip to Pueblo in the spring of 2023. The City of Pueblo and the Mayor's Office look forward to continued conversation and follow up from the trip in fall of 2022. CS Winds looks to hire more than 2,000 new jobs at the Pueblo facility in the next year and continue to expand their footprint as the largest wind turbine manufacturer in North America.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



This year three individuals from the City of Pueblo were honored during the Latino Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 Emerging Leaders Awards.

Nick Hinrichsen is Pueblo Transit's Operations Supervisor. Hinrichsen is a Pueblo native and Army Veteran.



City Council President Heather Graham is an At-Large representative for the City of Pueblo and was elected in 2021. Graham also owns three restaurants and is a native Puebloan.

City of Pueblo Firefighter Sean Kinnier was honored with the 40 under 40 Emerging Leader award as well. Kinnier is an Emergency Medical Officer and has worked for the City of Pueblo since 2016.

Licensing Coordinator of the City Clerk's Office Tammy Martinez completed her third year and graduated from the Colorado Municipal Clerk Association's Institute



The Colorado Municipal Clerks Association recognized Daryl Payne prior to his expected retirement in 2023 for his contributions to their organization after having served as Historian for many years, and for his impact on the City of Pueblo after serving as the Municipal Records Coordinator for nearly 20 years.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Network: Oct 31, 2022 at 3:46:09 PM MDT

Code Enforcement staff members have donated off duty time to help provide traffic control for parades, cleanup events and events such as Trunk or Treat. Code Enforcement was the 2022 winner of the Police Department Trunk or Treat contest!

There's gnome place like home!

City of Pueblo Human Resources (right) dressed up for Halloween with the sock hop theme.



City of Pueblo Public Works (below) dressed up at the characters from Toy Story 2 as part of their Halloween festivities.



The City of Pueblo Finance & Sales Tax Department dressed up as M & M's for Halloween



The City of Pueblo looks forward to welcoming the Colorado State Fair to the Pueblo community each year. This year's celebration of 150 years was a special milestone for the Colorado State Fair. Mayor Gradisar and members of Pueblo City Council attended the annual Legislative BBQ and events throughout the Colorado State Fair including concerts, rodeos, pageants, the Junior Livestock Show and many more fun offerings.



This year the City of Pueblo won 1st place Civic/Community float in the Colorado State Fair Parade. Thanks to the PAGE Union for all the hard work and decorations to make this year's float a winner!



The City of Pueblo's float again earned recognition in the annual Fiesta Day Parade with the two trophies for "Most Traditional" and "Best Costumes."



Mayor Gradisar hosted the annual "Mayor's Day" event at the Colorado State Fair. Mayors, City Managers and City Council members along with their families from across the state were invited for a farm-to-table meal featuring local produce sourced by Pueblo Food Project. After the meal and entertainment provided by Colorado State University Pueblo's Guitar Ensemble, everyone enjoyed a full day at the Colorado State Fair. Over 70 elected officials and appointed municipal employees joined Mayor Gradisar for the event.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Pueblo City Council approved \$300,000 for funding to assist with cleaning up Pueblo. The effort included a free community clean up partnership with Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment in May. Two clean up sites were offered to the community at CSU Pueblo and the Colorado State Fair Grounds.

