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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

Cami Bremer, District 5

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

Meeting Date: May 19, 2025

**Members Present
In Person and Via
Virtual/Teleconference
Meeting:**

Ruble Henderson (Chair), Sarah Brittain Jack, Ed Dills, Jim Godfrey, Angie Greene, Dale Warner

Members Absent: Brenda Miller

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Carrie Geitner and Commissioner Holly Williams

County Staff Present: Paula Linhares, Natalie Sosa

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

II. Administrative Items - Ruble Henderson

- a. Motion was not made to excuse absent Board members.
- b. The April 21 minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Commissioner Liaison Comments

- a. Commissioner Geitner reported that the Public Safety Tax, that COG reviews annually, will be sunseting in 2028. The tax provides approximately \$40 million in funding for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioners are discussing options with the Sheriff's Office for continuation of this critical funding source for Public Safety needs. The Sheriff will offer a presentation on this topic at the July 8 Board of County Commissioners meeting. COG members are encouraged to view it.
- b. Date of the Sheriff's annual report to COG on the Public Safety Tax TBD.
- c. Staffing changes: Jesse Cruz is the new Administrative Coordinator for Volunteer Boards and Commissions, succeeding Ingrid Mobley who retired in May.

IV. County Communications and PIO Update – Natalie Sosa

- a. New County Department of Community Resources has been established with Vernon Stewart (formerly County PIO) as its current Executive Director. The department integrates Environmental Services, Justice Service, and Veterans Services under one

umbrella. An overview of this new department will be included in the Citizen College 2025 program, likely as part of Bret Waters' administration presentation during the first evening of Citizen College on October 13.

- b. El Paso County Fair is July 12-19, 2025. <https://www.elpasocountyfair.com/p/fair-information>. COG Board will be asked to help staff the County booth at the Fair. A link to sign up for a slot will be emailed week of June 16.
- c. Commissioner Café Conversations are underway. The first one was held on April 25 in Manitou Springs with Commissioner Wysong. The next ones will be with Commissioner Geitner on June 20 in Falcon, and Commissioners Williams and Wysong on June 21 in Monument. Commissioner Applegate's Café Conversation date TBD.
- d. In coordination with Office of Emergency Management, Communications is rolling out a tool on Advance Planning for Wildfires for community members. It is a tool to utilize in the event of emergencies, providing information on evacuation.

V. Citizen College 2025 Update - Subcommittee

- a. Session Manager contacts with program presenters are generally on-track. Dale to reach out by end of week to presenters for the sessions on October 14 at the Citizen Service Center. Awaiting confirmation from Judge Sokol on her availability for the Courts and Jury System session on October 17.
- b. Commissioner Geitner and Commissioner William to offer comments to Citizen College participants at the opening (Oct. 13) and closing (Oct. 18) sessions respectively.
- c. COG will start reaching out to chambers, young professional groups, local colleges, and other target organizations to promote the program. Citizen College cards and website <https://www.elpasoco.com/citizen-college> are ready and can be shared with these groups.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am