



# 2021 STATE —OF THE— *City*



city of

**PUEBLO**

colorado

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## Address by Mayor Nicholas A. Gradisar

Thank you for joining me today for my second State of the City address. I want to thank the newly formed Mayor's Youth Advisory Council for kicking off this address with the Pledge of Allegiance. This group of young adults from all high schools across the City are going to join me throughout the coming year in bringing the collaborative exchange of the ideas of our youth to issues facing the City.

Like everything in the last 12 months this address is different. Last year I delivered these remarks in a room full of people at the recently reopened and remodeled Convention Center. That is not possible this year. I come to you today via Facebook livestream and Channel 17.

In a few short months, it will be 100 years since the Flood that destroyed downtown Pueblo. Obviously, we don't celebrate the flood, but we do, 100 years later, celebrate and marvel at the resiliency of our ancestors who survived it and who built Pueblo back better. Striking is that the lives lost to COVID-19 in Pueblo County this year exceeds the number of lives lost to the Great Flood in June of 1921.

The suffering and loss of COVID-19 has affected us all, but Pueblo families who lost a loved one to the pandemic are suffering immeasurable grief. On behalf of all Puebloans, we share heartfelt condolences for your loss.

As we reflect on the State of the City in 2021, and what we have been through in 2020, is it too audacious to wonder how, 100 years from now, the citizens of Pueblo will look back at what we did to survive the pandemic and what we did to move Pueblo forward? History may gravitate towards telling a salacious story about those that

believed in conspiracies or complained about the health measures, but history must also tell a story that more Puebloans came together, as a united city, to sacrifice to save lives and protect livelihoods. As we reflect on the State of the City, we should remember that we control our destinies, and that Pueblo has always been in it for the long haul.

Instead of being a year of economic development that I spoke about last year, 2020 was a year of economic survival. It has been a year where lives and livelihoods have been at the forefront of our daily work like never before in our lifetimes. 2020 was a year of challenge, controversy, resiliency, and incredible acts of kindness throughout Pueblo. 2021 will be a time for recovery and rebuilding. The pandemic affected every department in the City of Pueblo, just as it affected all of you.

2020 was originally to be a grand celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the City of Pueblo. Plans for a 150th birthday celebration last year were quelled by the pandemic. The inaugural Pueblo Classic Criterium bicycle race was cancelled the night before it was to take place in March. In May, despite having the highest electric rates on the front range, the voters in Pueblo, in a





## Continued: Address by Mayor Nicholas A. Gradisar

special municipal election, overwhelmingly decided not to terminate the franchise agreement with Black Hills Energy. In June, the annual Street Rodders visit to the City of Pueblo and all our festivities for the Fourth of July were cancelled. The Colorado State Fair was held virtually, and the Chile and Frijoles Festival was held, but on a much smaller scale.

Yes, 2020 was a notable year in the City of Pueblo.

As if that wasn't enough, in May, in Minneapolis Minnesota, George Floyd was unjustifiably killed by police officers and the entire nation erupted in protest. Pueblo did not escape the protests but, unlike the protests in other cities in Colorado and across the country, the protests in Pueblo were peaceful and without destruction of property.

The frustration over racial injustice spilled onto Abriendo Avenue with renewed calls for the removal of the Columbus memorial. For more than 20 weeks, a Sunday protest took place at the site of the monument. All the protests were peaceful. Attempts by the City to mediate a settlement between opposing sides has to date, been unsuccessful. I remain hopeful that we can find a Pueblo solution to this problem because it is not going away.

Today as we continue to vaccinate the most vulnerable in our community, I have a renewed sense of optimism that we will beat the COVID-19 pandemic. It is my highest priority

for 2021. As a City, and together, we have new confidence arising from the teamwork and accomplishment of this past year. We see the promise and potential that in working together we will be stronger after COVID-19.

I want to address four key areas today:

- Pueblo's Economic Vibrancy
- Our Community, including Social Equity & Community Needs
- Housing
- Pueblo's Infrastructure

2020 was devastating to our small businesses, most particularly, indoor dining and bars. Scientists told us that sitting in an indoor enclosed space, with strangers, unmasked, for a prolonged period was risky and dangerous. Closed for months in 2020, and when open with limits on capacity, restaurants struggled to survive in 2020 and that struggle continues today and will continue until this pandemic is controlled.

Early in the pandemic, before there were any federal CARES funds, the City of Pueblo made available to small businesses in the City \$5 million dollars from our half cent economic development fund. Within 60 days, \$3.4 million in grants and loans were made to 415 small businesses to help them survive the stay at home order and reopen their businesses.

When the City received \$6.5 million in CARES funds, \$3.8 million of that was made available to

small businesses, including, nearly \$400,000 for Pueblo's Outdoor Patio Program that provided outdoor dining equipment for restaurants to help them increase their capacity. This included purchasing and installing parklets, tables, chairs, lights and heaters. Not only will this investment in outside amenities help these businesses survive the pandemic, but it will also create a new culture in Pueblo of outside dining in certain neighborhoods that will outlive the pandemic. In total, more than 619 small businesses received assistance from these initiatives.

Bars and restaurants are some of the biggest generators of sales tax for the City of Pueblo so investing in these businesses was not only the right thing to do, but it also benefited the City economically. When the virus spiked uncontrollably and inside dining was closed or restricted there was no benefit to the City. Like so many things this past year taking measures to protect lives and the capacity of our medical

systems became political.

Economic survival was also a concern for many individuals whose lives were disrupted by the pandemic. The City of Pueblo spent more than \$800,000 on rent, mortgage, utility assistance and hunger relief for individuals and families. The Pueblo Food Project, which is a cooperative venture between the City and the County, that started in 2019, played a vital role in securing food from local producers and distributing it to those in need. Over \$400,000 in Corona Virus Relief Fund dollars supported Community Relief Programs for our community including care packages for the homeless. The great majority of these funds were spent on locally sourced products.

We were just informed that the Pueblo Food Project had been awarded a \$175,000 grant by the State of Colorado for its food distribution program.



Despite the pandemic and the economic devastation it created, the sales tax revenues for the City of Pueblo remained stable. This unexpected result is probably attributable to the federal CARES dollars sent to individuals and the investment by the city of the half cents sales tax fund in small businesses.

In 2019, Pueblo funded the Street

Mayor Gradisar visits the Colorado State Fair's drive-up fair-food event.



## Continued: Address by Mayor Nicholas A. Gradisar

Repair Utility Enterprise and in 2020 we began rebuilding and repairing streets. We rebuilt Fortino Boulevard and Outlook Boulevard. We milled and overlaid Eagleridge Boulevard and Greenwood Street. The condition of our streets has historically been the number one concern of Pueblo citizens. I expect the repairs to start much earlier in 2021 and we intend to rebuild portions of East Northern Avenue, and mill and overlay 8 other streets around town.

Funding for transportation infrastructure continues to be a concern throughout the state. In Colorado, the state and its voters have failed to arrive at a plan to adequately fund our statewide transportation system. It is becoming increasingly clear that transportation projects in Pueblo will not receive adequate funding from the state and if we want to complete some projects, such as the modernization of I-25 through Pueblo, we are going to have to find a way to raise and invest some local funds.

This year, I intend to work with City Council to prepare a ballot issue which will ask the voters to enact a sales tax to fund transportation infrastructure and street repairs on a more equitable basis than the current Street Repair Utility Enterprise. Right now, assessing a fee on water meters does not equitably fund the street repairs like a sales tax would do. It makes no sense that only people who use water in Pueblo pay for our streets. A much more equitable way of funding it would be a voter approved sales tax that would be paid by everyone who uses the streets in the City of Pueblo.

I want to thank our City Council, our County Commissioner's, Director of Public Health, Pueblo County Sheriff, our hospital administrators and workers, and all our first responders for their partnerships throughout the year to protect our citizens and respond to COVID-19.

The City worked closely with Pueblo County on several projects and that cooperation will continue in the future. I mentioned earlier the Pueblo Food Project. The Pueblo Means Business project is also of significance making development in Pueblo County easier.

In this pandemic year, probably no partnership with the County has proven more successful than the one involving the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment. The health department has led the community's response to the pandemic and every day has confronted new, unanswered questions. The City and



Masked-up Mayor Gradisar admires the Vinewood Park Mural.

County have engaged in weekly meetings with the health department, law enforcement, and the hospitals to help the community navigate this pandemic. As we move into 2021, the health department in partnership with the Emergency Operations Center and our local first responders will lead our vaccination efforts. Vaccinations against COVID-19 are the key to safety for our families and our community and are the path to reopening our businesses and our economy.

Early in the pandemic the Business Economic Recovery Team was established to help businesses navigate the pandemic. This team has become the nucleus of the 5 Star Program that will allow our businesses to operate at a higher level. This 5 Star Program represents a partnership among entities too numerous to mention that will recognize businesses that go above and beyond to protect their employees and patrons during this pandemic.

Our Code Enforcement department has played a vital role in not only keeping our city clean, but also in responding to the pandemic. The slide indicates that there was increased enforcement activity in 2020 to address another large concern of our citizens, the appearance of our City. Those efforts will continue in 2021.

Our Code Enforcement played a vital role in our response to the pandemic and will play a vital role in the 5 Star Program. In August, 10 additional employees, COVID-19 Education and Compliance Technicians were hired to help

educate businesses on COVID-19 and to make sure that they were complying with the rules and regulations. These individuals will be responsible for certifying our 5 Star businesses county wide and making sure that they follow the rules.

As strange as it might sound, our Wastewater Department is playing a vital role in our response to this pandemic. For months, we have been monitoring the DNA of COVID-19 in our sewer water and the seven different basins in the City of Pueblo. Water samples are taken twice per week and we measure for increased DNA of COVID-19. You can see the chart shows when a spike has occurred and, when that happens, 5 to 7 days later we see an increase in COVID-19 cases in Pueblo. We have recently established an early warning system to advise neighborhoods when there is increased virus in their area so that they can be tested.

The City continues to work on streamlining its licensing and permitting processes and will shortly unveil an online system that will make it much easier and convenient for citizens to obtain permits and forms necessary for development. We are working with the County to make that system usable countywide.

2020 brought the formal announcement from EVRAZ that they are going to construct the new long rail mill that had been long talked about and significant work is now being done. When complete, that project will guarantee good jobs in Pueblo for years to come.



## Continued: Address by Mayor Nicholas A. Gradisar

Our economic development partner, PEDCO took the lead in developing ONE PUEBLO - an economic development strategy that encompasses the City, Pueblo County, K-12 Education, Higher education and business and industry. That strategic plan will soon be released.

We need more housing in Pueblo. Housing of all types. Market rate, workforce housing and affordable housing. There are several exciting projects being discussed and I expect that in 2021, some will go forward. One of the projects includes creating affordable housing in the Holmes Hardware building, an iconic building in our Union Avenue district that has been vacant for decades. Another includes affordable housing in the City owned Pope Block Building. There are also market rate housing projects that are being considered by developers. I am hopeful that these projects will see significant progress in 2021.

While we have taken steps to make it easier to use some of our vacant buildings in the downtown and Union Avenue areas, we have not seen developers step up and begin that development. I want to challenge our City Council, the County, realtors and even developers to join me and kick off a decade of growth that starts by investing into Pueblo's downtown once more.

On a more long-term nature, we are in the process of planning for additional Fire Stations in the City of Pueblo. Some to replace outdated stations and some to provide services to growing areas of Pueblo. We have an internal group

working on locations, design and financing and we expect in the next 2 to 3 years we will be replacing some of our dated noncompliant stations.

We are so fortunate to live in a community where our diversity is enjoyed and celebrated in our everyday lives. The City has been selected to participate in three key grants in 2020 that will continue into 2021. Bloomberg Philanthropies selected Pueblo to participate in a Social and Financial Equity 18-month program to work with technical advisers and cohort cities on improving the cities Social and Financial equity within the City's general fund budget.

The City was awarded two grants from the City's for Financial Empowerment Fund; the Financial Navigators Program in partnership with the NeighborWorks of Pueblo; and the Cities Start Program where we will work with local focus groups and program technical advisers on a Financial Empowerment blueprint for our community.

We are planning for the Pueblo Classic Criterium cycling event in Pueblo on April 24 and 25. This is the event that was cancelled the day before it was scheduled to take place last year. This two-day event is sanctioned by the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cycling Conference. In addition to the college riders, there will be professionals racing. We are also planning a community ride on Sunday, April 25 at noon on the Criterium course on Union Avenue. We

are hopeful that COVID-19 will be under better control and that we will be able to have activities that include the public.

We have just opened an art contest to design a poster for this event and have announced a \$1000 prize to the winning artist. Details of this contest can be obtained from the Pueblo Arts Alliance.

As we move into 2021, our primary goal is to increase the economic activity in Pueblo and continue to recruit new business and employers. We must continue our work to make it easier to do business in Pueblo.

One of the things that we learned from the pandemic is that many jobs and businesses can be done remotely. That discovery presents opportunities for Pueblo. As people determine to find less populated places to live, places with outdoor recreational activities, like Pueblo, we should redouble our efforts to make Pueblo a place where they will want to live, work and play. We can make Pueblo more attractive by increasing our housing supply and creating housing that is attractive to individuals who can live anywhere they want and bring their jobs with them. We need to position Pueblo to take advantage of these opportunities. These will not be large job announcements, but they will steadily increase our population with educated people and good careers.

The written State of the City report will be released today and will be available on the City's website. This document contains reports from all the City departments and compares their 2020 activities with those of previous years.

Let me conclude by saying that I am honored to serve as the Mayor of Pueblo during these unprecedented times and am looking forward to our continued recovery and growth. While at times during the past year our challenges seemed insurmountable, we worked collaboratively, as a community to meet this pandemic together, to plan for the challenges we faced, and to creatively and passionately develop a pathway for a bright future. And while I can't think of a better time to be a Mayor, I am hopeful that our days of mask wearing, and social distancing will soon come to an end and that we will once again be able to gather together.

Finally, I want to thank all the dedicated employees of the City of Pueblo who have worked hard this year to continue to deliver services to our citizens. And I want to thank and acknowledge the Leadership Team of the City, who met with me daily during the early days of the pandemic, and regularly thereafter, to ensure that the City of Pueblo could continue to deliver high quality services to its citizens under these most unusual circumstances.

Ladies and Gentlemen; not only does Pueblo have a proud history, it has a bright future. Thank you.



## City of Pueblo: By the Numbers

The City of Pueblo has a long and colorful history dating back to 1842, when it was called Fort Pueblo. On March 22, 1870, a milestone to permanence was achieved when the County Commissioners incorporated the “town” of Pueblo. This year, 2021, marks the 150th “plus one” Anniversary of Pueblo. The Sesquicentennial celebration took on a new meaning for the year of 2020 with planned celebrations of Pueblo’s rich and diverse history and traditions cut short due to the pandemic. What brought our city from a small fort in southern Colorado to the backbone of Colorado was the steel mill. This area once housed 4 separate towns, which were Pueblo, South Pueblo, Central Pueblo, and Bessemer. These 4 towns together now make up the City of Pueblo.

The City of Pueblo is also known as “America’s Home of Heroes,” as was proclaimed by the United States Congress in 1993. Pueblo hosts National Medal of Honor Day and has had as many as four living Medal of Honor recipients living in our community.

Pueblo is a community filled with pride, passion, determination, and perseverance. As a full-service city, Pueblo provides many essential services. The 787 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 following departmental information is included in this report; Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Sales Tax, Pueblo Memorial Airport, Housing and Citizens Services, Grant and Resource Development, Community Engagement, Marijuana Licenses, Municipal Court, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Public Works, Pueblo Food Project, Sales Tax, Stormwater, and Wastewater. The City of Pueblo is supported by nearly 30 Boards and Commissions, comprised of over 200 citizen volunteers and staff. We appreciate and thank our members for their contribution and service. A list of Board and Commissions and members is included in this report. City leaders are committed to making careful decisions and focusing on community priorities to ensure responsiveness and value to Pueblo citizens.



City employee, Lee, on mower in Pueblo’s City Park.

## Demographics

City of Pueblo Quick Facts*	
Population	112,631
Percentage of Residents who are:	
School Age Children	16%
Under age 18	22.4%
Age 65 or older	17.5%

Education	
Percentage of adults age 25+ years with Bachelor's Degree or higher	18.9%
Percentage of adults age 25+ years who did not graduate from high school	12.7%
Median Household Income	\$40,450
Percentage of Population in Poverty	23.5%
Media Gross Monthly Rent	\$799
Total Housing Units	48,427**

\*US Census Bureau Quick Facts. Retrieved 2020 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pueblocitycolorado>

\*\*2019 ACS 1 year estimates

City of Pueblo Quick Facts*	
Race & Hispanic Origin:	
Hispanic or Latino	51.1%
Non-Hispanic White, alone	43.6%
American Indian & Alaskan Native, alone	5.1%
Two or more races	4.6%
Black or African American, alone	2.7%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.1%



Stormwater crew unclogging a plugged culvert under I-25 at the Lake Clara Outfall.



## City of Pueblo: By the Numbers

### Citizen Survey

A third party entity, ETC Institute, administered the sixth DirectionFinder® survey for the City of Pueblo during the winter of 2020. The surveys have been administered every two years since 2010 as part of the City's effort to assess citizen satisfaction with the quality of services.

With this survey, valuable trend information shows the City where changes have occurred in citizen satisfaction. The information gathered from the surveys help the City establish budget priorities and refine policy decisions.

A seven-page survey was mailed to a random sample of households in the City of Pueblo. Approximately seven days after the surveys were mailed, residents who received the survey were contacted by e-mail to encourage participation. Of the households that received a survey, 480 completed the survey. The results for the random sample of 480 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-5%.

Residents indicated the two areas that should receive the most emphasis over the next two years were the maintenance of city parks and the city's youth recreation programs.

From 2018 to 2020, satisfaction ratings improved or stayed the same in 55 of the 81 areas that were assessed. There were significant increases (5% or more) in 22 of these areas.

The areas that had a 10% increase or more since

2018 are listed below:

- Overall quality of police services (+15%)
- Feeling of safety in the neighborhood during the day (+14%)
- Visibility of police in neighborhoods (+14%)
- Overall quality of local police protection (+10%)

From 2018 to 2020, satisfaction ratings decreased in 26 of the 81 areas that were assessed. There were significant decreases (5% or more) in 10 of these areas.

The areas that had a 10% decrease or more since 2018 are listed below:

- City efforts to keep residents informed (-10%)
- Drainage of rainwater off city streets (-14%)
- Availability of information about city programs and services (-14%)

### Services Residents Thought Should Receive the Most Emphasis Over the Next Two Years:

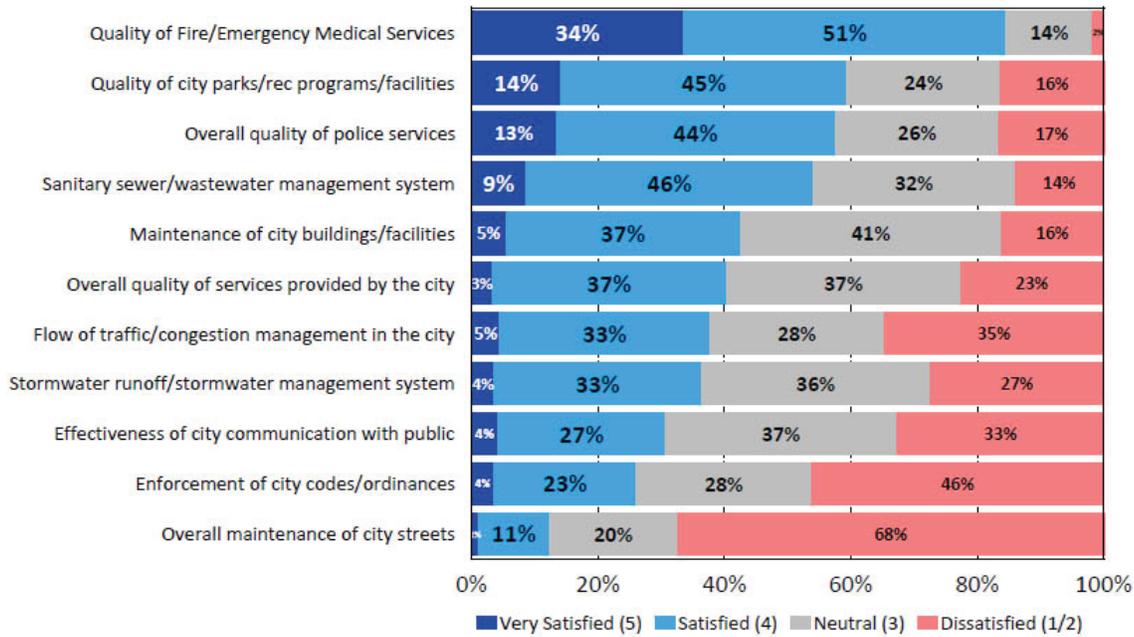
The areas that residents thought should receive the most emphasis from the City of Pueblo over the next two years were: (1) maintenance of City streets, (2) the quality of police services, and (3) enforcement of city codes/ordinances.

### Some of the Major Findings

The use of the word "significant", when referring to change in ratings from the previous survey,

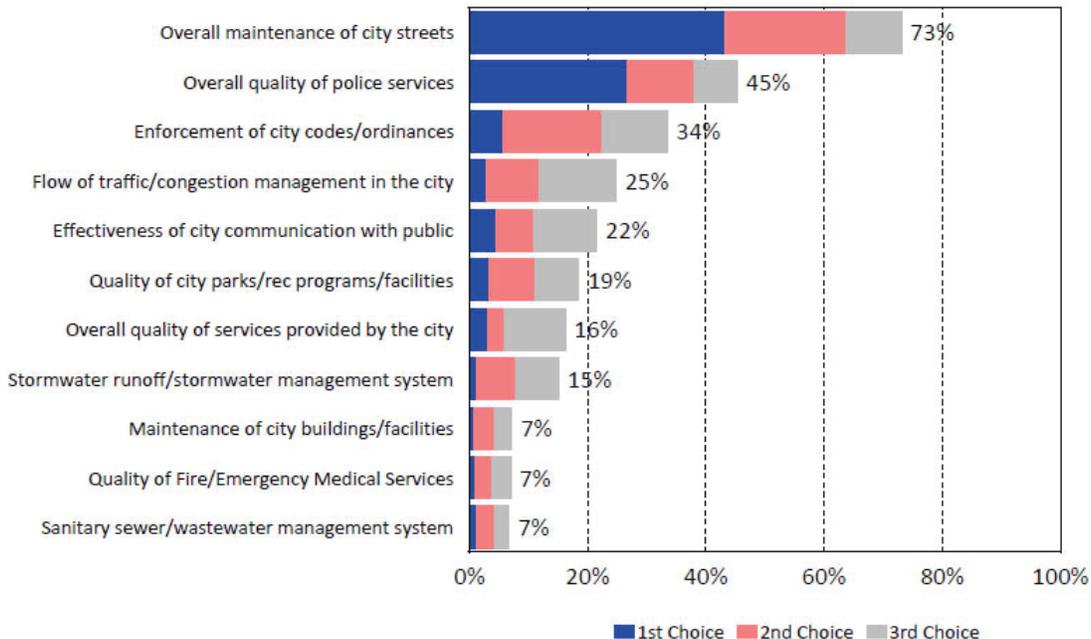
## Q1. Overall Satisfaction With City Services by Major Category

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



## Q2. City Services That Should Receive the Most Emphasis Over the Next Two Years by Major Category

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



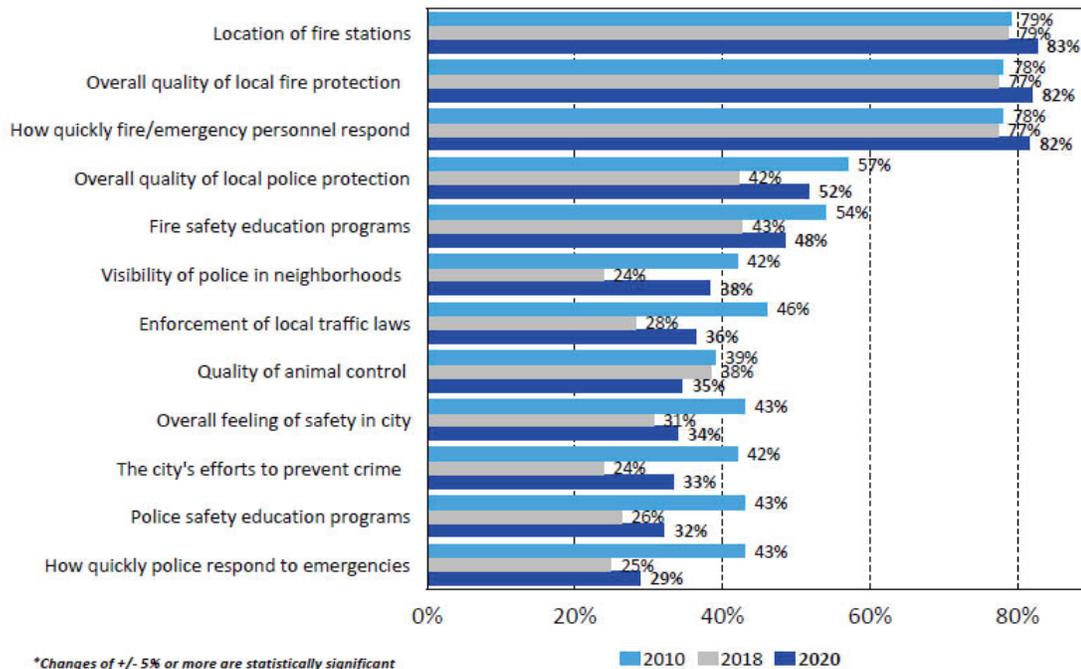


## City of Pueblo: By the Numbers

### Citizen Survey

#### Satisfaction with Public Safety - 2010 to 2020

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



means that the change is either above or below the margin of error (+/- 5%).

