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Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Board of County Commissioners

Holly Williams, District 1

Carrie Geitner, District 2

Bill Wysong, District 3

Cory Applegate, District 4

Lauren Nelson, District 5

**CITIZEN OUTREACH GROUP (COG)
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: December 15, 2025

Members Present

In Person and Via

Virtual/Teleconference

Meeting: Ruble Henderson, Candi Boyer, Amber Campbell, Lanz Cook, Ed Dills, Jim Godfrey, Brenda Miller

Members Absent: Sarah Brittain Jack (excused), Dale Warner (unexcused)

Commissioners Present: Carrie Geitner

County Staff Present: Ryan Parsell, Natalie Sosa, Paula Linhares

Guests: Sheriff Joe Roybal, Cassandra Sebastian (EPSO), Aric Powell (EPSO)

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by COG Chair Ruble Henderson.

I. Administrative Items

- a. Motion was made by Jim Godfrey to excuse absent Board members who notified staff in advance they would not attend. Candi Boyer seconded. Motion passed.
- b. Motion was made by Brenda Miller to accept the meeting minutes from November 17, 2025. Candi Boyer seconded. Motion passed.

II. Commissioner Liaison Comments – Commissioner Geitner

- a. On December 9, The Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2026 County Budget. The County has deployed a fiscally conservative approach to the budget which has obviated the need for workforce layoffs and other measures that other jurisdictions have had to pursue.
- b. Commissioners are preparing for the upcoming Legislative Session which will start on January 14, 2026. Gearing up for potential fiscal impacts of proposed bills and strategies to address them.

III. Communications/PIO Update – Natalie Sosa

- a. **Ambassador Training** – December 4 training was canceled due to snowstorm. COG will be informed when the session is rescheduled. This is training for County employees and volunteers, including COG Board members, who represent the County at community events and who liaise with constituents.
- b. **America's 250th/Colorado's 150th Anniversary** - County plans for the year are being developed and will be shared with COG soon. COG will be asked to support the 2026 County Fair, which will have a special theme related to the anniversaries. Idea: Perhaps Citizen College can have a related theme as well.

IV. Public Safety Tax (PST) Presentation/1A Sales Tax Funds – Sheriff Joe Roybal

- a. PowerPoint presentation is attached below.
- b. Key Points
 - PST is dedicated to meeting the public safety needs of El Paso County.
 - Supports law enforcement operations, jail management, and emergency response efforts, including wildland fire mitigation.
 - PST has helped move the new East Substation (located in Falcon) from a plan to reality. The new substation will be adjacent to the Falcon Fire Protection District Station 1.
 - The PST (Ballot Issue 1A), which was extended by voters in 2018 is set to expire end of 2029. During 2026, the Commissioners will consider if a ballot measure for extension should be pursued and will determine potential language for it, if the Commissioners vote to proceed.

V. Review of COG operations and future considerations – this agenda item was tabled until the next COG Bd. meeting since this meeting exceeded the time allotted.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am

Next Board Meeting will be moved to Jan. 26 due to MLK, Jr. holiday on Jan. 19.

EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**Investing in Public Safety:
Allocation of 1A Sales Tax Funds**

PUBLIC SAFETY FUND

WHAT IS IT?



Key points about the El Paso County Public Safety Fund:

Purpose:

Dedicated exclusively to meeting the public safety needs of El Paso County.

Funding:

Supports law enforcement operations, jail management, and emergency response efforts, including wildland fire mitigation.

Impact:

Since its approval, the Public Safety Fund has enabled the Sheriff's Office to address rising calls for service, manage a growing jail population, and respond effectively to increased wildland fire activity.

USAGE

Continuing Law Enforcement Needs

Criminal Justice Needs

Emergency Response Needs

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

SHERIFF

- 30-10-511 Custodian of the Jail
- 30-10-512 Sheriff to Act as Fire Warden
- 30-10-514 Sheriff to Transport Prisoners
- 30-10-515 Sheriff to Execute Writs
- 30-10-516 Sheriff to Preserve Peace
- 30-10-523 Permits for Concealed Handguns
- 24-33.5-707 Search and Rescue Missions



PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

Expenditure	Amount
Employing	\$29,234,000
Equipment & Supplies	\$6,976,500
Employee & Mission Support	\$1,299,100
Training	\$1,250,000
East Substation	\$1,165,100
Total	\$39,924,700



- Salary/Benefits/Taxes for 197 employees
- Body Worn Cameras
- Radios for Deputies
- Fuel Site Upgrade
- Ammunition
- Communications Center Upgrade
- Specialized Laptops for Deputies
- Deputy Vehicles with Specialized Equipment



LAW ENFORCEMENT NEEDS

Expenditure	Amount
Employing	\$11,706,300
Equipment & Supplies	\$5,117,600
Training	\$938,700
Employee & Mission Support	\$610,000
Total	\$18,372,600

- Fencing for Evidence Lot - \$272,000
- Initial Communication Center Update - \$13,701
- Ammunition - \$326,900
- Technology - \$453,000
- Vehicles and Equipment- \$702,000
- Fuel for Entire Office - \$633,000



DEPUTY LOAD BEARING VEST



CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEEDS

Expenditure	Amount
Employing	\$17,324,100
Equipment & Supplies	\$1,817,500
Employee & Mission Support	\$678,200
Training	\$311,300
Total	\$20,131,100

- Extraditions - 192 completed at a cost of \$636,781
- Technology - \$699,000
- Ballistic Shields - \$99,600
- Pretrial Services - \$267,500
- Cost to outfit a new deputy is \$8,463
 - EPSO outfits an average of 80 deputies per year
 - Total average cost for the year is \$677,000



REGIONAL DEPUTY ACADEMY

EMERGENCY RESPONSE NEEDS

Expenditure	Amount
Employing	\$203,600
Equipment & Supplies	\$41,400
Employee & Mission Support	\$10,900
Total	\$255,900

- Advanced Wildland Firefighting Gear and Protective Uniforms - \$17,600
- Emergency Vehicle Maintenance/Repairs for Bobcat and UTV - \$1,000
- Technology - \$13,359
- Personnel - Salary/Benefits/Taxes for approximately 4 Wildland Firefighters



WILDLAND FIRE MITIGATION



EAST SUBSTATION

Expenditure	Amount
Total	\$1,165,100

- The 1A Public Safety Tax turns this **\$16 million** total investment for the community from a plan into reality
- Strengthens the Sheriff's Office mission to **hold offenders accountable** and **protect the community**
- Supports public safety in response to **35% population growth** in the Pikes Peak region over the past 20 years
- Expands capacity to meet **rising service demands** and **deliver faster, more effective responses**

Investing in Safety...Preparing for Tomorrow



KEEPING EL PASO COUNTY SAFE, SECURE, AND READY

- **Enhanced Response Capability** – Funding ensures our Sheriff's Office, including fire response teams, can meet the rising demand from increased calls for service.
- **Safe & Secure Detention Operations** – Resources support the management of the average daily population, maintaining safety for staff, incarcerated citizens, and the community.
- **Rapid Wildland Fire Response** – Investments in equipment, training, and personnel allow for swift, effective wildland fire mitigation and emergency response.
- **Sustaining Public Safety** – The Public Safety Tax is not just an expense, it's an investment in keeping El Paso County residents safe, prepared, and supported in times of need.

A safer El Paso County is a stronger El Paso County.



Sheriff Joseph J. Roybal



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