



NEWS RELEASE

City of Pueblo Police Department **Message from the Pueblo Police Department**

March 24, 2022

Last Monday, March 14, Colorado Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) came down and inspected the Pueblo Police Department Academy Arrest Control Training (ACT) program. Unfortunately, this did not go as hoped and Colorado POST found the ACT program was out of compliance and has been out of compliance beginning with Class 63, which graduated in August of 2021.

The Chief of Police Chris Noeller stated, “ I wish I could say this finding was wrong, but after our internal review, it was not only correct, but was the only finding that POST could make...Due to concerns with the strike heavy curriculum in the FBI Defensive Tactics, and concerns with SB 217, I gave guidance early in 2021 to instruct additional defensive tactic techniques to limit the issues related to punching people, especially in our current environment. ”

“I am committed, as I know the Training Unit Staff is also committed, to moving forward, learning from this, and figuring out a way to get a POST approved Defensive Tactics Program that addresses my concerns and provides our officers with the skills necessary to safely take resistive persons in custody without the need for strikes in most circumstances,” said Chief Noeller.

The result of this finding is that the Pueblo Police Department must temporarily take the officers from Class 63 off the streets until they can test out of Arrest Control Training or attend an additional 2-week Arrest Control Training program. This will also delay the deployment of Class 64, who will likewise need to test out of Arrest Control Training.

The Pueblo Police Department will still have the Class 64 graduation on Friday, March 25 at 11 a.m. at Pueblo Memorial Hall. The Pueblo Police Department invites the public to come support this graduating class as this has been an added stress, and support of them would likely be appreciated.

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