- Satisfaction with City services.** Eighty-five percent (85%) of the residents surveyed, who had an opinion, were satisfied (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) with the quality of the City's fire and EMS services; 59% were satisfied with the quality of City parks and recreation programs and facilities, and 58% were satisfied with the quality of police services.

- Perceptions of the City.** Sixty-one percent (61%) of the residents surveyed, who had an opinion, indicated that they were satisfied (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) with the city as a place to live; 59% were satisfied with the city as a place to retire, and 44% were satisfied with quality of life in the city.
- Public Safety.** Eighty-three percent (83%) of the residents surveyed, who had an opinion, were satisfied (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) with the location of fire stations; 82%

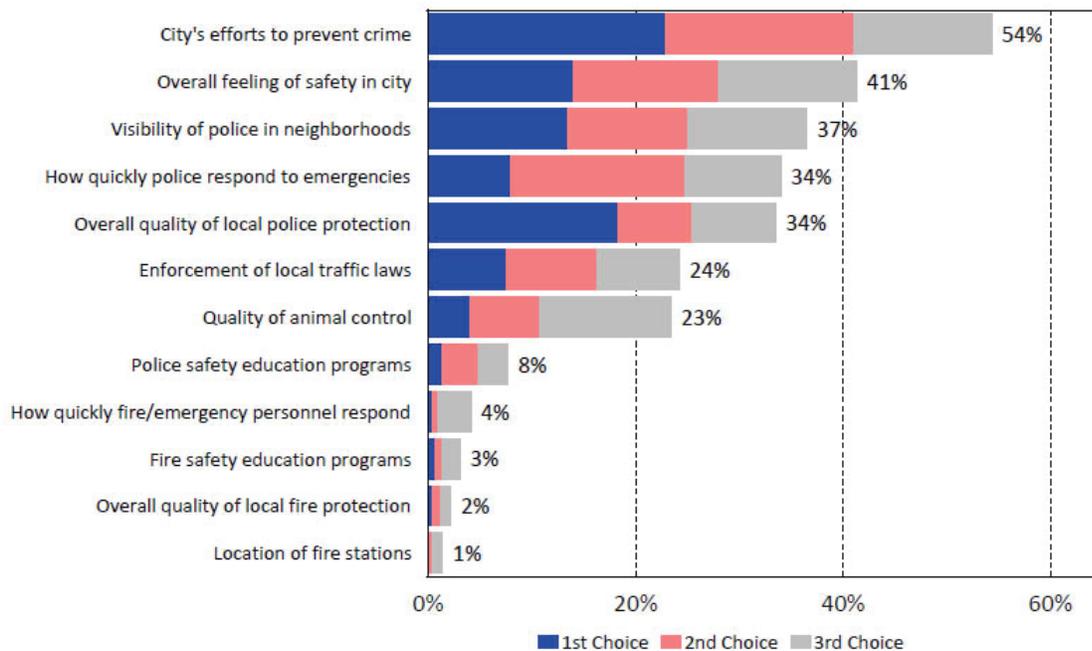
were satisfied with overall quality of local fire protection, and 82% were satisfied with how quickly fire and emergency personnel respond.

opinion, were satisfied (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) with the removal of graffiti, and 34% were satisfied with the enforcement of codes to protect public safety.

- Feeling of Safety in the City.** Eighty-eight percent (88%) of residents surveyed, who had an opinion, felt safe in their neighborhoods during the day and 60% felt safe in their neighborhoods at night. Seventy-six percent (76%) indicated there are areas of town where they do not feel safe.
- Codes and Ordinances.** Fifty-one percent (51%) of the residents surveyed, who had an
- Parks and Recreation.** Seventy-one percent (71%) of the residents surveyed, who had an opinion, were satisfied (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) with the location of city parks; 69% were satisfied with the number of city parks, and 65% were satisfied with the maintenance of city parks.

## Q5. Public Safety Services That Should Receive the Most Emphasis Over the Next Two Years

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices





## COVID-19 & Resiliency

The Corona Virus (COVID-19) Pandemic ascended upon the City, County, State, Nation, and the world in early 2020. The gravity of the virus gripped our community in late March. It took a united community to respond to the challenges that COVID-19 brought to Pueblo.

In a spirit of unity, we each did our part in following health orders, variances, social distancing, and mask wearing. Our health care workers, first responders, and essential workers throughout the City led the way to continue to provide services to the public. Our schools, colleges, businesses, places of worship, senior facilities, restaurants and bars, gyms, and group sports had to be flexible to follow the guidelines and restrictions of executive orders and variances as together we navigated the COVID-19 dial and dashboard of Safer at Home, and Stay at Home orders.

In early Summer 2020, Pueblo County and the City of Pueblo received \$14 million

dollars from the Federal Corona Virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The City's share of the relief funds was \$5.5 million dollars with an additional \$1 million awarded from supplemental funds. The City also received targeted CARES distributions to the Airport, Transit, and Housing Departments. The following chart outlines how the City expended these relief funds. The priority items from the City's funds were allocated to the community in the form of small business grant and loans, including amenities to restaurants and bars in the Outdoor Patio Program to extend the outdoor patio season and social distancing; community relief programs, i.e. rent, utility, and hunger relief; and COVID-19 safety measures for the city's first responders, public safety for citizens doing business with the city, and operations.

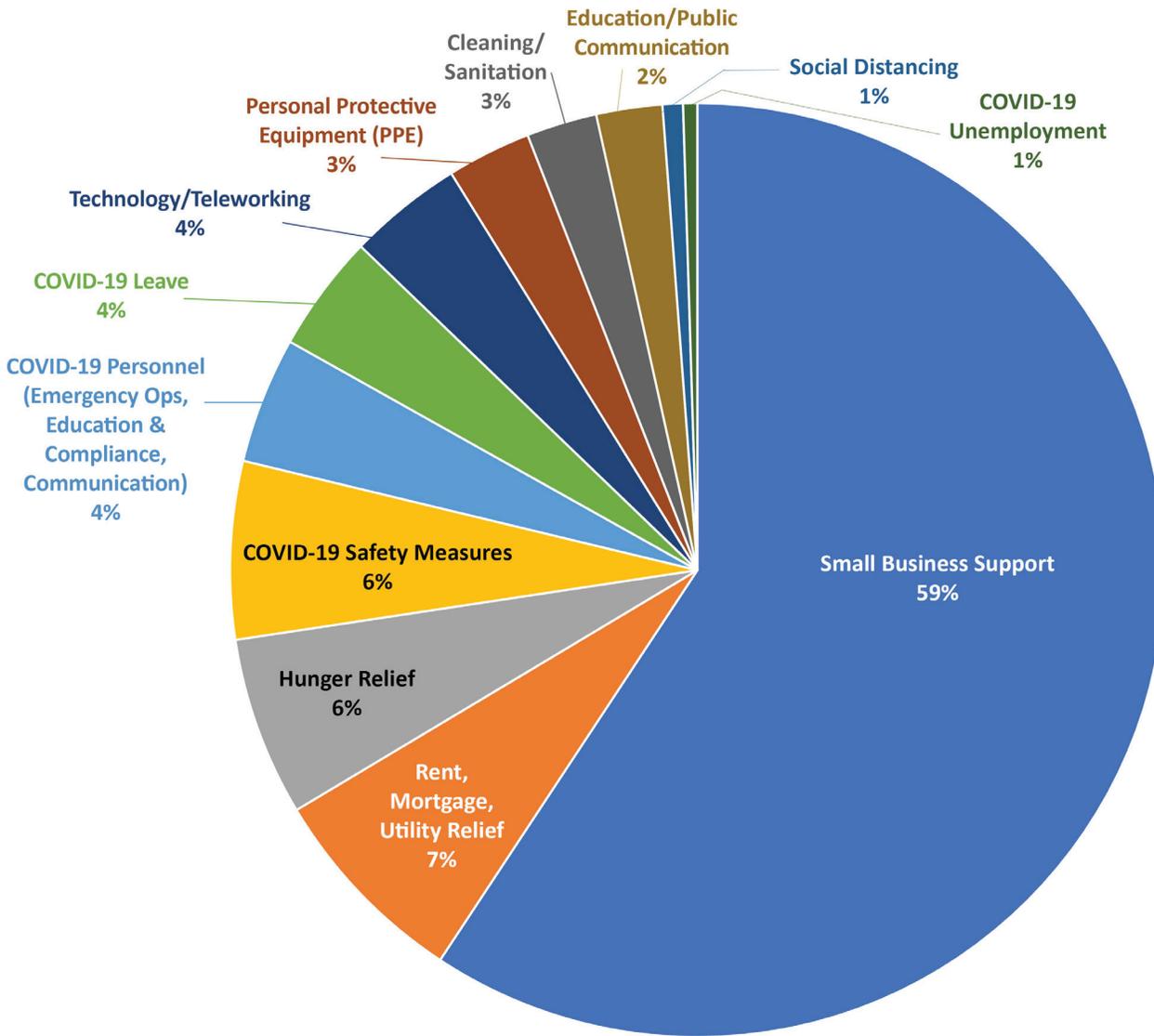
We are grateful for the transition and the hope that the new year brings. In Pueblo, we have a long way to go before this virus is completely behind us; however, we now see the light at the end of the tunnel that the vaccination brings to our citizens. The end of this virus depends on vaccinating our community; but we must be patient in this impatient time. Together, we have made many sacrifices over the last 10 months. We have seen the risk and the peril of this virus; and hopefully soon, we will see the potential and the promise of a stronger community post-COVID-19.



Mayor Gradisar meets with Governor Polis during the pandemic.

# COVID-19 & Resiliency

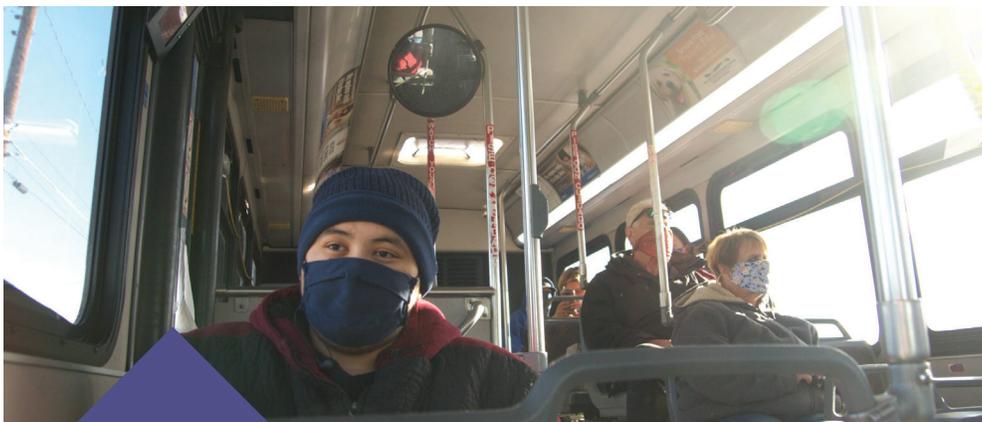
## DOLA Corona Virus Relief Fund: \$6,575,945





## COVID-19 & Resiliency Continued

COVID-19 Relief Funding Received by the City		
Funding Entity	Impact	Amount
DOLA Coronavirus Relief Fund	See chart on page 17	\$6,575,945
US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)	Department of Housing & Citizen Services	\$1,364,497
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	Airport	\$1,043,034
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Pueblo Transit	\$6,416,901
US Department of Justice (DOJ)	Police, Information Technology, Parks & Recreation	\$319,270
Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Fund	Financial Navigator & City Start Program	\$105,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,824,647</b>



In December, Colorado Public Radio covered how the Transit Department responded to COVID-19. Photo by Nathaniel Minor/CPR News.

## Small Business Loans & Grants

The City of Pueblo created the \$5 million COVID-19 Emergency Loan and Grant fund that used Half-Cent tax money to help local businesses sustain operations during the pandemic. In the first round, \$3.6 million was awarded in grants and loans to local companies from the relief program. In November, another \$1.8 million was awarded in small business grants.

“Our small businesses have gone through a difficult year, and we need to make sure our local economy can get through these new health orders by the state. That is why the City made available monies from our COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund to help Pueblo businesses,” said Mayor Gradisar. “I call on every Puebloan to do their part to support local businesses. Buy local, shop local, have a carry-out night, or buy that gift card – do what you can to support our local businesses.”

**THANK YOU SO MUCH.**

We greatly appreciate all that OUR CITY has done to help us through this trying year.

Donna J. Baker  
Embroidery Plus-Quick Print

“I would like to thank you for again supporting our business. The grant money that we have received from the city of Pueblo has been one of the reasons we have been able to continue to safely serve the youth of our community! Our sincere thanks.”

Deann Sisson  
Nogare’s Gymnastics Academy

...a sincere  
**THANK YOU** to whomever is responsible for this grant. It is going to help SO MUCH!! It has not been an easy year to say the least and it’s only getting harder but this will help keep things running.

Wolfgang Heyn  
The Vac Shoppe

The City of Pueblo gave out over \$5.3 Million in COVID-19 Relief grants and loans for small businesses.



## Pueblo's 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary

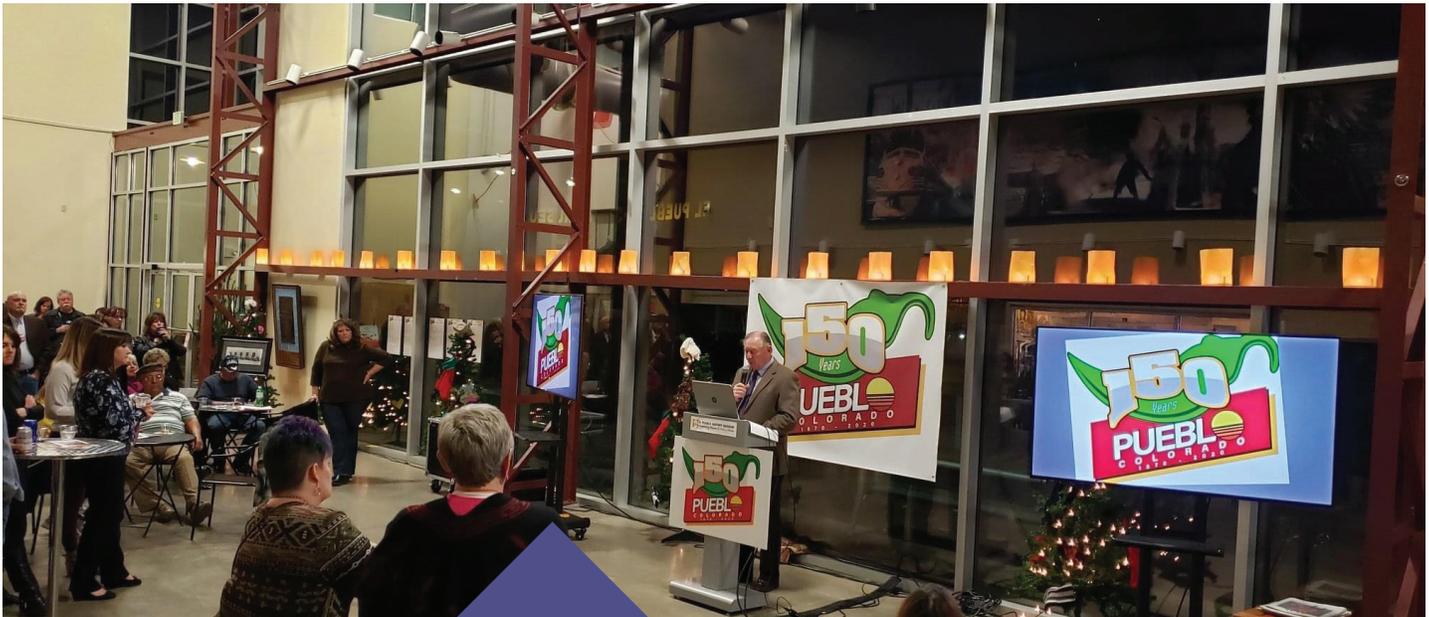
2020 marked the 150th Anniversary of the City's incorporation. Many celebrations were planned that had to be put on hold due to the Corona Virus pandemic. The City of Pueblo has a long and colorful history dating back to 1842, when it was called Fort Pueblo. On March 22, 1870, a milestone to permanence was achieved when the "town" of Pueblo was incorporated. On March 22, 2020, the City of Pueblo marked its 150th Anniversary.

Pueblo has a proud history. People came from all over the world to make the steel that built the American West in Pueblo's Steel Mill. Our immigrant ancestors came to Pueblo, many only teenagers, leaving their homes, some with only the clothes on their backs, guided by only their belief that they could find a better life. They were

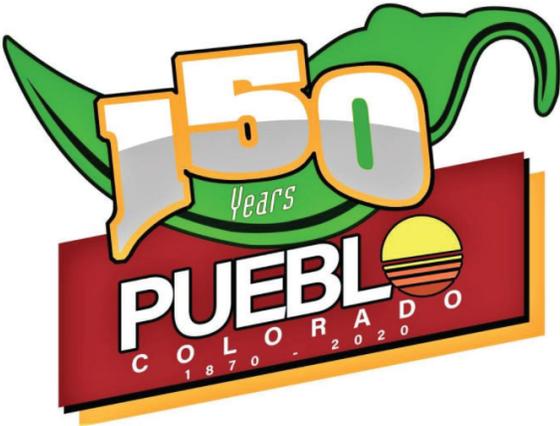
fearful of the unknown future they faced but that fear did not stop them from pursuing their dreams.



As we finish the second decade of the 21st Century, 150 years after the City of Pueblo was incorporated, and we confront the uncertainties and challenges of our time, it is important for us to remember where we came from and it is important that we rekindle that immigrant spirit of our ancestors. A spirit that says that with hard



Mayor Gradisar addressing the crowd during the Pueblo 150th Birthday kick-off event at El Pueblo Museum!



work and perseverance, nothing is impossible or beyond our reach.

Looking to the future, 2021 brings the 100th anniversary of the Great Flood of 1921 in Pueblo. With the many planned remembrances, there will also be time to celebrate the City's 150th + 1 birthday.



Community members pose with "Happy Birthday, Pueblo!" signs.



## Grants & Resource Development

In March 2020, the City of Pueblo added a new full-time position for a Grant and Resource Development Administrator, charged with overseeing the City’s efforts to secure grants and other funding for municipal programs and projects. In addition to those responsibilities, the Grant and Resource Development Administrator also coordinated the process for 1) granting small business grants

and loans for Corona Virus relief; and 2) allocating \$6.5 million in DOLA Corona Virus relief funds.

Throughout 2020, the City of Pueblo applied for 53 grants, and received 43 grant awards, with 8 applications still pending. The total value of these awards is \$28,592,356.

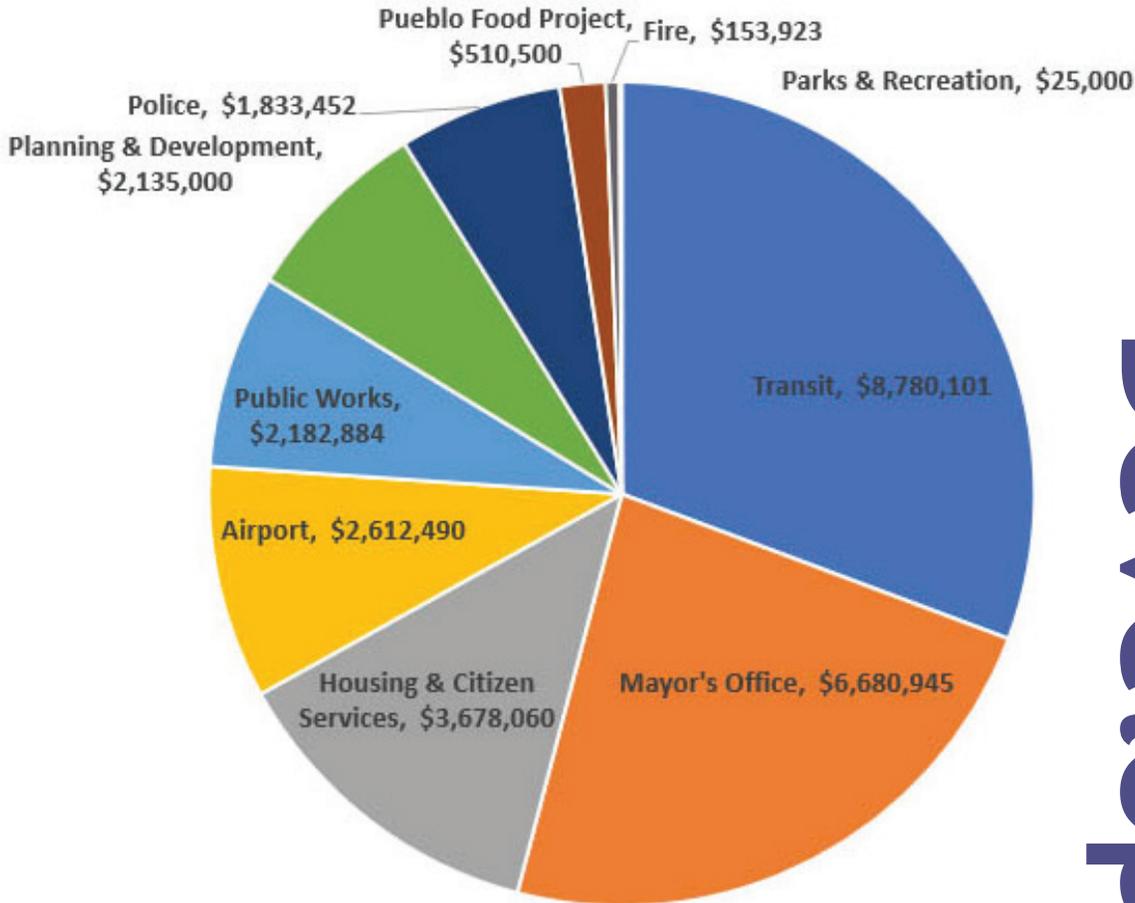
Grant Applications by Type			
Funder Type	Applications Submitted	Applications Awarded	Success Rate
Federal	18	14	77.8%
State	23	23	100%
County	1	1	100%
Foundation	16	14	87.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>89.7%</b>
Total Grant Applications and Awards, Monetary			
	Applications Submitted	Applications Awarded	Success Rate
Monetary Totals	\$32,977,973	\$28,592,356	86.7%



Pueblo City Park in winter.

# Grants & Resource Development

City of Pueblo Grants Received by Department



The City has a long practice of seeking Federal, State, and other grants to supplement the general fund budget. We are fortunate that these entities see the value that Pueblo brings to Southern Colorado. The supplemental grant resources support public safety, infrastructure, and community development that optimizes services to

the citizens of Pueblo. In 2020, the City expanded the scope of funding efforts to broaden program opportunities that directly support financial empowerment and hunger relief for our citizens.