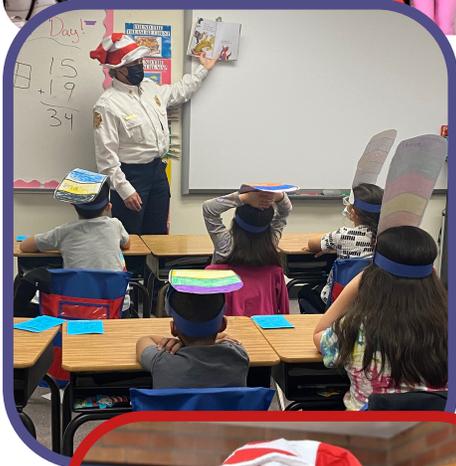
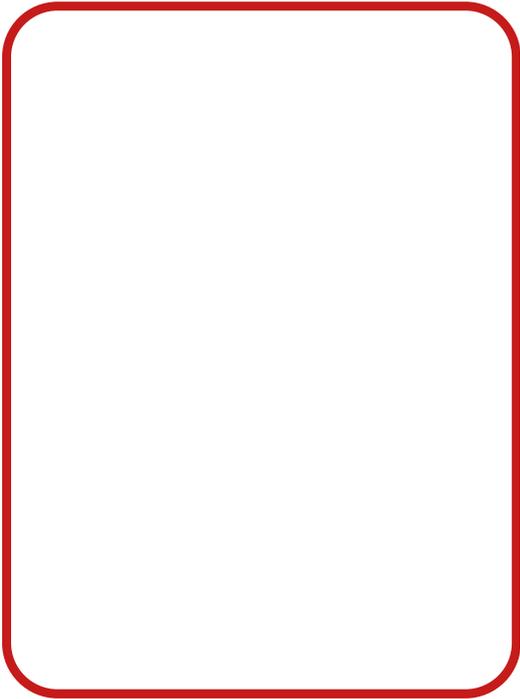
Over 40 dumpsters were provided at each site for Pueblo residents.



The Team Up to Clean Up event took place for a second time with a partnership with Black Hills Energy. During the free dumpster and clean up day, Black Hills Energy provided free winterization and energy efficiency kits for every car that came through the Colorado State Fair Grounds. Over 600 free energy efficiency kits and 2400 LED light bulbs were distributed.



City of Pueblo Public Works, Mayor Gradisar, Pueblo City Council members and volunteers of the community all assisted with the clean up. Old tires without the rim were collected and disposed of free of charge during the Team Up to Clean Up event.

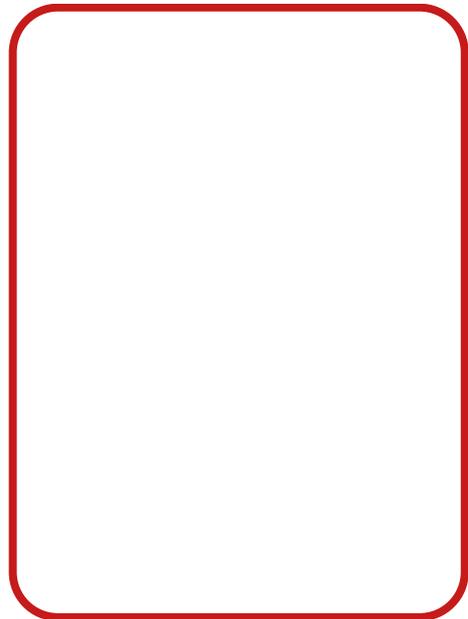


The City of Pueblo participated in the annual "Read Across America" day with Pueblo School District 60 at Columbian Elementary and Minnequa Elementary schools. Mayor Gradisar, Chief of Staff Laura Solano, City Councilor Dennis Flores, Chief of Fire and Deputy Mayor Barb Huber and Chief of Police Chris Noeller all read to students.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The City of Pueblo was proud to welcome the second annual Pueblo Classic Bike Race for the Pueblo Chilly Criterium and the Steel City Road Race and Time Trial Races. The Pueblo Chamber of Commerce partnered with AMR Safety Jam for a family-fun festival event on Saturday, April 23. The public was invited for the Community Bike Ride with Mayor Gradisar which took place on the Pueblo Chilly Criterium track on Union Ave.



**Presented by:** **Community Bike Ride Saturday, April 23 at 12:30pm**

city of **PUEBLO** Community Festival in Partnership with The AMR Safety Jam  
Saturday, April 23rd 10am- 6pm  
Location: Alan Hamel & Union Ave.  
Vendors | Food Trucks | Live Music | Beer Garden

USA CYCLING | ROCKY MOUNTAIN | SAFETY JAM | PUEBLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

visit **PUEBLO** | Pueblo Toyota



Register for the race here

The Mayor's Office sponsored the poster contest for the second annual Pueblo Classic Bike Race. The winning artist, Elena Ornelas of Ordway, Colorado received a \$1,000 prize for her design. The poster was used in all promotion of the event.



