

Mayor Heather Graham and her administration accomplished many successes in 2024. Below is a highlight in the three key areas of addressing homelessness, beautification and development, and public safety and crime.

Homelessness

- The City of Pueblo received the deeds in October to both the 728 W. 4th St. and 710 W. 4th St. buildings formerly known as The Pueblo Rescue Mission and the emergency shelter location.
- There has been an emergency shelter declaration nearly every day since mid-October to ensure the City's unhoused have a place to stay.
- The City of Pueblo entered into an agreement with Safeside Recovery to provide oversight as the fiscal agent for the shelter, the City officially took over the shelter as of December 31, 2024.
- The City of Pueblo was awarded a Community Building Development Grant (CBDG) of \$400k for the development of a pallet shelter community.
- \$200k in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars were allocated for the WORKS program paying unhoused individuals for day labor trash clean up; a partnership with Team Up to Clean Up with Parks and Recreation and oversight by Catholic Charities of Southern Colorado.

Beautification and Development

- In Spring of 2024, the City received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to assist with the nearly \$16 million fourth phase of the HARP Channel Expansion and Boathouse Project.
- In 2024 single-family and multi-family residential unit building permits increased from 173 in 2023 to 431 housing units, an annual increase of 249%. The significant increase is a result of the 351 new apartment and duplex units that received building permits in 2024.
- The City of Pueblo transferred two vacant lots to Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority (PURA) for the construction of four housing units, consisting of two duplexes on the east side.
- As of November 2024, the "Team Up to Clean Up" crew removed and disposed of approximately 170 tons of trash, over 1,500 tires, over 11,500 used hypodermic needles, and 1,500 shopping carts.
- City departments, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Union Pacific Railroad, Burlington Northern Railroad, and other entities worked on two large clean up events to combat illegal dumping. Over 200 tons of trash and debris were removed from areas in the vicinity of Fountain Creek alone. Another large scale clean up included property behind Benedict Park, known as the "Jungle." Other clean ups were near Dillon Drive, Pueblo Mall Boulevard, Eagleridge Boulevard, 40th Street, 13th Street, 8th Street and other sites.
- In 2024, Code Enforcement handled 11,991 complaints, abated 672 properties, as well as cleaned up illegal dump sites, homeless camps, and other areas. In total, 639.48 tons of debris were removed and taken to the landfill and 1,739 tires disposed.

Public Safety/Crime

- Mayor Graham helped secure a \$1 million DOLA grant for the expansion of The Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) launched in July 2024. Part 1 crime decreased an additional 7%, on top of the 13% decrease seen in 2023. There were dramatic reductions of 30% and 26% respectively in auto theft and homicide.
- Pueblo Police Department recruitment efforts led to 34 police officer new hires, a remarkable 143% increase.
- The City of Pueblo prioritized upgrades to EKG monitors and the living quarter upgrades included in the three new fire stations 11, 8, and 6.
- The Justice Department recently announced Pueblo as one of five new sites for the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP), a Department-wide initiative designed to improve safety and reduce violence in areas experiencing elevated crime rates.