## Finance & Sales Tax

For FY 2021, it is projected that the total revenue and other sources of funds is approximately \$88.4 million dollars; a decrease of approximately 4% relative to FY2020 adopted budget.

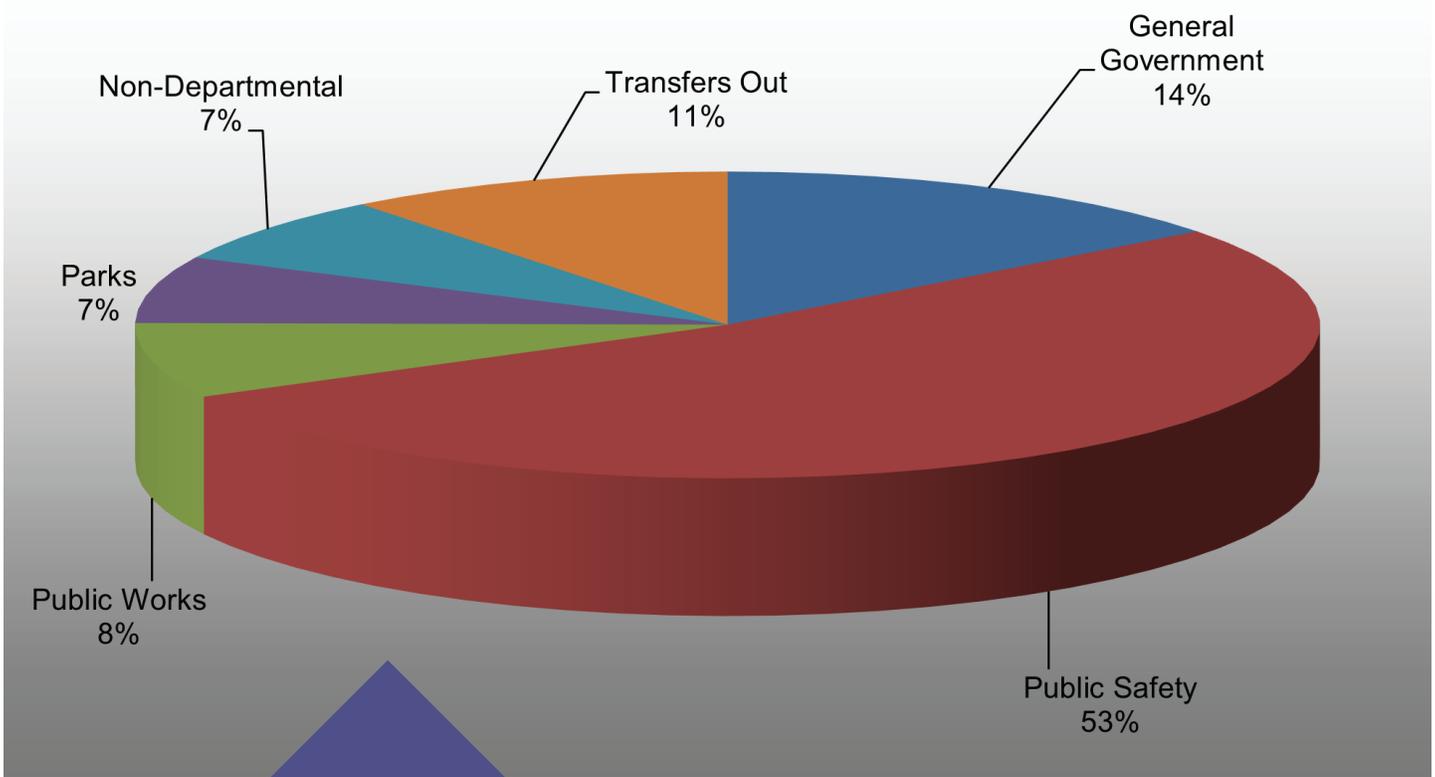
### Sales Tax

In 2020, there were over 732 new sales tax licenses issued in 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 are beginning to remit the City

sales tax they are collecting from Puebloans. Approximately 59% of the City's budget comes from Sales tax. For the first 10 months of 2020, sales tax collections were up over 2.4%. This is a good indicator of economic growth in Pueblo.

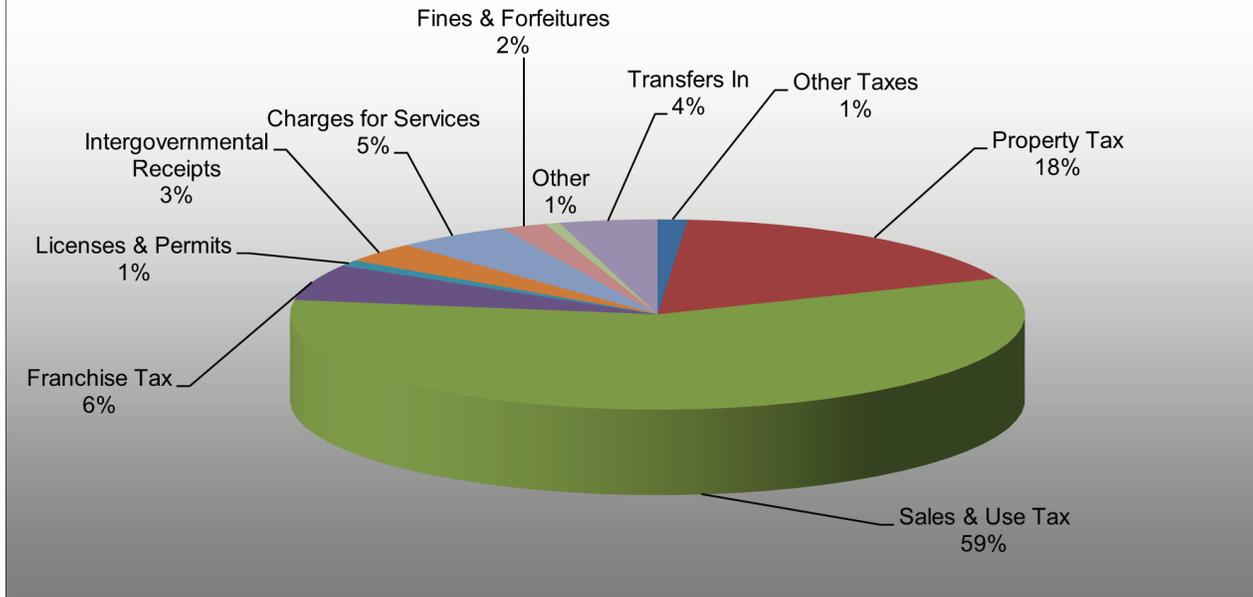
At the end of 2020, the 2021 budget was submitted to and approved by City Council. The budget calls for expenditures of \$95 million dollars to provide services to our citizens and we are committed to providing those services in an efficient, effective, transparent manner.

## 2021 GENERAL FUND EXPENSES \$95,583,906



Public Safety is a core service provided by city government, and accounts for 53% of the city budget!

## 2021 GENERAL FUND REVENUE \$88,452,548



### General Fund Sales and Use Tax Collection Summary 2016 – 2020\*\*

Gross Sales & Use Tax Receipts General Fund	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Unaudited
January	\$3,732,320	\$3,543,300	\$3,705,320	\$3,809,969	\$3,899,609
February	\$3,626,572	\$3,625,995	\$3,659,145	\$3,783,801	\$3,867,356
March	\$4,164,043	\$4,578,711	\$4,510,813	\$4,678,440	\$4,152,725
April	\$3,768,436	\$3,820,803	\$3,806,727	\$4,125,045	\$3,796,533
May	\$3,944,496	\$4,088,658	\$4,335,113	\$4,349,769	\$4,592,783
June	\$4,275,883	\$4,415,849	\$4,584,973	\$4,608,230	\$5,144,153
July	4,008,556	\$3,966,556	\$4,196,338	\$4,431,027	\$4,736,521
August	\$4,161,622	\$4,519,792	\$4,304,722	\$4,830,567	\$4,801,070
September	\$4,075,012	\$4,371,445	\$4,347,626	\$4,624,476	\$4,972,940
October	\$3,794,758	\$3,957,927	\$3,876,833	\$4,211,280	\$4,527,389
November	\$3,902,860	\$3,925,123	\$4,068,489	\$4,291,501	\$4,091,133
December	\$5,953,966	\$5,205,859	\$4,915,902	\$5,192,944	\$4,948,803
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 49,408,524</b>	<b>\$ 50,020,018</b>	<b>\$ 50,312,001</b>	<b>\$ 52,937,049</b>	<b>\$ 53,531,015</b>

\*\*November and December 2020 receipts estimated.



## Police Department

2020 will be a year to remember for decades to come. The COVID-19 Pandemic and social unrest created situations and issues that are hard to capture in the written word. Having said that, the Pueblo Police Department has been blessed in several areas as has our city.

Staffing is always an issue at the top of the list of concerns for any police department. The Pueblo Police Department, as of January 1, 2020, had 209 sworn staff and 54 non-sworn. A Police Academy began in mid-February 2020, with 12 recruit Officers. Without the “Public Safety Sales Tax” (PSST), our sworn staffing would be significantly less. All twenty-four (24) sworn positions authorized by the tax are filled. To provide some perspective on this staffing it is important to note that in the summer of 2015, which was marked by significant gang issues

and violence, the Pueblo Police Department was trying to deliver service with 183 sworn officers.

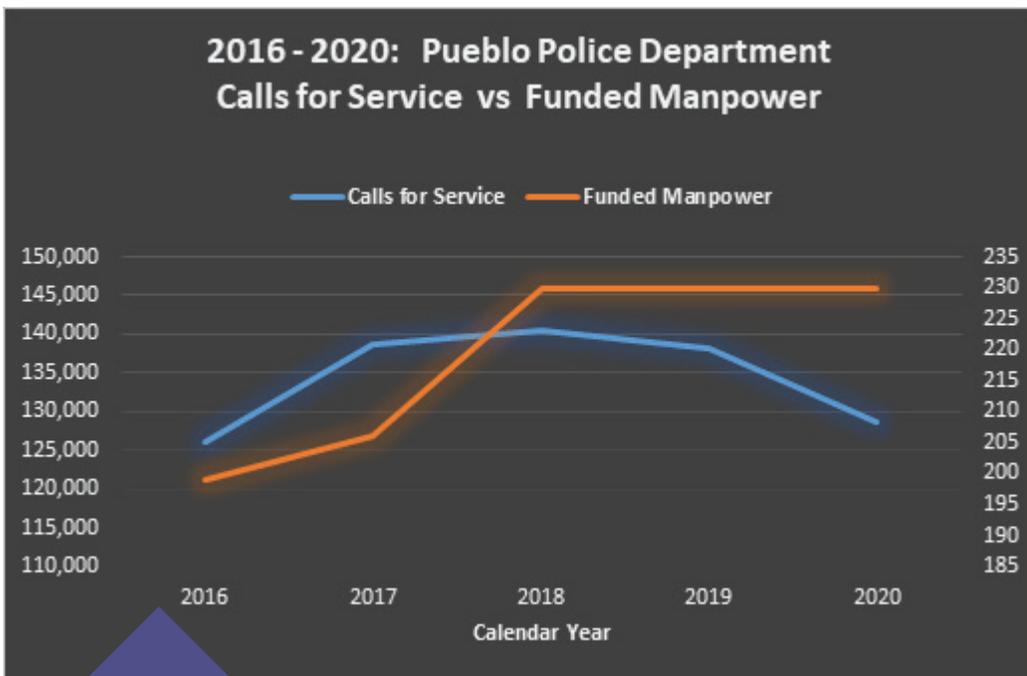
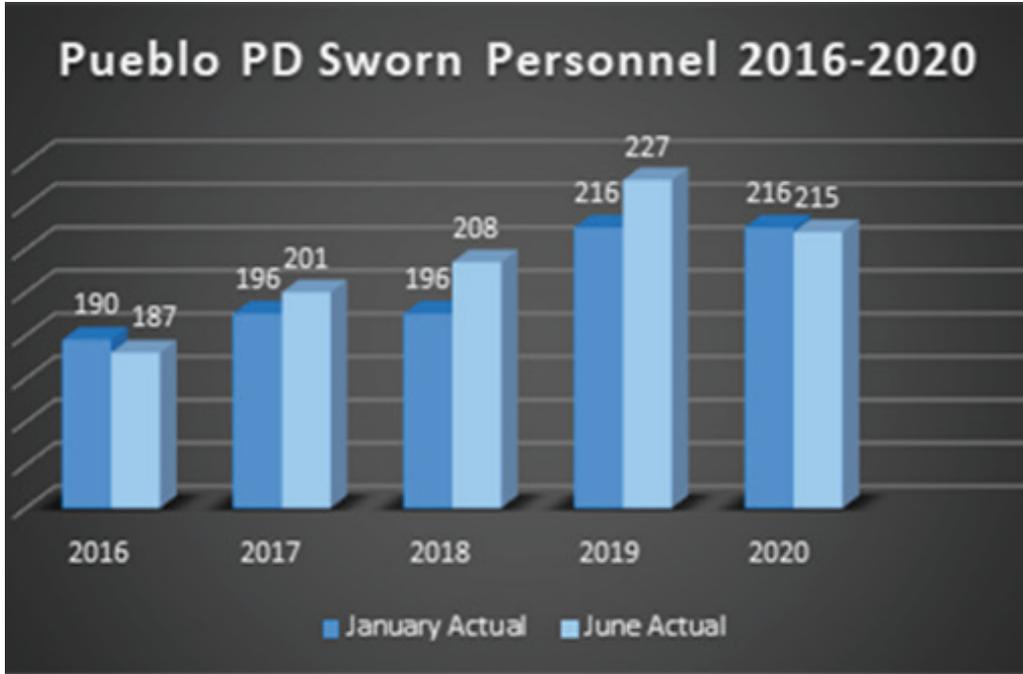
The next page has an interesting chart showing “Calls for Service” compared to “Funded Manpower”. The number of calls for service dropped in 2020, due in part to the “Stay” at Home” order and other restrictions. Note the crossing of the lines in late 2017 wherein funded manpower climbed ahead of calls for service.

Since the adoption of the Public Safety Sales Tax, our community’s overall crime rate has dropped almost twenty-three percent (23%) in the last three years. Significant reasons to celebrate particularly in regard to property crimes such as burglary and theft. For 2020 the overall crime rate dropped another 4%.

Part I Crime Incident Comparison 2017-2020							
Nature	2017	2018	% Δ '17-'18	2019	% Δ '18-'19	2020	% Δ '19-'20
Homicide	10	9	-10%	13	44%	13	0%
Sexual Assault	208	186	-11%	185	<1%	188	2%
Robbery	212	220	4%	187	-15%	197	5%
Aggravated Assault	599	568	-5%	564	-1%	627	11%
Burglary	1323	1202	-9%	977	-19%	859	-12%
Larceny/Theft	4182	3755	-10%	3647	-3%	3317	-9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1247	1083	-13%	834	-23%	940	13%
Arson	49	74	51%	66	-11%	57	-14%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7830</b>	<b>7097</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>6473</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>6198</b>	<b>-4%</b>

*This data is based on National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). There may be one or more victim and/or suspect in each incident. The data is dynamic, which allows for additions, deletions, and/or modifications at any time, resulting in a more accurate information in the database. Due to continuous data entry, the number of records in subsequent extraction are subject to change.*

# Police Department



This chart shows “Calls for Service” compared to “Funded Manpower”. Calls for service dropped in 2020, due in part to the “Stay at Home” order and other restrictions. Note the crossing of the lines in late 2017 wherein funded manpower climbed ahead of calls for service.



## Continued: Police Department

Unfortunately, some of our violent crime categories were up slightly for 2020. In part, this is due to the virus which necessitated the release of a significant number of detainees from the Pueblo County Jail and an equally significant number of parolees from the Department of Corrections. Additionally, parole policies and procedures have changed over time. Parolees who commit technical violations of their parole conditions (positive UA's for drugs etc.) are not violated and sent back to prison nearly as often. In some instances, parolees have been re-arrested for violent felonies that they have committed while on parole. Another result has been a marked increase in the number of "possession of weapons by previous offender" investigations, arrests, and prosecutions. The number of arrests has risen from thirty-four (34) arrests in 2010 to seventy-eight (78) arrests in 2020. These are cases in which convicted felons were in possession of firearms.



Class #61 graduation,  
November 2019.

Overall, arrests were down in 2020 as compared to previous years. Again, the virus and the resulting need to change the acceptance protocol for custodial arrests at the Pueblo County Jail were a significant factor in the decreased numbers. To decrease the numbers of citizens living in close/congregate settings, like the jail, more restrictive custodial arrests policies were enacted in the interest of public health.

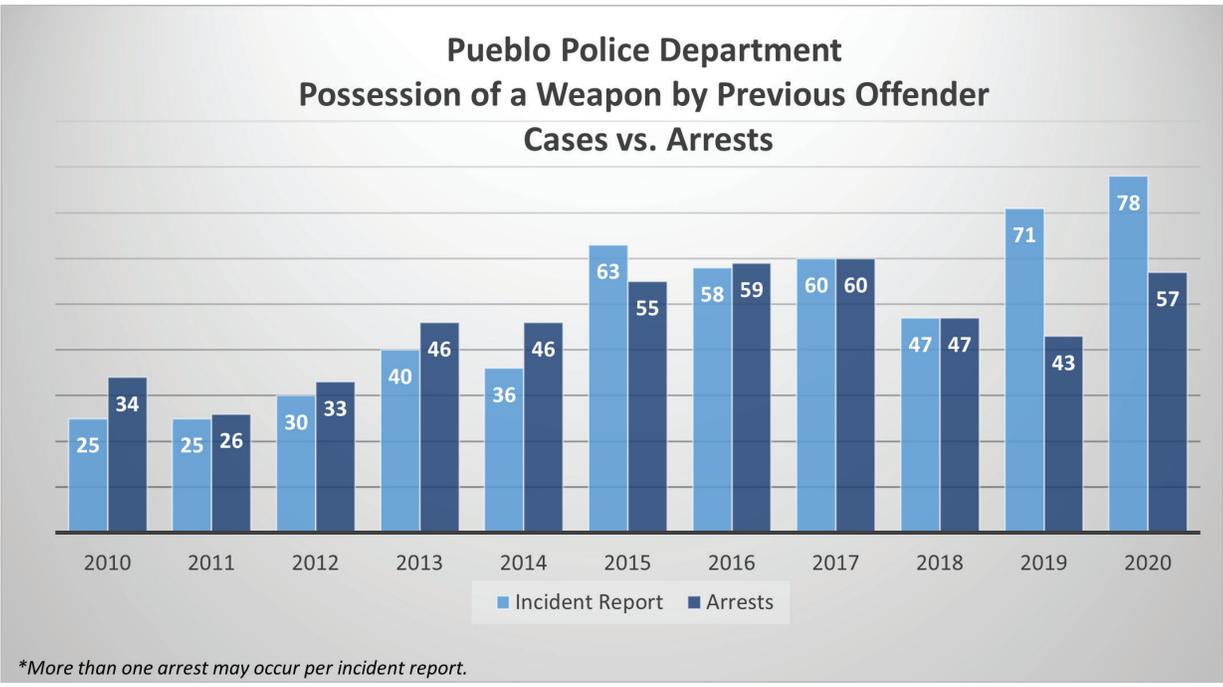
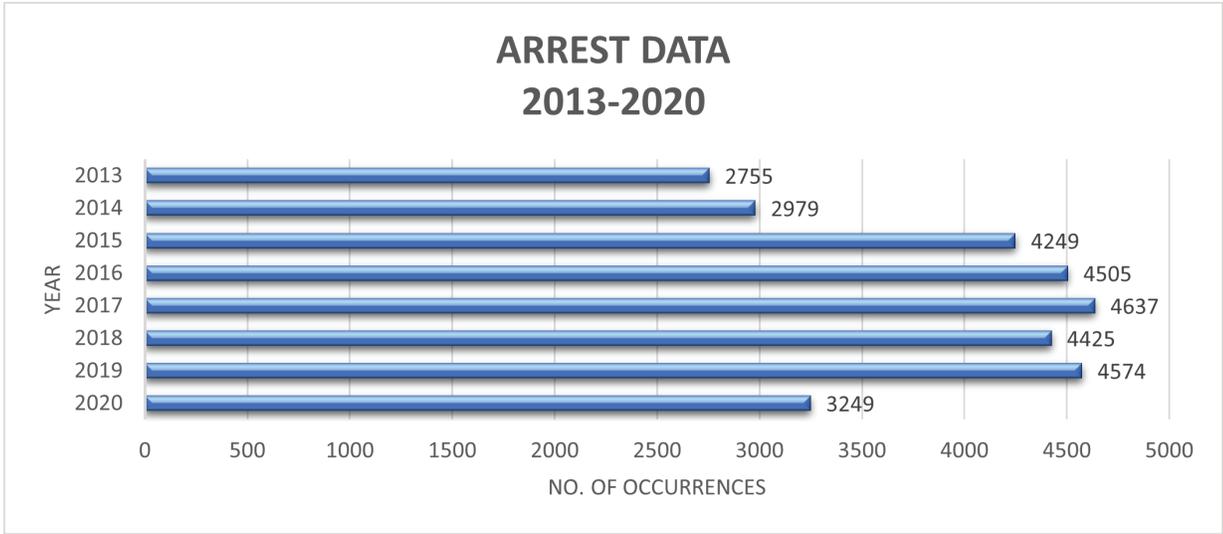
Response times to calls for service are important measures of performance and something the Pueblo Police Department consistently tracks. It often is a significant factor from a customer service standpoint. For 2020, except for priority one and priority two calls, response times for the department fell across the board. The Sunday protests had a significant effect on response times on those days due to resources being diverted to that issue. While priority one calls are the most serious, given the social issues the department and the community have been dealing with, a mere two (2) second increase is miraculous.

Traffic safety is another area of significant concern and responsibility of the police department. COVID-19 restrictions significantly decreased traffic flows particularly during the early portions of the pandemic. While there was significantly less traffic, some citizens unfortunately took advantage of those open roadways and some very high speeds were observed. Citations were down for 2020 overall, again due to the pandemic, and traffic citations were also down as compared to 2019 however, a number of those citations were for excessive speed and were the result of team efforts between our department and other law enforcement agencies

such as the Colorado State Patrol and the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office.

Traditional law enforcement statistics, strategies, and techniques are only part of the picture in a

modern police agency. A relationship with the community it serves and embracing community-oriented policing are crucial to success for any city. Frequently, community relations are as important a measure of success for a department





**Continued: Police Department**

Year End Response Time (Call Received to 1st Arrive)				
	2018 (Year End)	2019 (Year End)	2020 (Year End)	Change between 2019 and 2020 (Year End)
Priority	2018	2019	2020	Response Time Change
1	000:12:16	000:10:18	000:10:20	<b>+ 2 Sec</b>
2	000:17:16	000:15:06	000:16:11	<b>+ 1 Min 5 Sec</b>
3	000:39:53	000:31:30	000:28:25	<b>- 3 Min 5 Sec</b>
4	001:04:47	000:45:15	000:40:53	<b>- 4 Min 22 Sec</b>
5	000:55:39	000:54:39	000:43:51	<b>- 10 Min 48 Sec</b>
6	001:17:56	000:58:53	000:47:55	<b>- 10 Min 58 Sec</b>

as is the crime-response data. Law enforcement officers are ineffective without the community’s cooperation, support, and consequently their eyes and ears.

COVID-19 made community policing and community projects more challenging, however, the Pueblo Police Department remained committed to this connectedness and engaged in several efforts. The department conducted bicycle and foot patrols to the downtown area including the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Project, and other neighborhoods in our city. The department engaged in several “Homeless Outreach” projects that included other stakeholders like the Pueblo Department of Health and Environment, Posada, and others. These projects delivered vaccines, provided wellness checks and outreach to those who wanted to get into housing or leave Pueblo for their home of origin. Officers also continued to

work with businesses in the Elizabeth/Hwy. 50 business and hotel corridor.

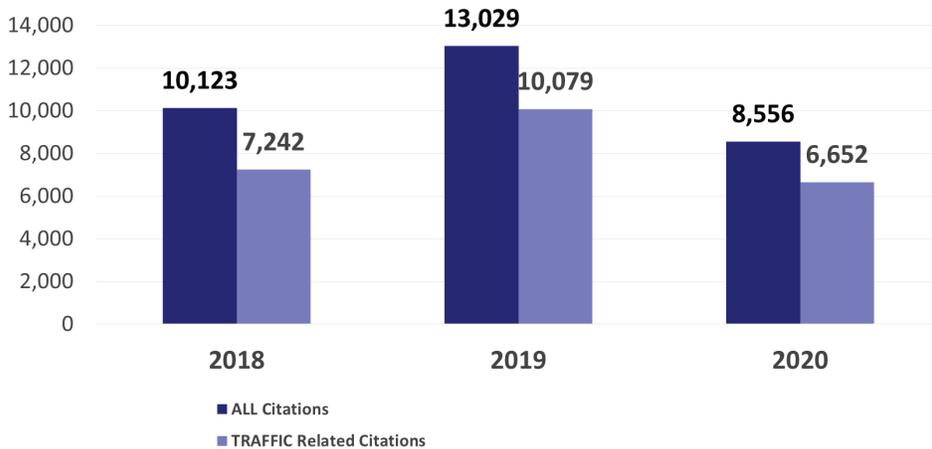
Our Officers also engaged in several projects to establish and maintain positive relationships with the youth of Pueblo. The department continues to support an active “Police Explorer Post”. Officers also engaged in two projects around the holidays. One delivered over seven thousand (7,000) toys to every public elementary school student in District #60. The department also coordinated the “Heroes and Helpers” program in which area law enforcement officials, to include the District Attorney’s Office, delivered presents to young people via the Boys and Girls Club. It is significant to note that due to the virus the popular annual hockey game between police and fire “The ICE Cup” that makes “Heroes and Helpers” possible could not be held. Members of our community stepped up and donated significant funds to make sure this yearly project

continued! This effort came from the community without any prompting or an ask from the department, but of their own interest and good will.

In addition to the virus, there was significant social and political unrest on the national and local level. Significant protests erupted for various reasons. Our officers maintained their professionalism during multiple protests despite

some incredibly abusive behaviors. The officers interacted with protesters on a positive level when possible and in the end, there were very few arrests, and no property damage or assaults that could be tied to these events. Most protesters were exercising their first amendment rights and while very spirited were perfectly within their constitutional rights.

### Pueblo Police Department Citations 2018-2020 Comparison



Chief Davenport speaks during a 1st Amendment Protest.



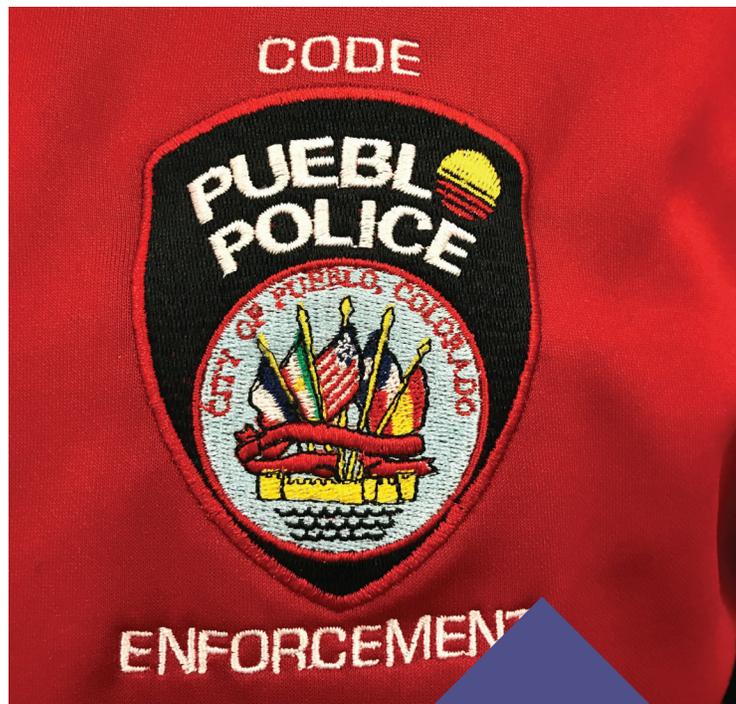
## Code Enforcement

Our city's Code Enforcement Unit is housed within the police department. Code Enforcement, and the quality of life issues that this unit addresses, are important to a healthy, attractive city. Code Enforcement Officers and the "Abatement Crew" did an outstanding job motivating our citizens to take care of their properties, holding those who did not take care of their properties accountable, and cleaning up properties that were non-compliant.

In addition to the hard enforcement work, and consistent with the spirit of Community

Policing and relationship building, Code Enforcement Officers helped deliver "Meals on Wheels" during the "Stay at Home" order connected to the Corona Virus. The officers engaged in that activity as they recognized that most of the volunteers who deliver "Meals on Wheels" to seniors are themselves seniors and they are in a high-risk group!

The Pueblo Police Department faced and overcame several significant challenges in 2020. We are relieved to see 2020 go and look forward to a great 2021!



Badge worn by Pueblo's Code Enforcement team.

Code Enforcement Complaint/Violations Handled					
Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Litter	1715	2270	2086	2564	2499
Weeds	1543	2136	1660	2994	2274
Litter removal and storage			231	1441	1587
Junk Vehicles	410	551	561	776	809
Zoning	311	443	434	410	474
International Property Maint.	158	173	220	286	234
Marijuana	89	95	59	54	22
Graffiti	5	2	5	26	8
Board up	109	172	200	210	207
Other	147	315	303	550	671
COVID-19 related					2351
<b>Total</b>	<b>4487</b>	<b>6157</b>	<b>5759</b>	<b>9311</b>	<b>11136</b>
<b>Inspections</b>	<b>6312</b>	<b>8228</b>	<b>9098</b>	<b>11854</b>	<b>12289</b>
<b>Case Status</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Notice of Violation Issued	1748	2217	2077	3001	2843
Summons Violations Issued	978	746	2129	2467	1160
Closed	2348	2133	2126	2846	3219
Unfounded	230	449	156	213	330
Other or In Progress	30	592	174	247	1015
<b>Abatements Performed</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Litter	238	194	220	220	249
Weeds	257	184	196	196	258
Board up	0	24	94	110	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>582</b>
<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Tons to landfill	439.95	638.74	827.03	698.5	507.58
Tires	1196	1524	1826	2659	1353



## Fire Department

The Fire Department continues to be an all-hazards response to the community. The staff strives to provide excellent customer service to the citizens of Pueblo through dedication, integrity, and vision, in the safest way possible.

### Facing Challenges

During 2020, the department made fluid changes to responses and assignments due to the on-going Pandemic; to include reassigning personnel to the Emergency Operations Center

(EOC) during peak need.

The department staffing increased by one position in 2020: creating the Community Risk Reduction Coordinator position. The funding for this position in 2021 will be paid for with a grant from Health Colorado through the assistance of Triple Aim. Through funding with the local CDPHE, a second full time employee has been funded for one year to the Community Risk Reduction Division to allow 72-hour response with a peer support person to all overdoses.

The fire department has been very active in the community and helping other communities. The Community Risk Reduction Team has participated in a joint effort to contact the homeless on the river bottom twice this year.

Wildfire season was extremely challenging this year in Colorado. The fire department deployed personnel to the Cameron Peak fire, the Troublesome Fire, Airport Tanker Refill operations support in Colorado Springs and local mutual aid. Also deployed was a member of Task Force One to Texas for Hurricane Laura.

The Department shows a decrease in call volume. This could be partially due to the pandemic and also due to the pro-active full time public education of the Directing Others to Services (DOTS) team.

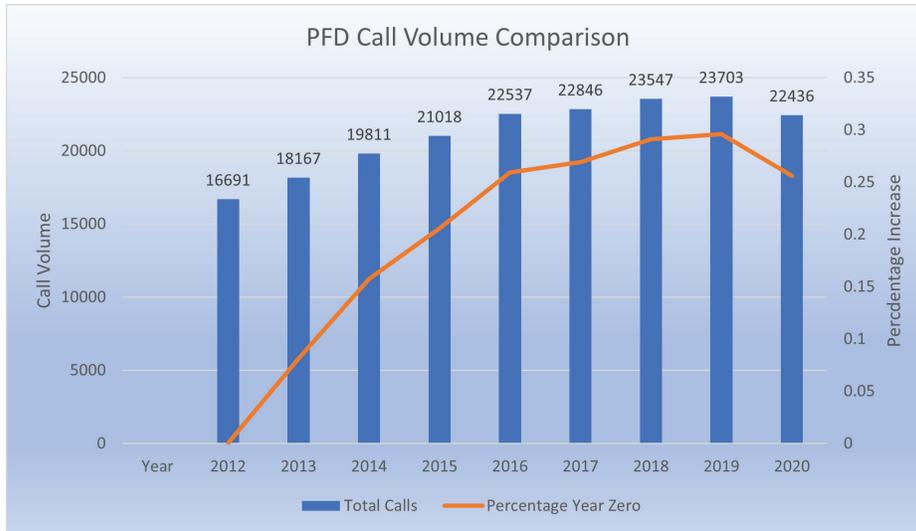
### Response Times

Average response times were flat this year. Dispatching due to pandemic and response modes (more personal protective equipment) changed significantly for 2020. This continues to be an area needing improvement.



Pueblo Fire joins the community in "shining a light" on Pueblo during Pueblo Shines!

## Year-to-Year Data



### All Structure Fires:

Year	2019	Year2	2020
<b>Qtr1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Qtr1</b>	<b>27</b>
Jan	7	Jan	10
Feb	4	Feb	11
Mar	8	Mar	6
<b>Qtr2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Qtr2</b>	<b>24</b>
Apr	8	Apr	6
May	4	May	12
Jun	7	Jun	6
<b>Qtr3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Qtr3</b>	<b>28</b>
Jul	6	Jul	11
Aug	9	Aug	9
Sep	9	Sep	8
<b>Qtr4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Qtr4</b>	<b>27</b>
Oct	8	Oct	17
Nov	7	Nov	10
Dec	7	Dec	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>

### Structure Fires in Vacant Buildings

Year	2019	Year 2	2020
<b>Qtr1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Qtr1</b>	<b>5</b>
Jan	2	Jan	3
Feb	0	Feb	1
Mar	0	Mar	1
<b>Qtr2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Qtr2</b>	<b>3</b>
Apr	1	Apr	2
May	2	May	1
Jun	1	Jun	0
<b>Qtr3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Qtr3</b>	<b>5</b>
Jul	1	Jul	1
Aug	3	Aug	2
Sep	3	Sep	2
<b>Qtr4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Qtr4</b>	<b>8</b>
Oct	1	Oct	6
Nov	3	Nov	2
Dec	1	Dec	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

2020 saw a 14.29% increase in structure fires in vacant and/or unsecured vacant structures. Fire is working with code enforcement to notify owners of hazardous conditions; contact with owners should reduce these types of fires.



## Continued: Fire Department

### EMS Calls

Year	2019	Year	2020	PCT CHNG
<b>Qtr1</b>	<b>4862</b>	<b>Qtr1</b>	<b>4601</b>	
Jan	1712	Jan	1546	-10.74%
Feb	1439	Feb	1537	6.38%
Mar	1711	Mar	1518	-12.71%
<b>Qtr2</b>	<b>4828</b>	<b>Qtr2</b>	<b>4512</b>	
Apr	1673	Apr	1381	-21.14%
May	1597	May	1547	-3.23%
Jun	1558	Jun	1584	1.64%
<b>Qtr3</b>	<b>4958</b>	<b>Qtr3</b>	<b>5167</b>	
Jul	1690	Jul	1772	4.63%
Aug	1681	Aug	1726	2.61%
Sep	1587	Sep	1669	4.91%
<b>Qtr4</b>	<b>4811</b>	<b>Qtr4</b>	<b>3412</b>	
Oct	1618	Oct	1698	4.71%
Nov	1553	Nov	1714	9.39%
Dec	1640	Dec	1640	-1.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19459</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>17692</b>	<b>-9.99%</b>

### All Emergent Calls

Times	2018 Year End	2019 Year End	2020 (2 Dec)
Alarm Handling 90th	1:21	2:12	2:26
Turnout Time 90th	2:09	2:13	2:08
Travel Time 90th	6:15	6:16	6:23
Total Response Time	8:38	9:29	9:53



Virtual Fiesta Day Parade with Mayor Gradisar and Pueblo Fire!

## Directing Others to Services (DOTS)

	Totals
<b>Directing Others to Services (DOTS)</b>	
<b>72 Hour No-Contact</b>	
2019	0
2020	27
<b>DOTS 72 Hour Follow-up Contact</b>	
2019	0
2020	8
<b>DOTS 72 Hour Follow-up No-Contact</b>	
2019	0
2020	6
<b>DOTS 72 Hour Contact-Other</b>	
2019	0
2020	22
<b>DOTS 72 Hour Contact</b>	
2019	0
2020	25



## Pueblo Memorial Airport

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 \$7.3 million in Federal Aviation Administration and CDOT-Aeronautics grants which improved airfield pavement and saw the completion of the Wildlife Perimeter Fence. This funding also helped to continue a master plan study for the airport. The Airport also received Federal CARES Act funding to assist with operational expenses.

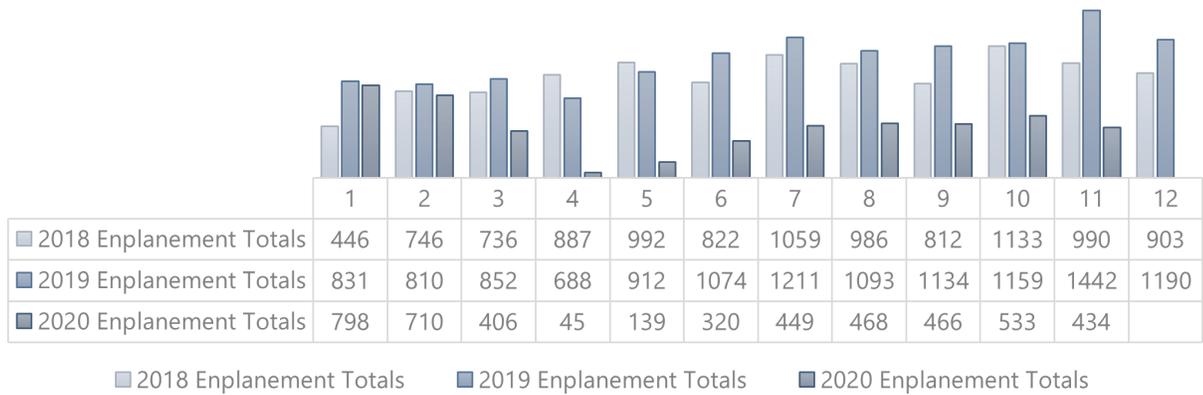
The Pueblo Memorial Airport continues to be one of the busiest airports in Colorado, with the potential to see over 150,000 operations this year. L3Harris Doss Aviation saw a slight slow-down earlier this year but continues to forecast a steady increase into 2021. This forecast coupled with the continued steady

military operations and general aviation usage, the airport is optimistic that the operational numbers will continue to grow.

The health pandemic has had a world-wide effect on the aviation industry. The passenger enplanements have decreased by almost 50% this past year. In 2018, passenger enplanements totaled 10,512; 2019, the passenger enplanements total was 12,396; and 2020 was trending in the right direction thanks to reliable jet service. SkyWest Airlines has been a great partner helping the airport see a growing trend in passenger enplanements. In November 2019, SkyWest Airlines was awarded the EAS contract to continue operations for another three-year term. SkyWest flies under the United Express brand, offering full integration into the United Airlines network, including its airline partners worldwide. The service has been a significant improvement, allowing the Pueblo community a convenient travel experience. The cost of flying out of Pueblo is offset by free parking, eliminating a drive north, and the convenience of an uncongested terminal that embodies the experience of flying out of a smaller airport.



COVID-19 dampened activity this year; however, based on FAA data, the Pueblo Memorial Airport continues to be one of the busiest airports in Colorado!



The above graph illustrates the positive growth the airport has experienced over the last couple of years. Pueblo Airport reached the important +10,000 passenger enplanement number both in 2018 and 2019. Reaching this milestone provides us an opportunity to be considered for an

additional \$1 million in FAA funding. Our numbers for 2020 will fall short of this benchmark. However, for airports dealing with the pandemic, the FAA has not ruled out the possibility of considering the passenger enplanement trends over the last few years.

### Airport Facts

	2018	2019	2020
Runways	3	3	3
Taxiways	21	21	21
Total Paved Area (square ft)	7,225,737	6,667,737	6,667,737
Acres of Land	3,534	3,534	3,534
Full-time Equivalent Employees	12	12	13
Federal/State Grants	\$3,315,790	\$4,231,372	\$3,112,490



## City Clerk's Office - Boards & Commissions

The City of Pueblo is supported by over 30 Boards and Commissions, comprised of over 200 citizen volunteers and staff. 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. We appreciate and thank the following members of our Boards and Commissions for their contribution and service.

Boards & Commissions	Members
Board of Appeals – Building	Brian Gray Chad Pulsifer Mark Kleven Matthew Dick Robert Leverington Steve Weidner
Board of Appeals – Electrical	Albert Herrera Charles Montera Daniel Henderson Jose DelaTorre Larry Moore Matt Klein Seth Boutilier
Board of Appeals – Mechanical	John Krall Katherine Cox Louis Fesmire II Pat Noga Robert Vigil Steve Girodo
Board of Appeals - Plumbing	Dan White Dennis Gardner John Chrisman Kenneth Gulley Kent Stringer Lance Harvey
Board of Elections	Alvin Rivera Sharon Sullenberger

# City Clerk's Office

Board of Health	Donald Moore Dr. Michael Nerenberg Ed Brown Eileen Dennis Garrison Ortiz
Community Commission on Housing and Homelessness (CCHH)	Alexis Ellis Ashleigh Winans Bernard Musso Brian Brewer Brittney Moudy Bryan Gallagher Caroline Trani Chad Albaugh Chelsea Stromberg Chris Gladney Chris Wiseman Christine Zeitvogel DesiRae Arrieta Donald Moore Dustin Taylor Eileen Dennis Galen Beaver Heather Maio Holden Young Jimmy Duffner Joe Musso Joe O'Brien Judy Solano Kathy Cline Karen Yescavaugh Kerry Kramer Linda Musso Mark Aliff Melissa Nereson Nina Vetter Randy Evetts



Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Project (HARP) at night, photo by John Wark.



**Continued: City Clerk's Office - Boards & Commissions**

<p>Community Commission on Housing and Homelessness (CCHH) - continued</p>	<p>Reah Santangelo Richard Burns Sara Rose Susan Cotterman Teah Miller Tim Hart Tracey Sample Veronica Gold</p>
<p>Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC)</p>	<p>Ashley Huggins Barbara Vidmar Bryan Gallagher Cynthia Ortiz-Fuentes David Nick Potter Dorothy Butcher Erik Bergethon Henry Roman James Wiley Nick Trejo Paula Chostner Regina Purcell Teresa Trujillo Tony Montoya William Carrero</p>
<p>Fire Board of Appeals</p>	<p>Frank Nemick Gary Micheli Michael Carlisle Richard Dilorio Robert Hudgens Shawn Shelton</p>
<p>Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control &amp; Greenway District</p>	<p>Bill Banks Greg Lauer Irene Kornelly Jeff Chostner</p>

# City Clerk's Office

Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control & Greenway District - continued	Larry Atencio Leroy Mauch Loginos Gonzalez Nancy Fortuin Richard Skorman Terry Hart
HARP Authority Board of Directors	David Anderson, Chairperson Dee Roger Brown Dennis Maroney Jerry Pacheco Mark Aliff Seth Clayton Terry Hart
HARP Foundation Board of Directors	Laurie Kilpatrick, Chairperson Beth Gladney Betty Martinez Bill Vidmar Brian Lucas Chris Wiseman Dave Anderson Ken West Ken White Larry Ohrdorf Marty Garcia Matt Centner
Historic Preservation Commission	Alyssum Skjeie Angela Rayne Anthony Perko Gregory Howell Jason Falsetto Laurel Campbell Megan Moore
Honor Farm Enterprise Citizens Advisory Board	Edward Butkovich, Chairperson Bob Neumeister Brian Lenherr Christopher Bratnick Kyle Rayburn Michael Riley



## Continued: City Clerk's Office - Boards & Commissions

Housing Authority of City of Pueblo Board of Directors	John Ribal, Chairperson Andrea Aragon Frank D. Pacheco Jack Quinn Melanie Bravo
Liquor and Beer Licensing Board	Jan Shafer, Chairperson Anthony Pullaro Elizabeth Liz Chapman Steven Cornetta Tom Rose
Planning and Zoning Commission	Mike Castellucci, Chairperson Alex San Filippo-Rosser Alexandra Aznar Cheryl Spinuzzi Elizabeth Bailey Patrick Avalos Robert Schilling
Pueblo City-County Library Board of Trustees	Doreen Martinez Dustin Hodge Frederick Quintana Lyndell Gairaud Marlene Bregar Philip Mancha Stephanie Garcia
Pueblo Conservancy District	Barbara Bernard Corinne Koehler Dennis Maroney Donna Phillips Jerry Martin Matt Cordova Paul Willumstad Roger O'Hara Ronald Serna

# City Clerk's Office

<p>Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority Board of Directors</p>	<p>Allan McConnell, Chairperson Ed Brown Eileen Dennis Jason Schierling Kurt Madic Patsy Cresswell Terry Hart</p>
<p>Pueblo Human Relations Commission</p>	<p>Jean Flynn Ray, Chairperson Aaron Lucero Cody Rasmussen Ed Brown Georgia Way Heather Black Jesse Sena Kathleen Javaneau Sarah Habib Thomas Carrigan</p>
<p>Pueblo Memorial Airport Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Alan Nelms Chris Wiseman Diana DeLeon Ed Brown James Burt Jamie DeVency Larry Atencio Larry Ohrdorf Michael Occhiato Philip Mancha Terrance Terrill Yvonne Lujan-Slak Walter Ross</p>
<p>Pueblo Municipal Golf Course (Elmwood &amp; Walking Stick)</p>	<p>Ron Padilla, Chairperson Joseph A. Latino Michael Ricottone Tammy Fesmire</p>



## Continued: City Clerk's Office - Boards & Commissions

<p>Pueblo Regional Building Commission</p>	<p>Albert Herrera Chris Wiseman David Vaughn Jason Olds John Ribal Kent Stringer Larry Atencio Louis Spera Mark Kleven Patrick Noga</p>
<p>Pueblo Streetscape Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Barbara Vidmar Karen Gale Laura Winner Rebecca Knapp Steve Montez Steven Schroeder William Adams</p>
<p>Retail &amp; Medical Marijuana Licensing Authority</p>	<p>Kimberly Archuletta, Chairperson Carla Flores Joseph Perko Peggy Archuletta Tom Rose</p>
<p>Sangre de Cristo Arts &amp; Conference Center Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Rosina Sonntag, Chair Alex Degler Andy Sanchez Carolyn Jackson Chris Milliken Constance Little Diana Ortiz Donald Moore Donielle Gonzales Dorothy O'Dowd Dr. Elissa Ball Garrison Ortiz Harvi Callaham</p>



A student at the Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference Center wears a mask while painting.

# City Clerk's Office

Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference Center Board of Trustees - continued	<p>Janet Cresswell Jennifer Pacheco Joan Hamilton John Lee Kathy Bacino Leslie Martinez Levi Olsen Nina Vetter Paul Valdez Reid Weber Sandy Sutters Steven Trujillo Timothy Zercher Warren Diodosio Wendy Rapp</p>
Urban Renewal Authority	<p>David Abeyta, Chairperson Betty Martinez Dennis Flores Donald Banner Dr. James Valenzuela Elizabeth Gallegos Garrison Ortiz Jeanette Garcia Louie Carleo Patrick Avalos Ralph Williams</p>
Zoning Board of Appeals	<p>Yvonne Lujan-Slak, Chairperson Elizabeth Bailey Mike Castellucci Sarah French Steve Anselmo</p>



## Housing & Citizen Services

The Department of Housing and Citizen Services 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 saw the completion of the City's 2019 Private Activity Bond Allocation, financing the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Casa del Sol Apartments, a 155-unit, affordable housing project. In 2020, the City reserved its \$5.9 million Private Activity Bond allocation for single-family mortgage capital 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. Currently, there are 86 units of affordable housing being constructed. The City's first Permanent Supportive Housing project is being erected. The 35-unit property will provide stable housing connected to medical and mental health services offered through a partnership with the developer,

Cardinal Capital, and Health Solutions.

In 2020, construction continued moving forward on a \$14M, 51-unit, affordable housing project utilizing the City's HOME Investment Partnership Funds. The City also made \$500,000 in HOME funds available through Posada Inc. for Tenant Based Rental Assistance. The program is designed to assist families, at-risk of becoming homeless, maintain stability through rental assistance and case management.

Community Development Block Grant funds were used to rehabilitate 11 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 Citizens Advisory Committee recommended grant funds to 34 agencies, distributing \$728,132 in non-COVID-19 related assistance to the community in 2020. The Department managed \$2.1M in grant service contracts providing 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.

The Department would like to thank all of the agencies and their frontline workers who stepped up to fill the gap for those in need this year.

2020 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3	Units
Public Infrastructure – Accessibility Improvements	ADA curb ramps and ADA compliant traffic signals were installed at the intersection of Lakeview & Prairie.
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	11 households served.
Direct Financial Leverage	\$30M Outside dollars invested in affordable housing within the community.
2020 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3	Individuals
Public Services – Total	\$728,132 invested in Public Services.
Senior Transportation	The City used \$14,500 of CDBG funding to match State funds for one ADA compliant bus to provide senior transportation. The City has done this for the last four consecutive years and during COVID the buses acquired were used to deliver over 14,000 meals on wheels.
After School Programs and Youth Recreation	Youth programs served 260 unduplicated individuals.
Childcare	229 Children were provided daycare service.
Healthcare / Women’s Services	86 Individuals receive healthcare services provided by a funded program.
Homeless Prevention	801 unduplicated individuals, youth, and families with children received assistance through funded programs 168 homeless individuals received shelter and case management services. 429 unduplicated individuals received shelter.
Substance Abuse	1,492 Unduplicated individuals received assistance through substance abuse programs.
Food Assistance Programs	The homeless shelter provided 8,846 meals. 1.4 Million pounds of food were distributed by Care and Share.
2020 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3	Individuals
Victim Services	665 Unduplicated individuals received services through funded programs.
Disability Programs	921 Unduplicated individuals received job training, employment, and services to maintain independent living.
Education (Tutoring & Scholarships)	1,396 Unduplicated individuals received assistance to obtain their GED, individualized tutoring, or assistance applying for higher education scholarships.
Cultural/Museum Activities	4,732 Duplicated individuals visited a funded museum or cultural event.
Financial Services	358 Individuals received financial counseling and 90 individuals received tax preparation services.



## Municipal Court

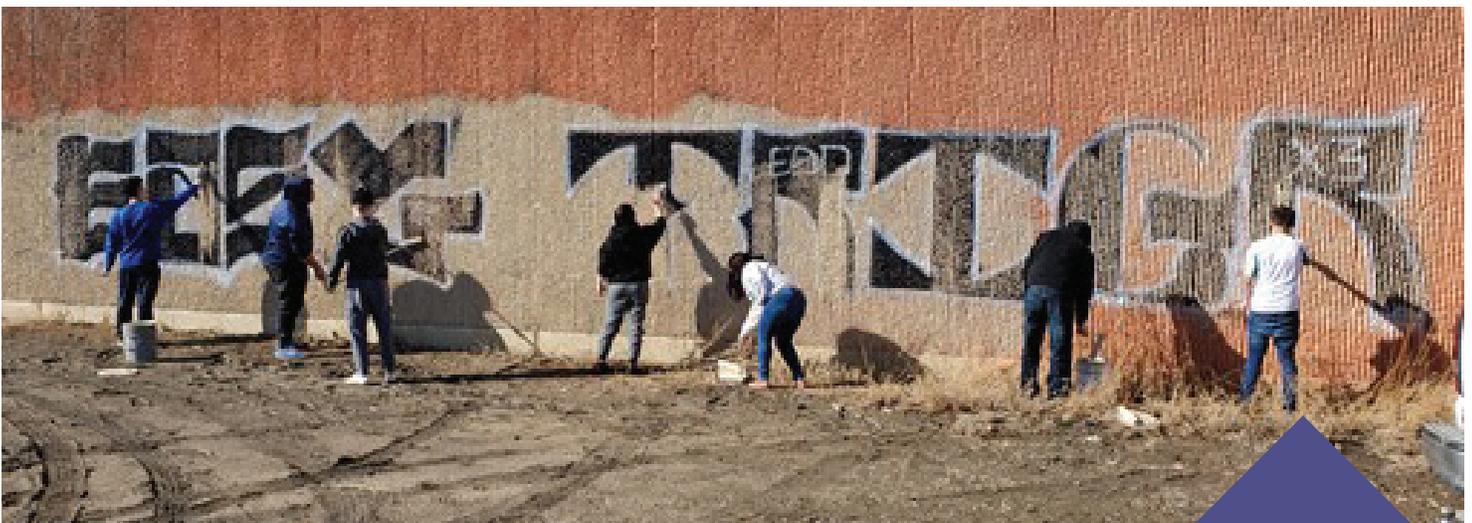
The City of Pueblo Municipal Court's mission is to provide an efficient, equitable, and impartial forum to hear and resolve alleged violations of the City of Pueblo Municipal Code, to impose appropriate consequences, and to effectively and efficiently collect fines, costs, and penalties due the City 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 increased over the last several years from 18,965 in 2016 to 27,479 in 2019 (through November 30, 2019). The Court saw a decline in the number of cases filed in 2020 primarily because of COVID-19.

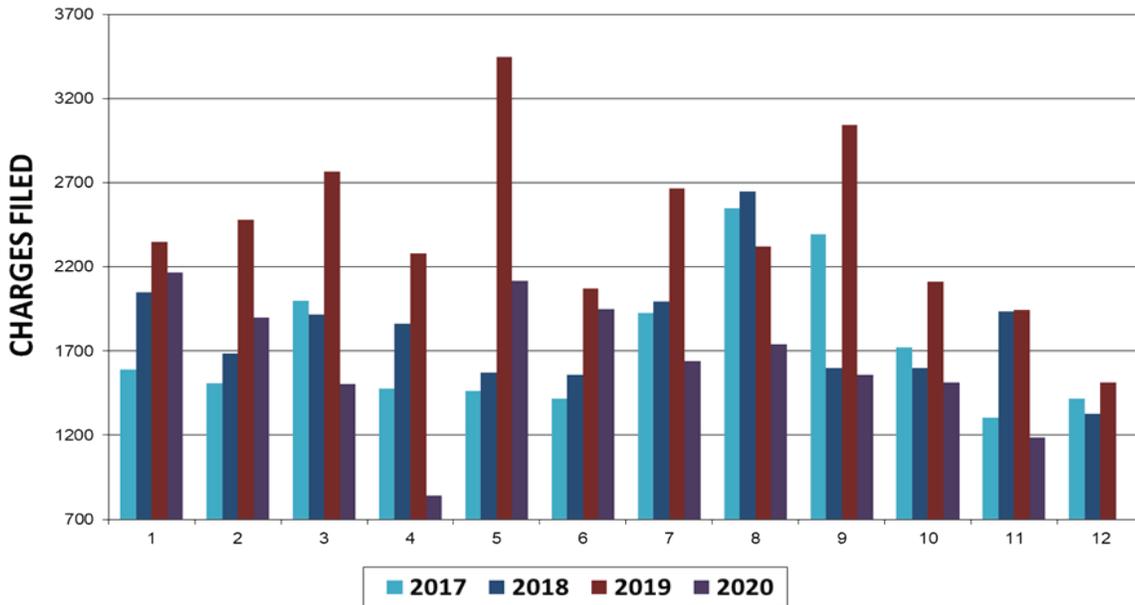
Every defendant may perform community service to work off fines assessed in their case with the exception of traffic infractions which must be paid in full at the time the defendant is found guilty or enters a plea of guilty or no contest. Last year adult and juvenile defendants worked off \$112,644.90 in fines and provided 11,264 hours of useful public service to the community. In addition, adult defendants received a total of \$16,552.00 in credits against court fines for completion of over 1,000 hours of drug, alcohol or mental health treatment.

Municipal Court operates its own community service program for juveniles and adults. The Program's primary mission is the removal of graffiti throughout the city.

The Court had to suspend its community service program to defendants for part of the year due to COVID-19. While the program was suspended, community service staff



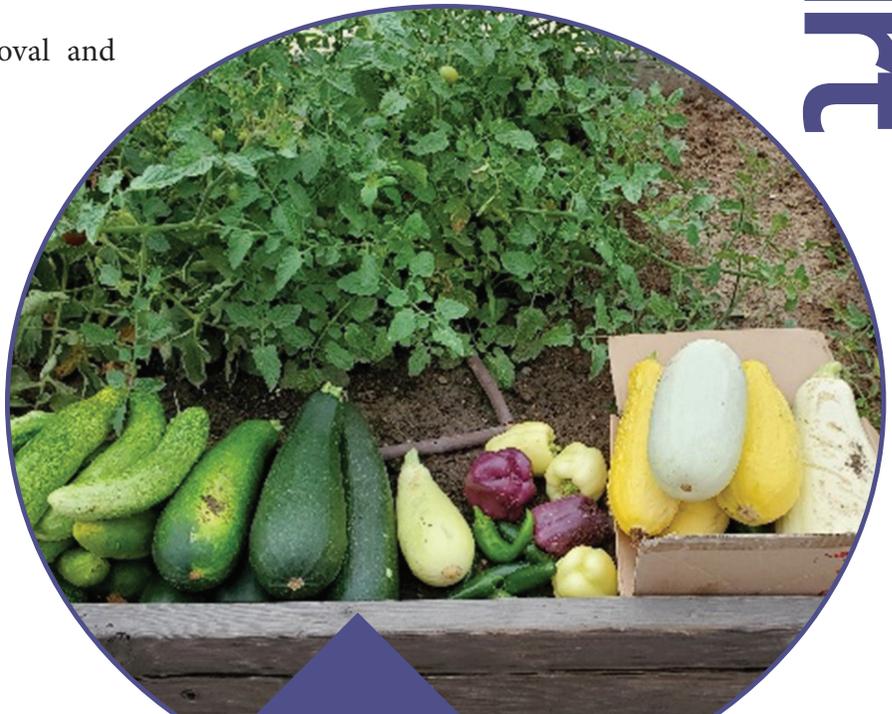
Due to COVID-19, Community service staff members completed the graffiti removal and other clean-up services.



members completed the graffiti removal and other clean-up services.

Despite COVID-19, the Court’s community service staff and defendant crews have cleaned 32,505 sites in 2020, over 10,000 more sites than 2019. Graffiti removal occurs citywide. (See chart on page 53.)

While the program was suspended to defendants, community service staff members also assisted other community agencies with delivery of groceries and necessary supplies to the elderly and other members of the



Fresh food from the community garden!



## Continued: Municipal Court

community at high risk for contracting COVID-19.

The Community Service Program also operates a community garden. The garden is maintained by community service crews and all food grown in the garden is donated to the local soup kitchen or food bank. COVID-19 had no impact on the garden and the harvest was plentiful.

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 2019, the adult probation case manager monitored approximately 125 cases and the juvenile probation case manager monitored approximately 496 cases.

In addition, the juvenile probation case manager has diligently worked to grow the Court’s juvenile restorative justice



diversion program. She actively engages in restorative justice in local schools and facilitates the restorative justice process in all cases the Court deems appropriate.

Beginning in 2018, Municipal Court partnered with the Pueblo Police Department and other local agencies, companies and individuals to operate its Youth Development Boot Camp. The Youth Development Boot Camp is a six-week program that provides a comprehensive and collaborative systemic whole child approach to rehabilitation.

The program accepts approximately 40 to 50 juveniles between 12 and 15 years of

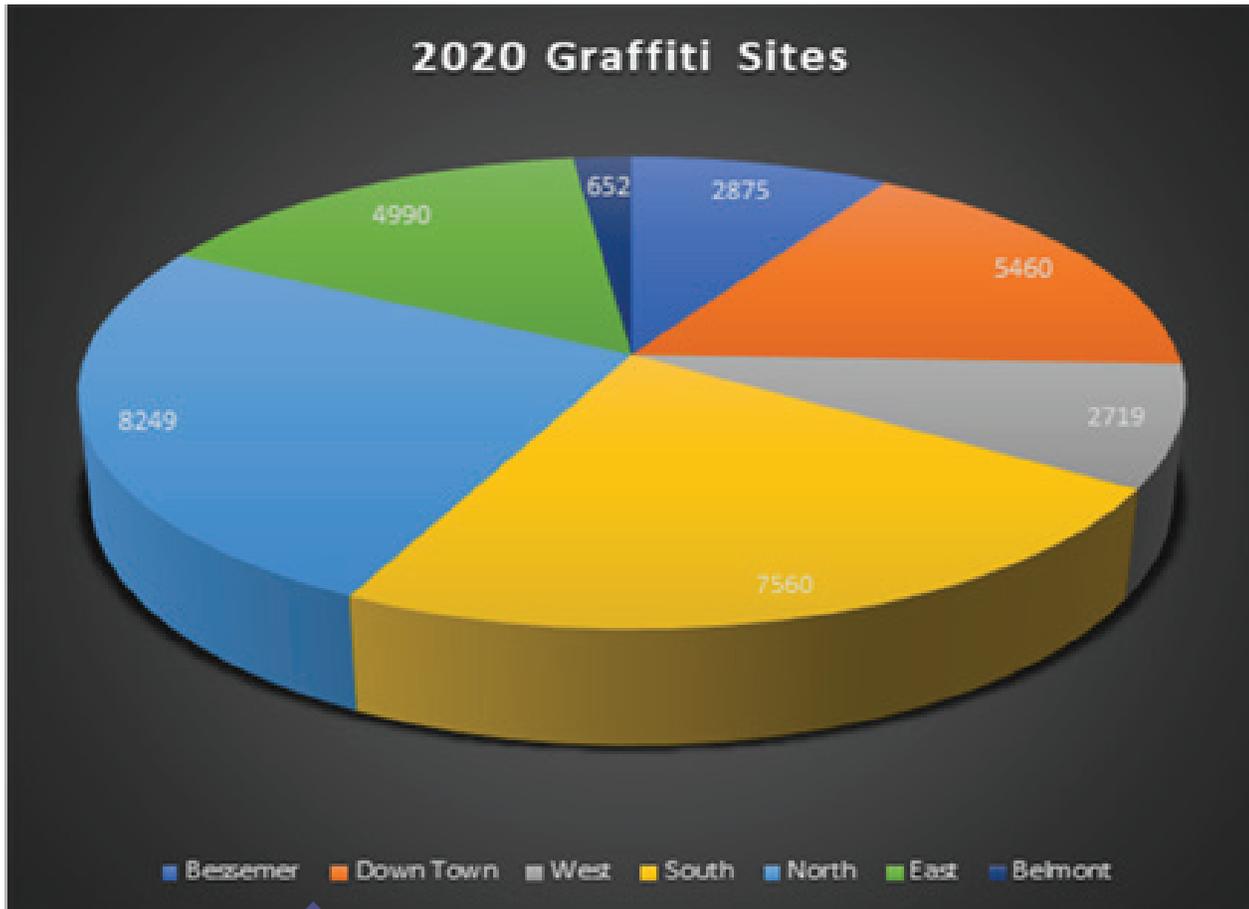
### 2020 Cases Filed

2020	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TRAFFIC TICKETS	710	710	366	391	841	298	235	569	396	417	307		5240
GENERAL OFFENSE-ADULT	229	158	187	163	198	159	150	159	176	136	134		1849
GENERAL OFFENSE-JUVENILES	77	56	75	22	13	13	14	22	16	11	19		338
ANIMAL OFFENSES	100	31	75	72	65	57	61	53	77	110	64		765
MISC. OFFENSES	519	457	276	26	599	803	507	416	434	359	319		4715
CODE ENFORCEMENT	155	66	74	56	173	135	101	185	121	76	81		1223
PARKING TICKETS	378	422	450	113	230	484	574	334	340	402	263		3990
	<b>2168</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>1503</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>2119</b>	<b>1949</b>	<b>1642</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>1560</b>	<b>1511</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18120</b>

The Court saw a decline in the number of cases filed in 2020 primarily because of COVID-19.

age generally with two or more criminal cases pending in Municipal Court and/or who have been identified by school counselors, school resource officers, family members or probation as candidates for the program because of high risk behavior. Successful graduation from boot camp satisfies all outstanding fines, costs and classes currently owed to Municipal

Court by each of the participants. Close to 100 youth have been provided the opportunity to participate in this program. The Court was unable to operate the Youth Development Boot Camp in 2020 due to COVID-19.



The Bessemer area received the most graffiti cleanup services in 2020.



## Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department provides diverse recreational and leisure opportunities in safe, clean, and attractive parks and recreational facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to operate their expansive footprint despite having limited staff to keep the City's parks healthy, safe, and green. The national average for number of full time employees (FTE) for a similar sized community is 8.1 FTE per 10,000 residents. Our department currently has thirty-eight (38) FTEs which equates to approximately 3.5 FTE per 10,000 residents. The department relies on approximately 300 seasonal and temporary employees throughout the year to maintain parks and oversee the many recreation 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
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	32 courts (16 lighted)
The Rides at City Park <i>(including George R. Wil- liams Memorial Carousel)</i>	11 rides
Softball/Baseball Fields	5 adult, 3 youth
George L. Williams Indoor Pavilion	1
Municipal Golf Courses	2 courses (45 holes)
Mountain Park with amenities	1
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	4
Splash Pads	2

# Parks & Recreation

Ice Arena (indoor)	1
Skate Parks	2
Dog Park	1
Picnic Shelters and Outdoor Pavilions	11
Whitewater Kayak Park	1
Community Recreation Center <i>(El Centro del Quinto Sol)</i>	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
Concession Sites (in-house)	6



City Park Caboose got a make-over!  
(Before and After)



## Continued: Parks & Recreation

The 2020 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Performance Benchmarks indicate that the nationwide median for annual operating expenditures per capita for parks and recreation agencies are typically \$81.19. The Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department does more with less, with \$60.22 per capita annual operating expenditures.

In recent years, the Mayor and City Council have recognized the importance of Parks and Recreation within our community by increasing FTE staffing levels and operating funding to help provide our team with the tools to produce the best parks and recreation experience that we can possibly offer.

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to deliver quality services and programs, but this past year has been unlike any year the City has ever experienced. The COVID-19 pandemic had a tremendous impact on our parks and recreation programs and facilities. Mid-March brought the beginning of widespread efforts to prevent the transmission of the virus while

supporting social distancing guidelines.

Eventually, parks and recreation department programs and events had to be postponed or cancelled, part-time and temporary employees were furloughed, and many full-time employees were asked to work from home. Through the crisis, staff incessantly worked to develop safe opening and user guidelines to get our patrons back to enjoying our parks and recreational facilities safely.

During this unprecedented health crisis, the Maintenance Division of the parks and recreation department has continued its dedication to keep Pueblo's parks green and safe. Turf areas still had to be irrigated, aerated, fertilized, mowed and trimmed; flowers and shrubs still had to be planted and maintained, trees trimmed; playgrounds inspected, repaired, and sanitized; and previously scheduled park projects continued as planned. The following are some of the key projects that were started and/or completed in 2020.

The long-anticipated Lake Minnequa – 1A Project broke ground in September 2020. Construction contracts for the expanded parking lot and resurfacing, restroom and concession building with plaza, park extension with additional athletic turf field area, park shelters, playground, lighting, and signage were finalized and the request for bids went out in early January 2020. COVID-19 delayed the start of this project and dirt was finally moved in mid-September. The anticipated completion is spring of 2021.



Lake Minnequa 1A Project



The Arkansas River Levee Trail Construction Project received \$2 million in grant awards in 2019 to purchase and install two pedestrian bridges that will access the trail on the reconstructed levee from the existing trail southwest of the river. The completion of this project is anticipated to be late spring or early summer 2021.

Improvement Project did not go unnoticed. This past April, staff was notified that this project has been selected as a 2020 Colorado Lottery Starburst Award recipient. Starburst Awards recognize excellence in the use of Lottery funds for community and conservation projects. Since 1996, the City of Pueblo has been awarded nineteen (19) Colorado Lottery Starburst Awards for its many amazing facilities that were made possible with Colorado Lottery funding.

Parks Maintenance staff completed the playground replacement project in El Camino Park and started another playground replacement project in Vinewood Park, which will be completed early 2021. A climbing wall feature was installed near the existing playground in City Park this past November. These playground replacement projects are funded by Conservation Trust Fund (Colorado Lottery) dollars.



Last year, the old wooden City Park Caboose Picnic Deck was replaced with a larger concrete deck complete with new picnic tables and umbrellas. The City Park Caboose Site

Two playground replacement projects were funded by Conservation Trust Fund (Colorado Lottery) dollars.



## Continued: Parks & Recreation

Staff continued to remove the highly invasive Russian Olive trees that have infested both the Fountain Creek and Arkansas River bottoms. Crews have been working on removing this fast-growing plant that crowds desired vegetation and native plants regularly since 2018.

Homeless Camp cleanups continue to be an ongoing process along the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek Trail systems. In 2020, staff removed an estimated 70 tons of trash from these cleanups.

### Other projects that were in progress or completed in 2020 included:

- HGF Architects, Inc. have been working on Pueblo Ice Arena design plans

for much needed Zamboni Room renovations, expansion of the existing concession area and front lobby restrooms, and the addition of new locker rooms to be used by the Pueblo Bulls Junior Hockey team.

- The historic northside Pueblo Pioneer Cemetery has been hit with a rash of vandalism over the past few years. Toppled and damaged headstones have regularly been the focus of vandals in this historic cemetery. Parks Department staff met late this past year with members of the Pueblo Pioneer Cemetery Association and began working on a plan to repair and restore many of the headstones and monuments located in the cemetery, which is the oldest cemetery in Pueblo Parks Department. Repairs began late 2020.



Parks Department team members worked together to replace concrete sidewalks and parking median at Mitchell Park.



- Replacement of the Walking Stick Golf Course Clubhouse/Restaurant roof.
- Earlier this past year, Park Area Crew Leaders and Park Irrigation Specialists entered into a pilot project to replace irrigation controllers at Lea Gonzales Field with “smart” controllers that are designed to provide precise weather data to allow our team to create specific schedules to maintain the field turf, utilizing the least amount of water possible. Other parks and recreation agencies across the front range have converted to these “smart” controllers and have experienced on average a 30% to 40% water savings. Parks Department is planning to upgrade other parks and athletic fields as funds become available.
- This past year, Parks Department staff, cemetery maintenance crews, and numerous volunteers removed approximately 108 blue spruce trees from within Pueblo’s historic Mountain View Cemetery. The cemetery is

city-owned property that is operated and managed through an agreement with Montgomery-Steward Funeral Directors, Inc. Crews spent over 1,638 hours removing and disposing of the numerous conifer trees, many of which were well over seventy years old. Future plans will be to replace many of the lost trees.

- Parks Department team members worked together to replace concrete sidewalks and parking median at Mitchell Park and much needed repairs to the old stone pavilion in City Park.
- Reviewed submitted proposals for Design Services for an Aquatic Center Master Plan. The aquatic facility is the final phase of the State of Colorado’s Regional Tourism Act (RTA) Grant project. Project will be awarded early 2021. This project has a six-month timeline.



## Planning & Community Development

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.

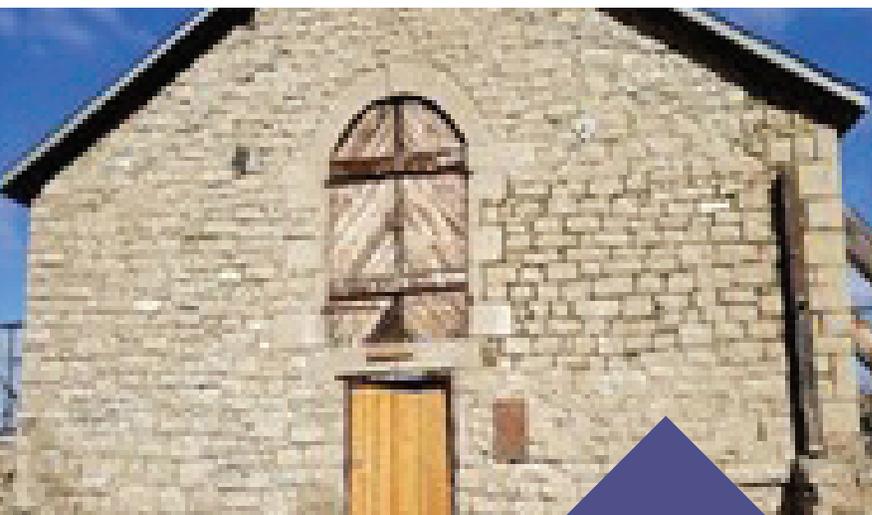
The number of land use applications and certifications totaled 1,465 in 2020, compared to 1,529 in 2019. If the reduction in new business licenses in 2020 is factored out, the total number of all other applications and certifications increased by 140 in 2020. In 2020, sixteen City grants were approved, totaling \$7,111,400 including the Arkansas River Levee Trail Improvements in cooperation with the Pueblo Conservancy

District, Brownfields Community Assessment, City Center/Santa Fe Streetscape, Gateway to the Southwest Sculptures, the Goodnight Barn Restoration Project, Lake Minnequa Park Improvements, Prairie Avenue Improvements, Prairie Avenue to Lake Minnequa Trail, and the Senior Center HVAC Replacement Project. The department also manages upgrades and maintenance of City streetscapes and numerous capital projects. The maintenance of existing public streetscapes is managed by the department in consultation with the City Streetscape Advisory Committee.

The new Pueblo Regional Development Plan, which will guide future land use and development, was initiated in October of 2020. This project, scheduled to be completed in 2021, is a cooperative effort with the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, Pueblo West Metropolitan District, towns of Rye and Boone, and is a countywide effort involving the city and county residents participation in developing the new plan.

The Planning Department is completing the final implementation of the OpenGov web-based land use review and permitting software program scheduled to start in early 2021. The purpose of this software is to improve customer service to citizens of Pueblo by providing a way to manage all permitting and workflow that are tied to permitting, licensing, and inspections in a single web-based system and to provide citizens access to interact with the processes and workflow of their project.

An amendment to the land use code was approved by City Council on May 26, 2020 that



Exterior image of the Goodnight Barn Restoration Project.

allows for mixed uses including commercial uses located at the street level and residential units established either above, behind, or to the side of the commercial use. The change applies to the high-density residential districts, charter neighborhoods, and the office and B-4 commercial zone districts.

CARES Funding allowed the Planning Department to assist the Mayor's office with providing restaurants with outdoor dining supplies to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The Department was in communication with restaurant operators on the design and ordering of tables, chairs, heaters, lighting, and 20 parklets to expand outdoor dining areas.

The regional transportation planning, through an agreement with the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, continues to be an important function of the department. The Planning Department's Transportation Planning Team coordinated the development of the PACOG 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan which serves as the 25-year plan for the development of transportation programs and projects within the Pueblo Area. The Plan is scheduled to be adopted in January 2021. PACOG Transportation Planning funds were utilized in 2020 for the Pueblo Station Area Plan. This plan supports local planning in evaluating the feasibility of possible rail station

locations, trackage improvements, and recommend amenities that will enhance local passenger experiences.

On October 26, 2020 City Council approved the Colorado Smelter Revitalization Plan covering the areas that are included in the Colorado Smelter Superfund Site. The plan identifies revitalization priorities and themes that will be implemented within the Bessemer, Eilers and the Grove neighborhoods.

See Exhibit A - Land Use Applications and Zoning Compliance Reviews (2018 - 2020) and Exhibit B - Planning & Community Development Grant Activities (2016 -2020) on the following pages for more information.



Mayor Gradisar speaks at the Goodnight Barn Restoration Project Ribbon Cutting.



## Continued: Planning & Community Development

### EXHIBIT A

### Land Use Applications & Zoning Compliance Reviews

Comparison 2018 - 2020			
	2018	2019	2020
Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	38	34	35
Planning & Zoning (Actions)	9	8	7
Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)	46	28	53
Historic Preservation Commission	35	23	17
Administrative Approvals	96	88	98
Administrative Certifications	926	917	773
Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	382	431	482
<b>Total</b>	<b>1532</b>	<b>1529</b>	<b>1465</b>

# Planning & Community Development

Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	2018 Applications	2019 Applications	2020 Applications
Property Rezoning	12	11	13
Annexations	2	9	5
Subdivision	11	8	9
R-O-W Vacations	7	1	5
Street Name Changes	0	2	2
Urban Renewal Plan	1	3	0
Special District Service Plans	5	0	1
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>
Planning & Zoning (Actions)	2018 Applications	2019 Applications	2020 Applications
Subdivision Special Area Plans	3	3	1
Phased Subdivision Master Plans	3	2	1
Development Plan Reviews	1	1	3
PUD Site Plan Reviews	2	2	2
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)	2018 Applications	2019 Applications	2020 Applications
Variances & Special Use Permits	46	28	53
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>53</b>



## Continued: Planning & Community Development

Historic Preservation Commission	2018 Applications	2019 Applications	2020 Applications
Certificates of Appropriateness	11	3	7
Certified Local Gov't 106 Reviews	9	2	5
Historic Landmark Nominations	2	2	0
CLG & ADM DET	13	16	5
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>
Administrative Certifications	2018	2019	2020
Business License Zoning Approval	635	624	420
Single -Family CO Inspections	115	110	132
Single – Family Applications	126	146	158
Zoning/Legal Non-Conforming Certificates	50	37	63
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>773</b>



Arkansas River Mural Levee Project, photo courtesy of The Pueblo Chieftain.

# Planning & Community Development

Administrative Approvals	2018 Applications	2019 Applications	2020 Applications
Commercial/Industrial Site Plan Review	29	32	28
Cell Tower Permits	27	16	19
Conditional Use Permits - Marijuana	23	27	27
Subdivision -Lot Line Rearrangements	9	7	10
Extraterritorial Water	5	1	8
Interim Use Permits	2	5	4
Activities of State Interest (HB-1041)	1	0	2
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions</b>			
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Single Family	120	128	147
Single Family C.O.'s	121	110	132
Single Family Attached	6	18	11
Single Family Attached C.O.'s	4	6	3
Resident accessory structure	77	86	114
Resident additions	20	24	21
<b>Demos</b>			
Residential	11	28	11
Mobile Homes	23	31	43
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>482</b>



## Continued: Planning & Community Development

### EXHIBIT B

#### Planning & Community Development Department Grant Activities (2016-2020)

Grants 2016 – 2020	Year Grant Awarded	Amount
Arkansas River Levee Project (DOLA)	2020	\$1,000,000
Arkansas River Levee Project (MMOF)	2020	\$200,000
Brownfields Community Assessment (EPA)	2020	\$300,000
City Center/Santa Fe Streetscape (MMOF)	2020	\$208,884
Gateway to the Southwest (Lamb Foundation)	2020	\$10,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Johnston Foundation)	2020	\$20,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo County Commissioners)	2020	\$70,000
Gateway to the Southwest (PURA)	2020	\$50,000
Goodnight Barn Restoration (Gersick Foundation)	2020	\$5,000
Goodnight Barn Restoration (DOLA)	2020	\$530,000
Lake Minnequa Park Improvements (County 1A)	2020	\$2,000,000
Prairie Ave Improvements (MMOF)	2020	\$1,300,000
Prairie Ave to Lake Minnequa Trail (MMOF)	2020	\$195,000
SRDA HVAC Replacement Project (County 1A)	2020	\$250,000

# Planning & Community Development

SRDA HVAC Replacement Project (DOLA)	2020	\$800,000
SRDA HVAC Replacement Project (SRDA)	2020	\$172,516
<b>Sub-Total 2020- \$7,111,400</b>		
Arkansas River Levee Project (GOCO)	2019	\$1,238,500
Goodnight Barn Restoration Project (DOLA)	2019	\$530,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo County Commissioners)	2019	\$50,000
Gateway to the Southwest (El Pomar Foundation)	2019	\$25,000
Gateway to the Southwest Legacy Bank)	2019	\$24,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Pueblo Bank & Trust)	2019	\$5,000
Gateway to the Southwest (Connect School)	2019	\$500
Pueblo Downtown Intensive Survey (State Historic Fund)	2019	\$20,616
Pueblo Visitor Center (El Pomar Foundation)	2019	\$25,000
Troy Avenue Streetscape (Private Donors)	2019	\$7,000
Bessemer Academy School Yard (GOCO)	2019	\$156,674
SRDA HVAC Project (SRDA Board)	2019	\$50,000
SRDA HVAC Project (Gates Family Foundation)	2019	\$25,000
EV Charging Stations (Colorado Energy Office)	2019	\$27,000
<b>Sub-Total 2019 - \$2,184,290</b>		



## Continued: Planning & Community Development

### Planning & Community Development Department Grant Activities 2016-2020

Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (DOLA)	2018	\$ 530,000
Gateway to the SW I-25 Art Project	2018	\$ 300,000
Corwin Community Park & Play Yard (GOCO)*	2018	\$ 110,000
Gateway to the SW I-25 Art Project	2018	\$ 50,000
Kaboom Playground – Leidigh Park (KaBOOM!,Inc)	2018	\$ 90,000
Kaboom Playground – Donley Park (KaBOOM!,Inc)	2018	\$ 90,000
<b>Sub-Total 2018 - \$1,170,000</b>		
Arkansas River Flood Levee Pedestrian Bridge (CDOT)	2017	\$ 500,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (SHF)	2017	\$ 201,900
Arkansas River Flood Levee Planning (CDOT)	2017	\$ 200,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Pueblo County)	2017	\$ 131,850
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Goodnight Barn Committee)	2017	\$ 76,500
Inspire Outdoor Strategy (GOCO)	2017	\$ 50,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (El Pomar Founda- tion)	2017	\$ 27,500

# Planning & Community Development

Arkansas River Flood Levee Planning (DOLA)	2017	\$ 25,000
<b>Sub-Total 2017 - \$1,212,750</b>		
Pueblo Convention Center Infrastructure (EDA)*	2016	\$1,031,960
Pueblo Convention Center Regional Tourism (DOLA)*	2016	\$ 947,826
*Note: Grants prepared with participation by the HARP staff		
Arkansas River Trail, Phase 4 (CDOT)	2016	\$ 616,494
Hose Co. No. 3 Fire House Rehabilitation (SHF)	2016	\$ 26,210
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Gersick Foundation)	2016	\$ 10,000
Goodnight Barn Rehabilitation (Gates Foundation)	2016	\$ 20,000
<b>Sub-Total 2016 - \$ 2,652,490</b>		



Gateway to the Southwest Project



## Public Works

The Department of Public Work's mission is to enhance the quality of life for the Pueblo Community by providing safe, compliant, and efficient public infrastructure solutions.

### Objectives

- Implement the new asphalt preservation program designed to extend the life of our roadway system.
- Protect the building envelope on all City buildings.
- Provide a safe, accessible environment for the public and City employees.
- Ensure the City's storm sewer system meets the demands placed on it by current and future development.
- Provide a safe, attractive, and well-maintained public right-of-way.
- Provide a safe and efficient transportation system that allows for the convenient movement of people and goods. Plan arterial and collector roads to maintain or create street connectivity throughout the City.
- Plan local streets to maintain the opportunity for good connectivity within and between neighborhoods by automobile, bicycle, and foot.
- Plan for and consider the needs of all road users within the existing transportation system and in new developments including safety, intersection design, and roadway width.
- Improve the pedestrian and bicycle transportation system to support a continuous, safe, and desirable walking and biking environment.
- Implement design and construction standards.

## Department Organization

The Pueblo Department of Public Works is organized into six divisions. These include:

1. Engineering
2. Street Maintenance
3. Transportation
4. Traffic Maintenance
5. Public Buildings Maintenance
6. Recycle Works and Large Item Drop-off

### 1. Engineering

The responsibilities of the Engineering Division are to provide surveying and civil engineering services to design and construct quality infrastructure in order to maintain acceptable levels of service. Staffing is made up of 17 positions performing the following functions:

- Performs contract administration of public improvement projects.
- Designs and prepares construction drawings, specifications, and contract documents for public improvement projects.
- Performs development review and management of subdivision work within the public right of way.
- Prepares and updates the city's corporate map and maintains files and records for reference by property owners, engineers, and subdivision developers.

- Provides surveying and engineering support services for other city departments.
- Solicits and evaluates construction proposals for public improvements.
- Solicits and evaluates proposals for engineering consultants.
- Work with developers and builders in planning proposed projects that will be constructed within the community.

### Highlighted Engineering Construction Projects

- Street Repair Utility Project
- Gateway Plaza
- Lake Minnequa Veterans Memorial Park
- East 8th Street Bridge Railing
- I-25 Art Wall Lighting

### Street Repair Utility Project

The Public Works Department currently maintains approximately 1,300 lane miles (500 roadway miles) in the City of Pueblo. Roadway maintenance is one of the biggest struggles for the City. The demand for oil has created a significant cost increase over the past 20 years. In the year 2000, the cost of asphalt was \$30/ton. Today, the price is approximately \$75/ton. The State has not increased their funding in the past 20-years. This has significantly impacted the City's ability to properly maintain our existing roadway system. The recently implemented Street Repair Utility Enterprise fee is a key element in repairing our aging and failing roadway system. Pueblo's aging and failing roadway system got some much-needed attention this past year. The City resurfaced or rebuilt 3.21 miles of some of our

most highly traveled roadways.

In preparation for rehabilitating the roadways, all curb ramps must be repaired or replaced in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA curb ramps were repaired on Greenwood, Fortino, and Outlook in 2020.

Outlook Boulevard was rebuilt from Hwy. 50, north, to Eagleridge Boulevard. Fortino Boulevard was rebuilt from Hwy. 50, northeast, to Elizabeth Street. Eagleridge Boulevard was resurfaced from Pioneer Road, east, to I-25. Greenwood Street was resurfaced from 8th Street, north to 24th Street.



Rehabilitated ADA  
Compliant Curb Ramp



**Continued: Public Works  
Roadway System Inventory**

Year	Miles of Paved Roadway	Miles of Roadways Resurfaced or Rebuilt	Percentage of Paved Roadways Repaired
2017	498.41	1.0	0.20%
2018	498.34	1.36	0.27%
2019	500.22	0	0%
2020	502.07	3.21	0.64%

**2021 Roadway Repair List**

The City is planning to be very busy next year with 9 roadways scheduled to be repaired. The City is currently working on upgrading the curb ramps within the limits of repair to meet ADA alteration requirements.

The City understands that there are some roadways within the City that are in much worse

condition than what is currently on the list for 2021. However, it is more costly to rebuild a road than resurface a road, therefore the City is focusing on resurfacing roadways that are on the verge of falling into rebuild status.

Maintaining the City’s roadways extends beyond pavement. Public Works maintains curb and gutter, handicap ramps, alleyways, and bridges.

FY2021 Street Rehab Projects and Estimated Costs	
Description	Cost
15th Street	\$49,972.45
Minnequa	\$186,843.75
Paul Harvey	\$208,524.20
Hudson	\$713,298.75
24th Street	\$475,948.90
Northern Ave	\$1,008,100.70
Broadway	\$286,219.50
Grand	\$879,784.45
High Street	\$369,351.60



Outlook Boulevard was rebuilt from Hwy. 50 north to Eagleridge Boulevard.

Year of Rehabilitation	Arterial Road Designation	Limits of Repair
2021	W. 15th St.	Court St. to Santa Fe Ave.
2021	Minnequa Ave.	Lake Ave. to Evans Ave.
2021	Paul Harvey Blvd.	United Ave. to Hwy. 50
2021	N. Hudson Ave.	Hwy 50B to E. 4th St.
2021	Broadway Ave.	Adams Ave to Abriendo Ave
2021	E. Northern Ave.	Taylor Ave to Santa Fe Dr.
2021	High St.	24th St. to 32nd
2021	W. 24th St.	Pueblo Blvd. to Tuxedo Blvd.
2021	Grand Ave.	24th St. to Union Ave.

**Gateway Plaza**

This project consisted of demolition, grading and drainage, stormwater, concrete walls, walkways and other paving, lighting, sight furnishings, and landscaping along the Riverwalk. The Public Works Department provided project management and construction oversight.



**Lake Minnequa Veterans Memorial Park**

The initial phase of the Lake Minnequa Park and Open Space Project was completed in 2012 and has proven to be an asset to the City by investing in our future generations through team sports. Voter approved Pueblo County 1-A funding has now made it possible for \$2.5 million to be invested in this park. In 2020 Lake Minnequa Park and Open Space Project Phase 3a began construction. This phase of the project will double the capacity of the existing gravel parking lot, pave the entire parking lot in asphalt and add striping with ADA accessibility.



Gateway Plaza  
(Under Construction & Finished)



## Continued: Public Works

Area lighting and a new restroom/concession building with a large patio for all the young ones and spectators to take a break will be constructed on the crest of the parking lot.

Looking ahead, 2021 Lake Minnequa Park and Open Space Project Phase 3b will be put out to bid. This project will increase the playing field area by 4.8 acres and add a new gravel trail with picnic shelters and trees.

### East 8th Street Bridge Railing

This project replaced damaged concrete pilaster, steel pipe railing, and other miscellaneous items on the East 8th Street Bridge over Fountain Creek.

### I-25 Art Wall Lighting

Along the I-25 art wall, 14 existing deteriorated and damaged lights were replaced with 28 new LED flood light fixtures on new steel bullhorns. In addition to now having double the lights, the new LED lights are brighter and more energy efficient.

### Engineering Land Use Reviews

In the past 12 months the Engineering division has received and approved approximately two dozen projects including annexations, subdivisions, special area plans, vacation plats, and rearrangement of property subdivisions (some of which are listed below):

A. Annexations Recorded in 2020				
Name or Description	Total Area (Acres)	R-O-W Area (Acres)	Ordinance Number	Date Recorded
1. Lot 51, Pueblo Memorial Airport IP	0.97	0	9668	March 5, 2020
2. St. Charles Industrial Park - Phase 2	454.27	0		August 3, 2020



The Transportation Department provides for the safe and efficient movement of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic.

B. Subdivisions Recorded in 2020				
Name or Description	Total Area	R-O-W Area (Acres)	Ordinance Number	Date Recorded
1. Hyde Park Gardens, Filing No. 2	0.54	*	9627	March 12, 2020
2. Regency Crest Subdivision, Filing No. 12	0.99	4.16	9681	May 11, 2020
3. Belmont Park Apartments	2.64	*	9625	June 8, 2020
<i>* The subdivision did not dedicate any public right-of-way</i>				

C. Subdivisions Pending City Council Approval and/or Recording in 2020		
Name or Description	Ordinance Number	Date Recorded
Evraz Subdivision	9777	September 14, 2020
Lake Minnequa Subdivision, Filing No. 1	9803	October 26, 2020
JBC Subdivision	in progress	in progress
North Vista Highland, Filing No. 2	in progress	in progress
St. Charles Industrial Park, Fifth No. 3	in progress	in progress
Minnequa Industrial Park, Fifth Filing	in progress	in progress
City View Heights	in progress	in progress
Cole-Smith Subdivision	in progress	in progress
Pueblo Christian Center	in progress	in progress
Uplands Townhomes, Filing No. 3	in progress	in progress

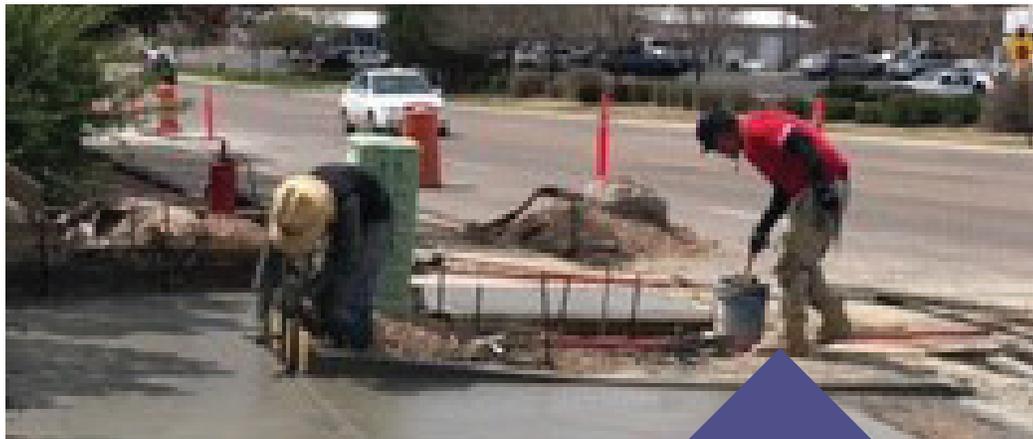
D. Special Area Plans/Amendments Recorded in 2020	
Name or Description	Date Recorded
1. Hyde Park Gardens, Filing No. 2, a Special Area Plan	March 12, 2020
2. West Valley Estates, SAP Amendment	June 3, 2020



**Continued: Public Works**

E. Vacation Plats Recorded in 2020		
Streets Vacated	Total Area (Acres)	Date Recorded
No Street Vacations for 2020		
Easement Vacated (Released)	Total Area (Acres)	Date Recorded
1. Utility Easement within Belmont Villa, Fil. #1	0.06	June 8, 2020
2. Storm Drainage Easement within Belmont Villa	0.14	June 8, 2020
3. Drainage Easement within Autoplex Subdivision	0.14	June 29, 2020

F. Rearrangement of Property Boundaries Recorded in 2020	
Name or Description	Date Recorded
1. Lots 92 & 93, West Valley Estates, a Special Area Plan	June 3, 2020
2. Lots 25 & 26, Block 1, Enclave at Walking Stick	June 11, 2020



Road repair efforts by the Public Works crew.

**2. 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 citywide. Our primary focus is to ensure that pavement surfaces are maintained adequately by providing timely repairs and crack sealing in addition to full-street asphalt overlays and other surface treatments.

Street Maintenance also performs plowing and sanding services on major city streets throughout our community during the winter months. Additionally, the division provides street sweeping services to improve our community’s appearance as well as the water and air quality of our local and regional environment. We are also

responsible for the removal of unsightly illegal dumping from city rights of way and the occasional mowing of unimproved city lands, as our schedule permits. The street sweeping program improves water quality, air quality, road maintenance, aesthetics and above all public safety. The streets sweeping fleet consists of four street sweepers and four street sweeper operators along with two dump trucks and drivers that accompany the sweepers. These trucks aid in the efficiency of our sweeping program as the sweepers do not have to drive to our collection area to dump. In 2020, the Street Maintenance Division removed 880 tons of trash and debris from the City streets and rights of way.

**3. Transportation**

The mission of the Transportation Department is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic on the city’s public roadways. This Department engineers and maintains all traffic control

FY2020 Street Rehab Costs per street						
Road	Description of Work	Cost	Length of Road (miles)	Cost per Mile	Area of Road (SY)	Cost per SY
Fortino	Mill, Rebuild & Overlay	\$1,017,934	0.96	\$1,062,192	22,489	\$45.26
Greenwood	Mill & Overlay	\$481,747	1.17	\$410,262	24,111	\$19.98
Eagleridge	Mill & Overlay	\$766,640	.51	\$1,510,395	23,566	\$32.53
Outlook	Mill, Rebuild & Overlay	\$1,056,645	.73	\$1,456,680	25,101	\$42.10



## Continued: Public Works

devices within the Pueblo City limits. In addition, the Transportation Department reviews all commercial site plans, subdivisions, and other related planning reviews and activities.

This year the Department reviewed 22 new commercial plans, three conditional use permits, two new marijuana facilities, with subdivisions, 10 rearrangement of property boundaries, and more than 30 other inspections and reviews. The Department also collects traffic data for planning activities. This year the Department dealt with a much smaller number of activities due to the COVID 19 pandemic. In all, turn movement counts for 2020 were conducted at 20 locations, in-house traffic volume counts 29, Miovision video data 14 sites, and citizen concerns 22. No volume counts were contracted out for 2020.

### 4. Traffic Maintenance

In the Traffic Maintenance division, Signal Technicians 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 Dept of Transportation and six that are located in and owned by Pueblo West. There are 10 intersections with flashing red lights above stops signs. Other traffic control devices that are maintained include 12 flashing school speed limit signs, as well as one radar speed limit sign on Constitution Avenue. In January of 2020, the Traffic Maintenance division assisted in the start-up and inspection of the updated intersection at Prairie Avenue and Lakeview Avenue. The City also gained a new mid-block pedestrian crossing this year on Main Street in front of the Pueblo Convention Center.

Utility Locates – The Traffic Signal Technicians locate underground utilities for all traffic control devices within the City. In 2020, a total of 910 locate requests have been received from the Utility Notification Center of Colorado. A portion of the locates we do protect the City of Pueblo’s Fiber-optic cable that belongs to the IT Department. The Traffic Maintenance division assists with repair to damaged fiber optic

Year	Traffic Signals	Roadway markings applied (approx.)	Street signs installed replaced or removed (approx.)
2017	148	172 Miles	1850 signs
2018	149	175 Miles	1900 signs
2019	150	175 Miles	1900 signs
2020	163	175 Miles	1900 Signs

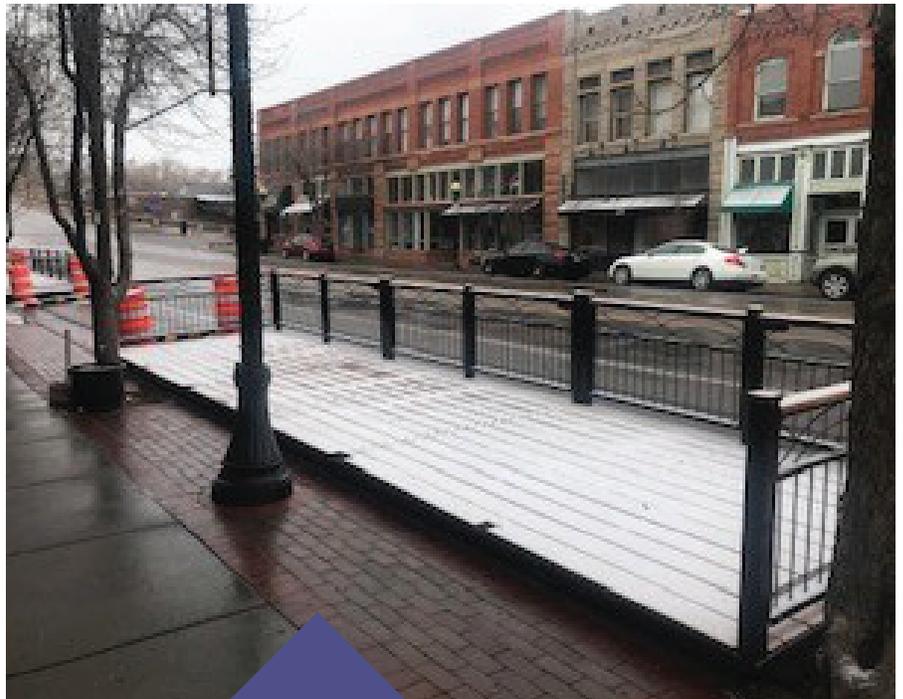
cables, as well as various maintenance to the fiber network.

Signs – The sign shop produced 1,000 signs to fulfill 325 workorders to replace signs that have been knocked down, needed replaced due to fading or damage, and requested by other City departments. In 2020, the Traffic Maintenance division made great progress updating street name signs and signage on multiple corridors. These corridors include McCulley Avenue, Bonforte Boulevard, Jerry Murphy Road, Troy Avenue, Landmark Drive, and West 13th Street. The sign shop also produces a variety of decals for other City departments, with the majority going to Fleet Maintenance. So far, 19 of the new 2020 Pueblo Police Department vehicles have been fully marked with decals from our sign shop.

Street Markings – During the 2020 summer paint season, Traffic Maintenance painted approximately 175 miles of City streets. This took 2500 gallons of CDOT spec water-based paint (1000 gallons of white and 1500 gallons of yellow). This year due to good weather and updated equipment acquired in 2019, what would normally take six to eight weeks to complete was accomplished in just over four weeks. In addition, the division installed a total of 94 Turn Lane Arrows and 38 crosswalks throughout the City. Also, at the request of the City Parks and Recreation department seven parking lots at various parks received freshly painted parking stall lines.



Greenwood Street  
Resurfaced.



Parklets at City Restaurants.



## Continued: Public Works

### 5. Public Buildings

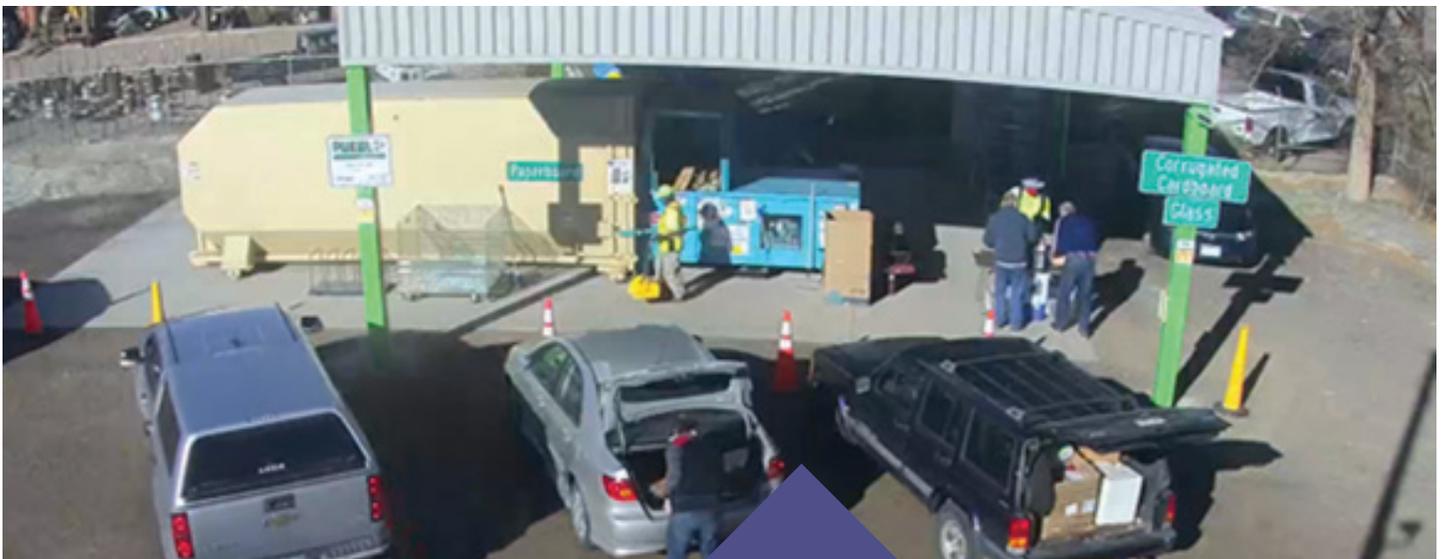
The mission of the Public Buildings Maintenance Division is to provide safe, healthy, and comfortable structures for city employees and the public, and to protect the City's capital investment in those buildings. The current personnel responsible for the maintenance of the city's buildings include one working supervisor and nine highly-trained service technicians and craftsmen.

Public Buildings is responsible for 130 buildings with an average age of 41 years. The insured value on said buildings is over \$140,000,000.

Some major projects in 2020 included a major addition of the SRDA building for a new HVAC system and a new roof for the Pope Block building.

### 6. RecycleWorks and Large Item Drop-off

In 2018, the City of Pueblo opened Pueblo RecycleWorks (PRW), a free recycling drop-off center for conventional recyclable materials. PRW has seen a significant increase in the volume of customers and materials over the last year. In 2019, we greeted 13,500 customers and in 2020, 18,200 customers. The following chart shows the breakdown of the conventional materials sent to recycling companies.



RecycleWorks

In addition to recycling, PRW also manages the ‘Large Item’ drop-off site. This area handles the collection of large items from City residents, items include sofas, mattresses, and other household furnishings. In 2019, PRW took in 1,247 large items. Of that, 105 mattresses and an additional 513 tires were sent to recycling companies. As of November 2020, PRW

collected 1082 large items; 382 mattresses were sent to SpringBack for recycling and 576 tires were sent to GeoCycle for recycling.

The PRW staff is thrilled with the success of the center as PRW continues to welcome new customers each week.

Pueblo RecycleWorks	2019		2020	
	<i>tons</i>	<i>cubic yard</i>	<i>tons</i>	<i>cubic yard</i>
Plastic	27	1715	44	2555
Cardboard	52	385	91	735
Metal	8	245	30	1100
Newspaper / Paper	65	455	74	595



Tire and mattress recycle trailers next to large item roll-offs.



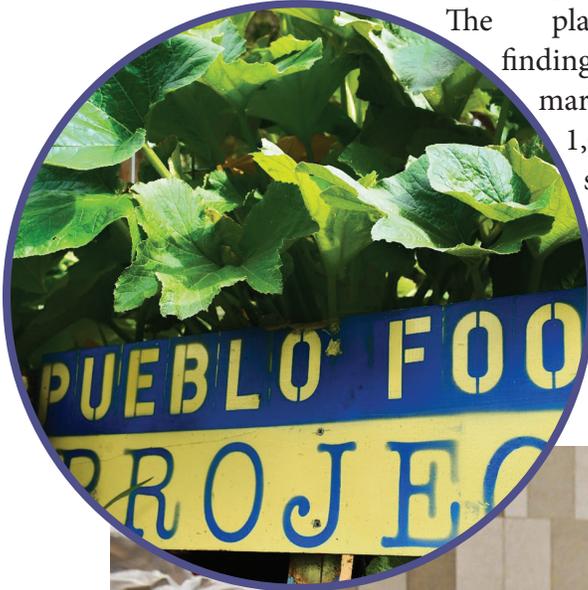
## Pueblo Food Project

The Pueblo Food Project (PFP) is a City / County initiative driven by community voice. The goal of PFP is to develop a sustainable, vibrant, nutritious, and equitable local food system that supports Puebloans in living healthy and happy lives. Anyone in Pueblo is welcome to join the coalition. The Colorado Health Foundation awarded PFP \$200,000 for a coalition-authored community food systems improvement plan.

The plan includes findings from a market scan of a 1,000+ resident survey on food access in the Pueblo Community.

Some of the key areas the grant will focus on are equitable access to fresh foods, increased opportunities for food education, plus support for existing and future local food businesses.

In addition to PFP's systems change work, many other initiatives are in play. PFP piloted an edible landscape program in partnership with the City Planning Department, Parks and Recreation, and CSU-P Extension. The pilot launched three edible landscapes located at Mineral Palace Park, Central Plaza, and Sister Cities Plaza. The program improved food access, reduced the amount of litter in the areas, and showcased techniques for growing your own food, and received an in person visit from Senator Michael Bennet. PFP also launched the Pueblo Youth Food Council. The Youth Food



Geonna from the Youth Food Council helps pack 1300 healthy meals for Pueblo's homeless. Photo credit: Megan Moore

Council comprised of members of the Pueblo Community aged 15-20 come together to develop programs the help improve the food system from a young person's point of view. The group also participates in leadership development activities and tours local food related businesses and non-profits.

PFP is grateful for numerous awards received in 2020:

- Colorado Health Foundation (4)
- Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger (4)
- Packard Fund for Pueblo (1)
- El Pomar Foundation (2)

COVID-19 demonstrated to everyone how important the food system really is. The Pueblo

Food Project leads the COVID-19 Hunger Relief Task Force, which convenes nearly forty hunger relief organizations across Pueblo County, representing the vast majority of the hunger relief work being done in our community. The task force responds to various community hunger needs. One program that came out of the task force is the PFP Community Pantry, which is stocked with high-quality local products distributed through partner organizations around town. The City of Pueblo sponsored the purchase of these local products, with the largest level of institutional local food procurement that has ever taken place in Pueblo, investing more than \$350,000 in local businesses in 2020.



Council President Atencio and PFP coalition member Selina Pacheco help distribute 6,000 tamales. Photo credit: Megan Moore



## Stormwater

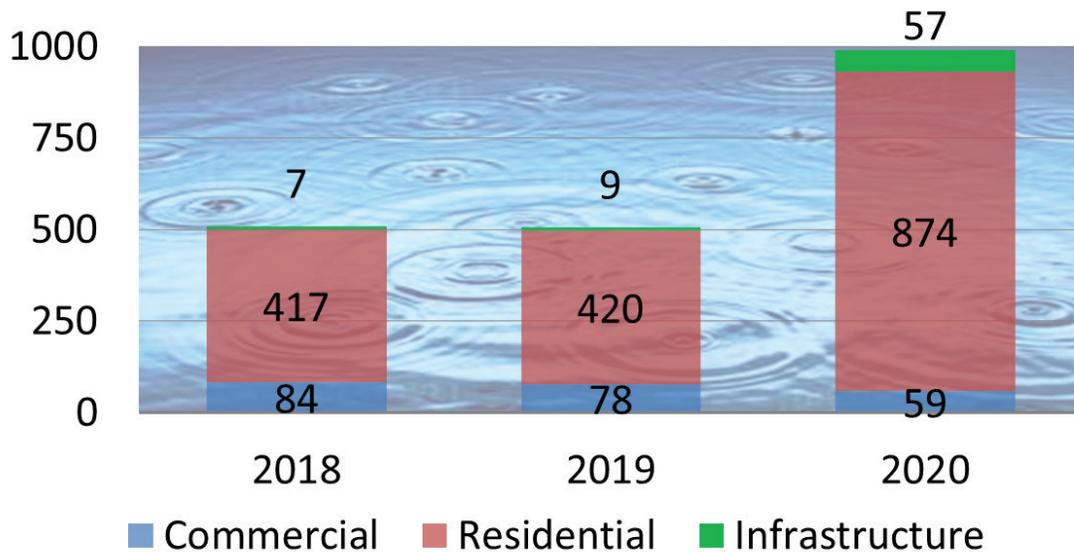
The mission of the Stormwater Utility Division is to provide services necessary to improve the quality of the stormwater in the City's streams and creeks, provide maintenance of the City's drainage facilities, install new infrastructure to reduce flooding problems, and ensure development practices meet 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.

## STORMWATER INSPECTIONS



## 2020 Stormwater Utility Projects

Project	Description	Cost
Emergency Point Repairs	Emergency repairs of failed stormwater infrastructure.	None
Drew Dix Park Storm Sewer Replacement	The existing 36-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) going through Drew Dix Park failed as a result of corrosion and caused a sink hole to appear. Over 600-feet of pipe was assessed and determined to need replacement. Crews replaced the CMP with 36-inch high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe that has an expected lifetime of over 100-years.	\$49,091
2nd Street & Chester Ave.	Pavement settling was noticed over a storm sewer system on 2nd Street near the intersection of Chester Avenue. Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) video inspection revealed a collapsed storm pipe. Approximately 45 linear feet of storm pipe was replaced with 12-inch high performance polypropylene (HP) pipe.	\$7,109
Crew Repaired Projects	Inlet repairs, damaged stormwater pipes, erosion control projects.	\$8,427
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,627</b>



## Continued: Stormwater

The maintenance staff workers are responsible for:

- Performing maintenance and repair of public stormwater facilities.
  - Over 158 miles of storm sewer pipe.
  - Approximately 41 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.

### 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 2021 are:



#### *Boulder Outfall Stormwater Improvements:*

The intersection at Lincoln Street and Abriendo Avenue has an undersized storm sewer system that results in frequent flooding from moderate storm events. Improvements will include removing approximately 1100 LF of existing infrastructure and replacing it with a larger capacity storm sewer system. Inclusion of a hydrodynamic separator in this system will help improve water quality. Stormwater engineering staff have designed the construction documents for this project. Construction is expected to start in early 2021.

*Estimated Cost = \$1,500,000*

#### *29th Street Pump Station Replacement:*

An existing pump station that serves to remove storm runoff that collects at a low point near the intersection of I-25 and 29th St. has failed on several occasions and poses a public safety concern. Improvements will include constructing

Stormwater projects address flooding and maintenance concerns which pose or could pose a risk to the safety of the public.

Tons of Trash & Debris Removed From Waterways



a new pump station to improve capacity, public safety, and maintenance issues. A contractor has been selected for this project and construction of the pump station should commence in early February 2021 and is expected to last 4-6 months.

*Estimated Cost = \$2,660,000*

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

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. An environmental site assessment was performed for this project. The area that requires excavation is in the right-of-way of Alabama Avenue. The drainage outfall in this area has contaminated soil. The project has been put on hold due to the extensive costs required to remove and/or treat the contaminated soil. The Stormwater Department is investigating design alternatives to determine if this project can continue.

*Estimated Cost = TBD*

**Additional projects planned for 2021 include:**

***Lake Minnequa Solar Powered Mixing System:***

Three solar powered mixers will be installed to provide long-distance circulation and improve water quality, pH, and fish habitat. These machines should prevent surface water stagnation and associated harmful blue-green algae blooms.

*Estimated cost = \$150,000*

***Stormwater Levee Check Valve Replacement - Fountain Creek:***

As part of the levee recertification program, the Stormwater Utility will be replacing the remaining metal flap gates on the culverts going through the Fountain Creek Levee with Tideflex Check Valves. The Elastomer Duckbill Tideflex Check Valve was specifically designed to eliminate operation and maintenance problems associated with flap gate valves - including corrosion, freezing open or shut, warping and clogging. These check valves will be a significant safeguard for preventing storm drainage backflow during flooding events.

*Estimated cost = \$155,000*

***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



## Continued: Stormwater

undersized storm sewer system. The Stormwater Utility plans to have a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic study performed 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 3-phases with the first phase starting next year and subsequent phases being completed as funding becomes available.

*Estimated cost for all 3 phases = \$7,000,000*

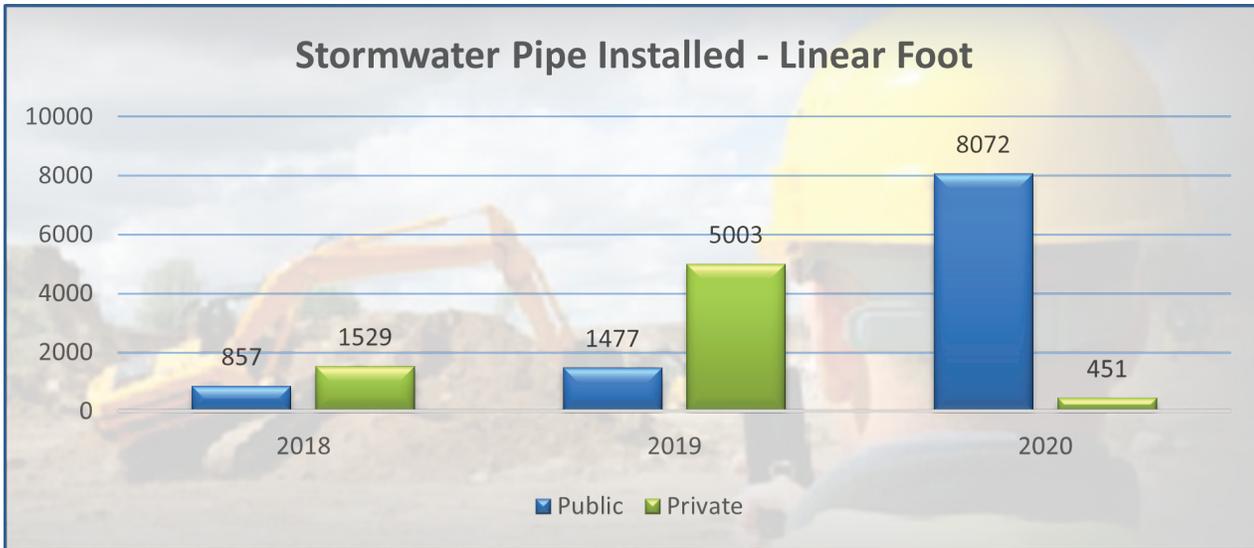
### New Programs for 2021

- The Stormwater Utility will continue to develop a cleaning and point repair project for several locations within the existing storm sewer system.
- Address requirements of new 2021 MS4 permit.

- Revise Drainage Criteria Manual. The Stormwater Utility has assembled a planning committee and consulted with a professional engineering firm to plan a much-needed update to the City's Drainage Criteria Manual. The update could take up to a year to complete.
- 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.
- Utilize drainage software to perform comprehensive drainage studies of frequently flooded areas in the City and identify what improvements need to be made



Stormwater crew operating the vacuum truck.



to alleviate flooding problems.

- 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. The Stormwater Department maintenance crews work year-round removing trash but with limited staff we cannot keep up with this ever-growing problem.

EPA requirements are getting stricter on every aspect of construction projects. In the case of stormwater management, the main criterion is the amount of pollutant particles discharged in natural streams and the monitoring of those particles. The stricter requirements put an

administrative burden on the Stormwater staff to make sure that all construction projects are in compliance with the new requirements. There is also an increased financial burden on the developer to meet these new requirements.

Much of the stormwater infrastructure in the city is very old and undersized and needs to be replaced in order to prevent frequent flooding. The amount of revenue collected from the Stormwater Utility service charge is not adequate to perform very many projects each year.



Dumping vacuum truck waste collection at treatment plant.



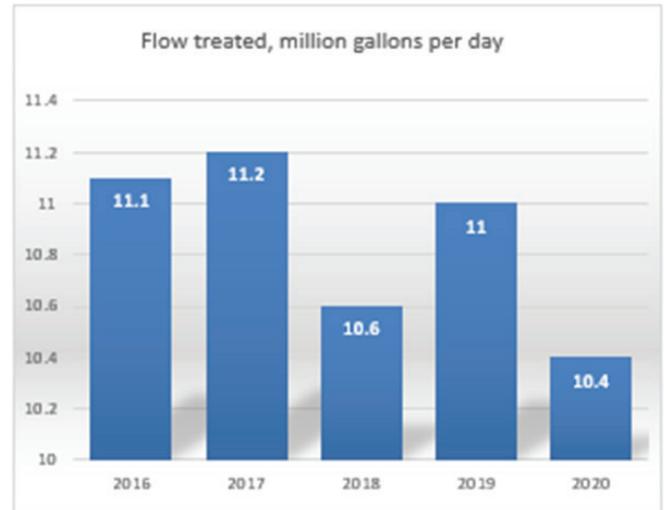
## Wastewater

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 Wastewater 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



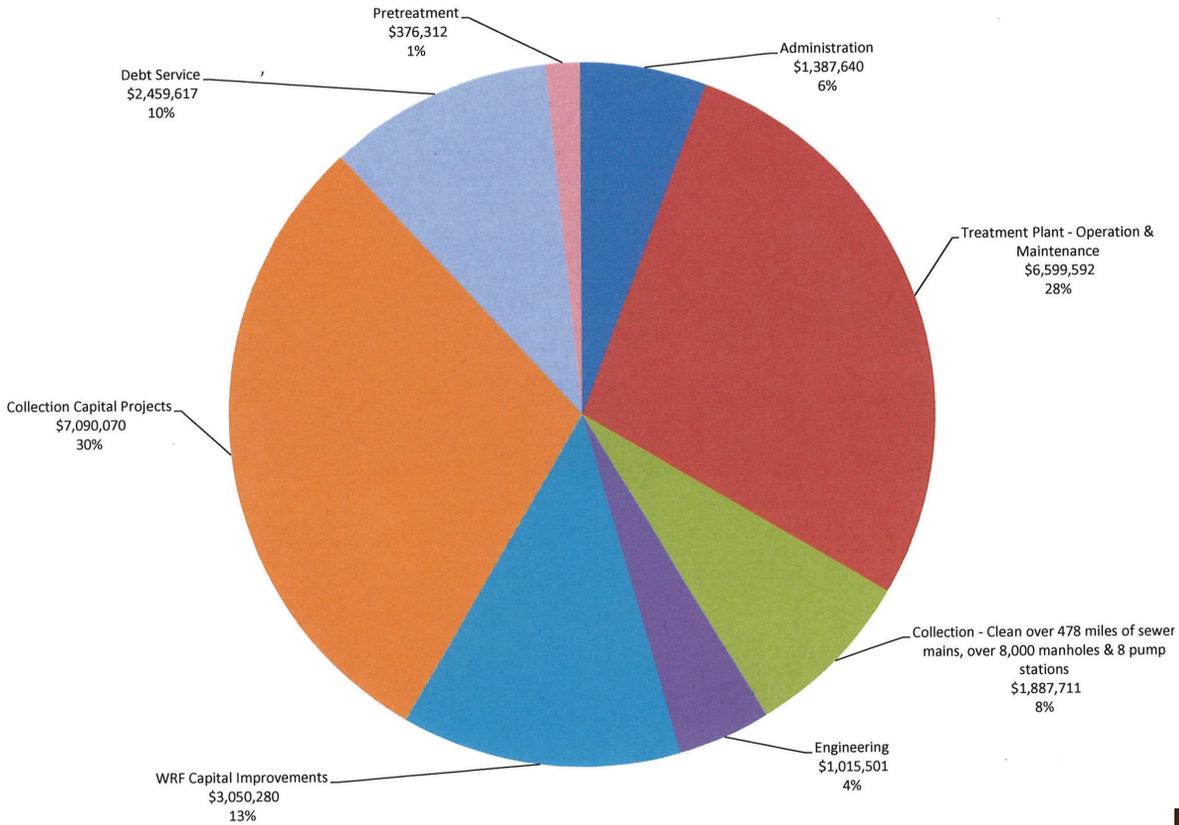
the sanitary sewer collection mains, including cleaning, rooting, televising, sealing, repairing, and constructing sewer mains. In addition, the Wastewater Department has standby crews on call 24 hours a day to respond to plant emergencies or sanitary main blockages.

Engineering Division reviews subdivision plans, evaluates and prioritizes sewer system rehabilitation, maintains computerized records,



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

**2020 Wastewater Budget By Component**



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. Recently the Wastewater Department won a Peak Performance Platinum Award for 6 years full compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.



The Wastewater Department was one of four plants in the United States awarded the Water Environment Federation Project Excellence Award for the nutrient treatment installed.



## Continued: Wastewater

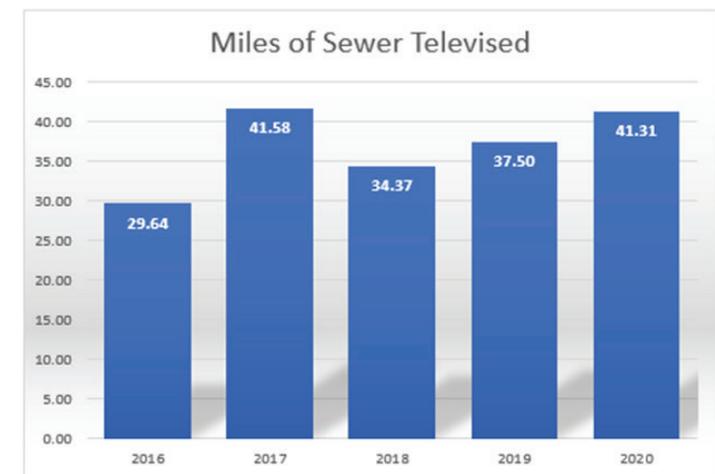
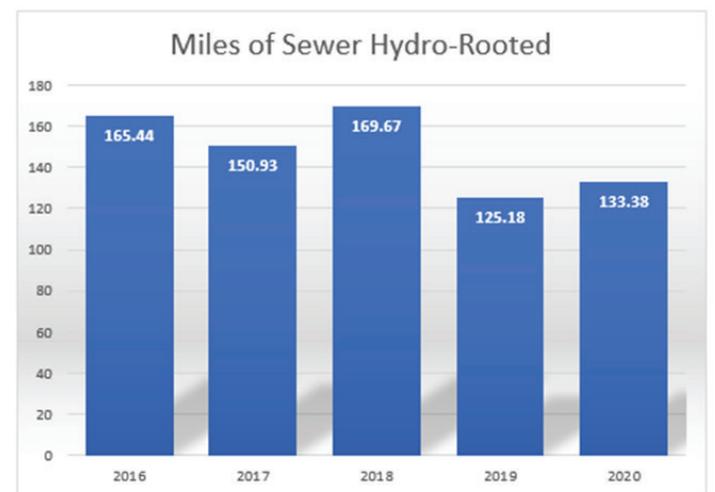
The Wastewater Department also was awarded the Water Environment Federation Project Excellence Award for the nutrient treatment installed. It was one of four in the United States to receive this award in 2020.

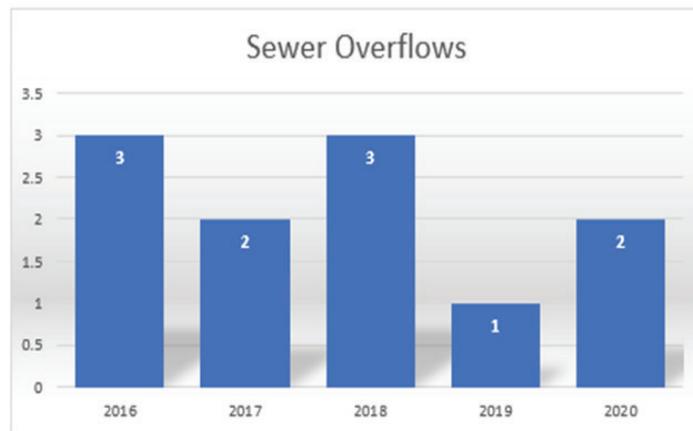
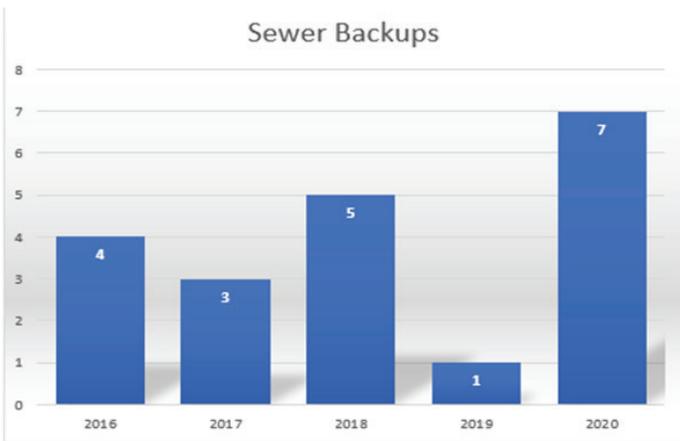
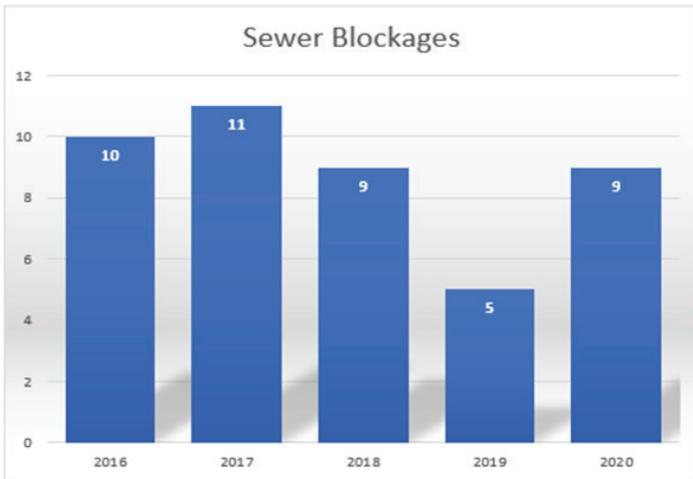
The new hydrocyclone and AvN process installed to meet Regulation 85 nutrient requirements has proven to be very effective. This state-of-the-art process is new to the United States and is saving Pueblo \$300,000 per year of chemical cost and reduced energy cost by \$150,000 per year as well as increasing capacity, eliminating the need for expensive process additions to meet the first phase of nutrient requirements.

Testing new products has allowed the Engineering Department to identify several systems that have helped reduce cost of collection system rehabilitation. Lining a sanitary main averages about one third the cost to remove and replace a main. In addition, lining does not cause the surface impacts like a remove and replace project.

The Quick Lock system was purchased to make minor repairs by the collection staff and has proven to work very well in situations where digging up the line to do a point repair was avoided by using the Quick Lock system that was designed to repair certain breaks in sanitary sewer mains.

With the 25 sleeves installed in 2020, we have spent approximately \$14,250, for an estimated





savings of just over \$36,000, not counting the time saved by not taking the repairs to bid for engineering and purchasing.

In addition to the Water Reclamation Facility infrastructure and Collection system infrastructure improvements in 2020, additional highlights include:

- The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission held the first Discharger Specific Variance review hearing. Comments on progress from the Water Quality Control Division, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and EPA were very positive. The progress to meet the Variance requirements was approved and the next review hearing will be in 2023.
- 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.
- Continued working toward televising 100% of all city sewer mains.

#### GOALS

- Continue to meet all Colorado Discharge Permit requirements.
- Improve the reliability of the aging Water



## Continued: Wastewater

Reclamation Facility by completing the Phase 4 Electrical Upgrades. Design was completed in 2020 and will go to bid early 2021.

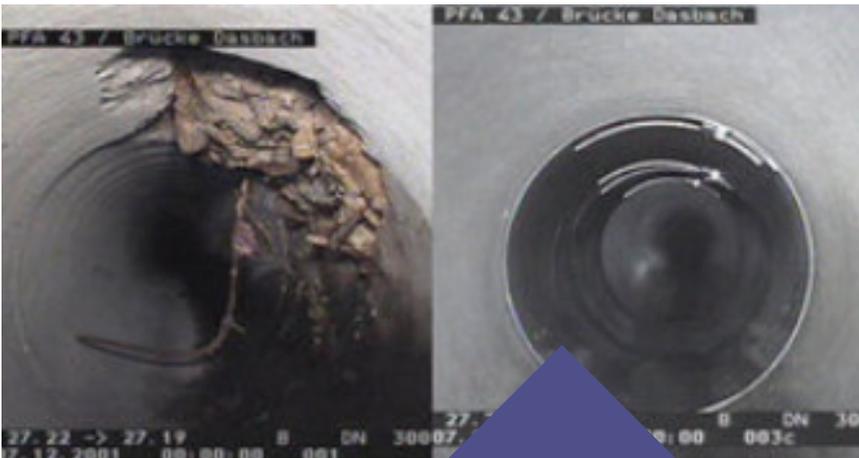
- Selenium Discharger Specific Variance will provide some regulatory relief for selenium and sulfate removal requirement. The variance allows 10 years to do \$10 million of infrastructure improvements to reduce infiltration of ground water high in selenium and sulfate and to test pilot treatments that may be necessary to install if groundwater infiltration can't be reduced enough to meet stream standards.
- 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 and compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit, analysis of pretreatment samples from industries, Fountain Creek and Arkansas River samples, manholes in the collection system, and special studies.

### 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 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 efficiency and upgrading the infrastructure. The significant increases in workload to handle the selenium/sulfate variance requirements including studies, sampling and monitoring, lining projects,



The new Quick Lock System has provided an estimated savings of just over \$36,000, not counting the time saved by not taking the repairs to bid for engineering and purchasing.

## Infrastructure Projects

Collection Projects 2020		
Large Main Cleaning	\$2,907,830	Clean 48-inch and 60-inch sanitary sewer mains.
Small Main Lining	\$1,630,332	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	\$715,788	Replaced or epoxy coated manholes that were in poor condition.
Small Main Remove and Replace	\$2,435,388	Remove and replace sanitary mains that are not a candidate for lining due to condition.
Emergency Projects	\$ 387,552	Emergency repairs to fix sanitary mains that have failed or have a blockage.
Selenium Reduction Project	\$3,408,304	Repair of high selenium area mains and manholes to reduce infiltration.
Water Reclamation Infrastructure 2020		
Phase 4 Electrical Rehabilitation Design	\$1,127,876	Design plans for project to replace Headworks and Primary Clarifier Area Control Panels and Motor Control Centers.
Overlay Asphalt	\$649,154	Overlay portions of the asphalt on the west side of the Water Reclamation Facility.
Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation	\$49,845	Repairs to one of the aging Secondary Clarifiers.





## Continued: Wastewater

pilots, and sump pump investigations to support the variance has been and will continue to be a strain.

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.

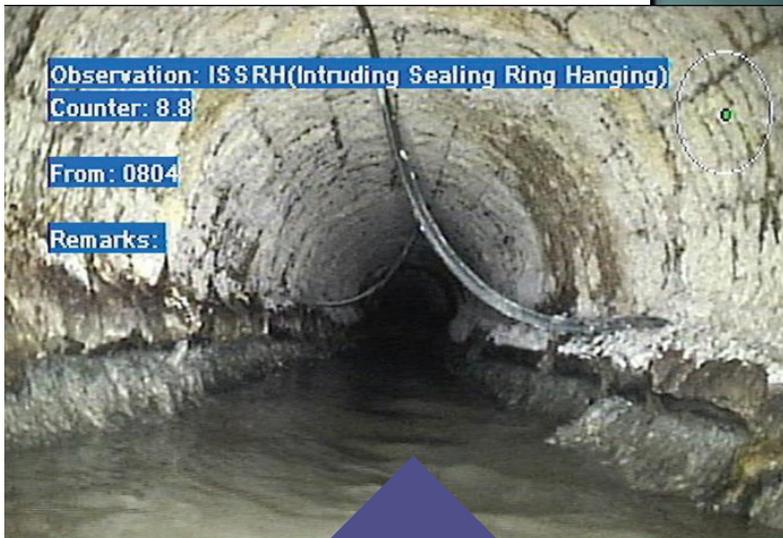
The sanitary sewer system is very old. 17.6 % of the sanitary mains are over 100 years old and 47.5% are 51-99 years old. Cost of repairs/replacement makes it difficult to catch up with the needs.

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. Requirements are expected in our next discharge permit. It is unknown at this time if treatment will be required.

The improper disposal of wipes and other consumer products cause extensive problems

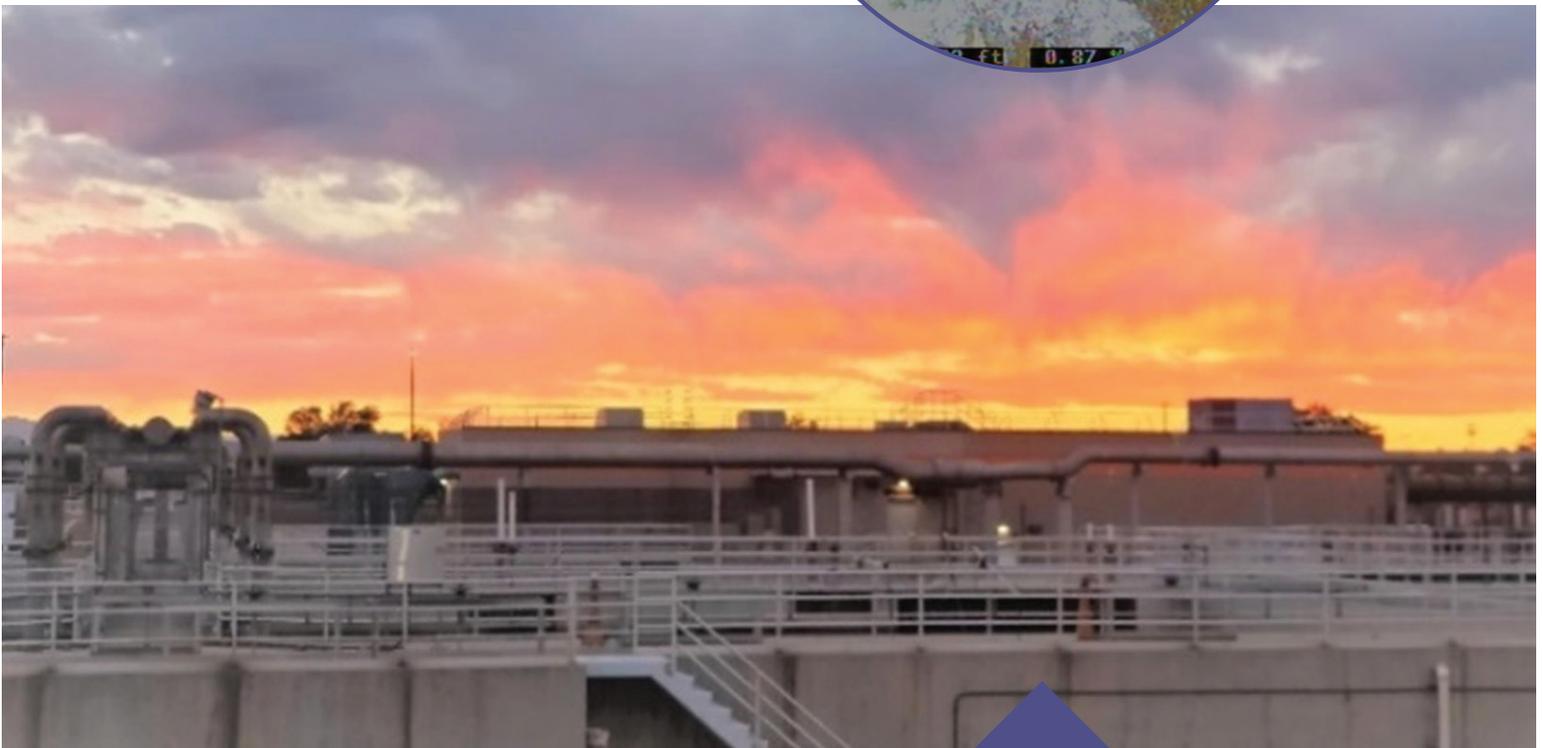


These pictures show a line that had deteriorated to the point that the pipe was crumbling and the gasket was falling out (picture on the left) but lining was able to add structural integrity and repair the surface with an expected life expectancy of 50 years (picture on the right).

for wastewater utilities when wipes that are not engineered to quickly break down or dissolve are flushed down the toilet. Wipes can adhere to other improperly flushed products such as fats, oils and grease or tree roots and form major blockages that can result in sewer overflows and environmental harm. Wipes also clog home plumbing and septic systems and may damage wastewater treatment equipment, such as pumps. Many wipes are also made from plastics. When these wipes are flushed, plastic particles may be released into the environment and harm aquatic ecosystems. Improper labeling and disposal of wipe products results in substantial costs to wastewater utilities and the ratepayers they serve.

**A fun note:**

Some friends in the sanitary mains have stood their ground defying our collection staff trying to use the CCTV camera to obtain videos of the main to determine condition of the pipe.



A beautiful Pueblo sunrise at the Wastewater plant.



## Community Engagement

As our community faced the fast-changing COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the need to collaborate with other agencies and create opportunities for community engagement became a necessity to begin the work to bring the community back together. The following events and projects are shining examples of successful community partnerships and collaborations:



2020 City Council President Flores presents an award to Nancy Keller and members of the Wastewater Department.

### Parks & Rec

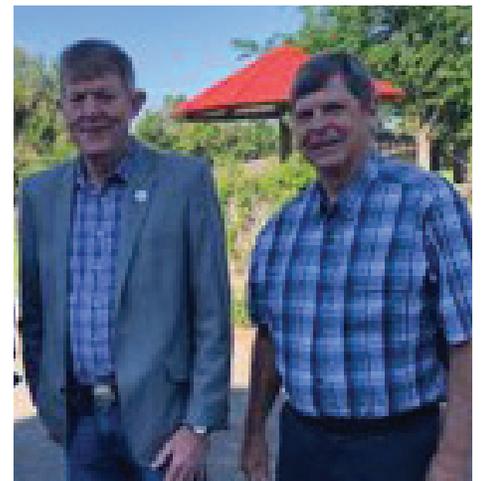
The old historic City Park Goodnight Avenue Entrance was restored with the help of tireless volunteers from the Aberdeen neighborhood, City Park supporters, and many donors. Replicas of the missing griffins and urns were mounted by parks staff and a new sign was installed onto the stone wall. The long-anticipated ribbon cutting ceremony was held on June 29, 2020.



Vinewood Park Mural Project



## Continued: Community Engagement



## Annual Regional Stormwater Educational Seminar

## Police Department

With COVID-19 taking its toll on the community, your Pueblo Police Department did many things to lift spirits this year!

Pictured top to bottom:

Polar Plunge/Special Olympics

Bicycles at Parkview Elementary School

Heroes and Helpers (Boys and Girls Club)

Trunk or Treat

Thanksgiving Food Baskets





## Continued: Community Engagement



# Community Engagement



McCulley Avenue naming celebration.



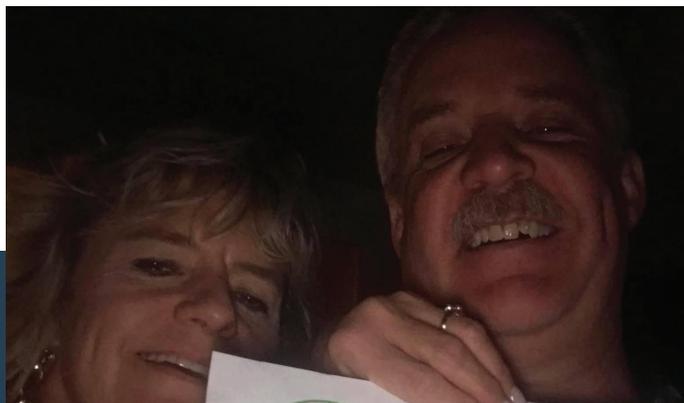
## Continued: Community Engagement

### Pueblo Shines

With Colorado under a stay at home order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, Mayor Gradisar asked residents to join him in a movement to promote unity by going outside at 8 p.m. and shining a light into the sky for two minutes over an 18 day period.



# Community Engagement





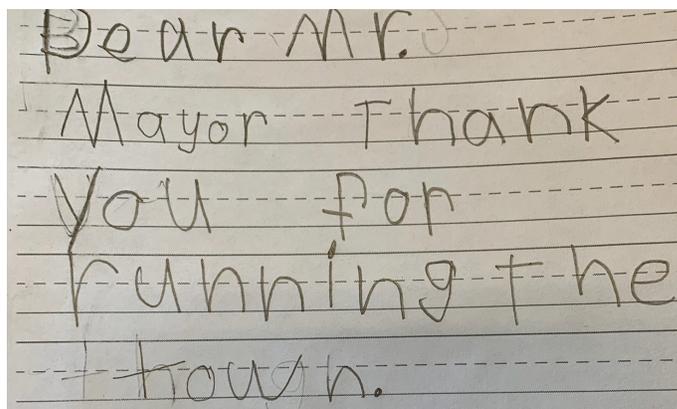
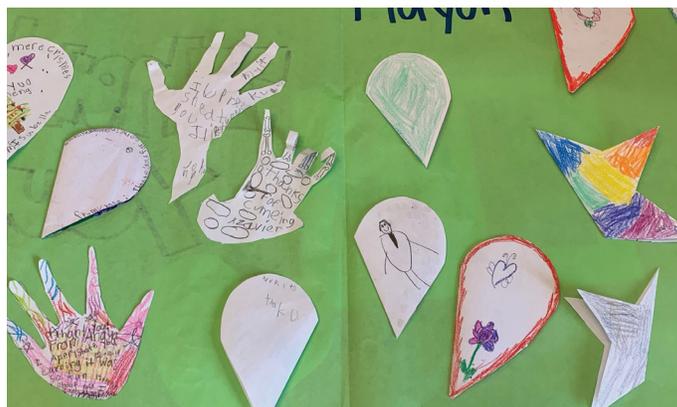
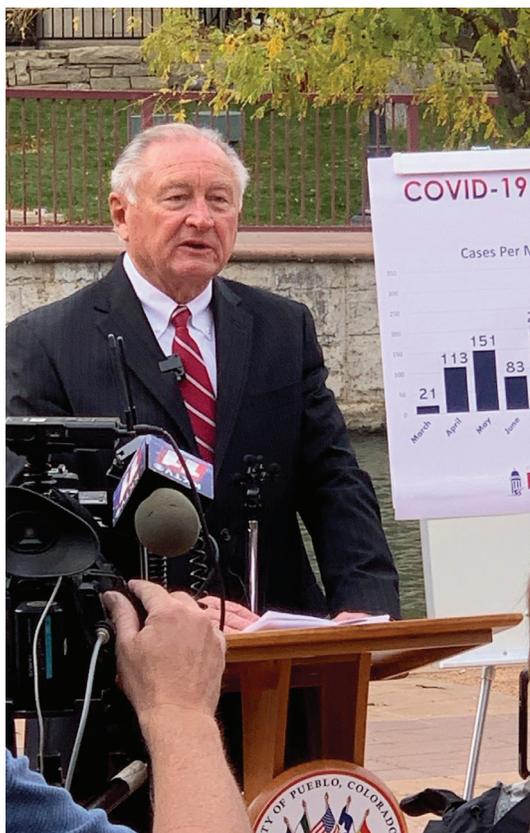
## Continued: Community Engagement

### Fire Fit Kids

The Fire Fit Kids program is designed to bring kids from the Pueblo area into their neighborhood fire stations or park for a light workout and firefighter-related obstacle course. The obstacle course is followed by a fire station tour with plenty of photo opportunities and socializing along the way.



# Community Engagement





City of Pueblo Mayor's Office

One City Hall Place | Pueblo CO 81003 | (719) 553-2655 | [www.pueblo.us](http://www.pueblo.us)