



Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 2, 2025

3:00 PM

Castle Rock Municipal Courtroom
100 Perry St., Castle Rock, CO 80104

This meeting is open to the public. Please note that all times indicated on the agenda are approximate and interested parties are encouraged to be present earlier than the posted time.

The Public Safety Commission meets monthly at the Town of Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Headquarters or the Police Department.

Call to Order and Attendance

Chairperson Marsh called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Guests - Becca Schnorr - Castle Rock Youth Commission Coordinator

Present 4 - Andy Powell, Steve Thayer, Trevor Knotts, and Robert Dziubla

Not Present 1 - Richard Morton

Attendance 3 - Jack Cauley, Norris Croom, and Kim Stremel

Approval of Meeting Minutes

[PS 2024-036](#) Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes - December 5, 2024

Attachments: [PSC12.05.2024 Minutes](#)

Ms. Van Court moved to approve the December 5, 2024 minutes. Mr. Dziubla seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Yes: 7 - Hammelman, Powell, Thayer, Van Court, Marsh, Knotts, and Dziubla

Not Present: 1 - Morton

[PS 2024-037](#) CRFD November Report

Attachments: [CRFD November Report](#)

- Chief Croom provided a recap of storm that occurred on New Year's Eve on I-25. CRPD responded to provide assistance as numerous Larkspur fire apparatus were damaged. CDOT opened the roadway around 0430 on New Year's Day.
- Hiring Updates
 - Accreditation Manager: The job description was updated, which resulted in the removal of the Emergency Manager duties. Interviews were conducted and a conditional offer has been extended to a candidate who is in backgrounds.
 - Fire Mechanic: small group of applications were received from applicants who possessed the needed qualifications.
 - Continuing to recruit and hire laterals, as well as new

firefighters, for the remaining open positions.

- The weather has been very dry and we went under red flag fire conditions on Monday. The County Commissioners are providing funding for a contracted helicopter to be available on an as needed basis. This service has been made available to all municipalities in Douglas County should there be a fire event.
- 2024 statistics: There were 7,068 calls in 2024, making this the department's second busiest year.
- Commission Member Dzuibla inquired about terminology in the monthly report. Chief Croom provided definitions for:
 - "Service in Nature" calls - this identifies what type of call it is: alarm reset, vehicle lockouts, stuck elevator, etc.
 - "Good intent calls" - when a person believes that they have seen something and report it (e.g., smoke sighting)
 - "Bail out training" - all CRFD firefighters are trained to self-evacuate from a building with the use of a bail out kit.
- Chief Croom was asked about the majority of calls being cardiac arrest related. He explained that while there are a number of cardiac calls, only about 1% medical. The fire department tracks successful saves and CRFD's save rate in 2023 was 18%, while the national average was 9%. In 2024, the save rate rose to 20%. It should be noted that since CRPD carries and deploys AEDs prior to a medic unit arrival, survival rates tend to improve.

[PS 2024-038](#) CRPD November Report

Attachments: [CRPD November Report](#)

- Chief Cauley shared a revised copy of the police department's November monthly. A corrected version was provided due to misinformation in the crime statistic section.
- The department continues to see decreases in motor vehicle thefts due to technology that is used by dispatch and police officers. License plate readers and staff's use of technology improves success in catching stolen vehicles and the occupants. Colorado is no longer the state with the highest average of motor vehicle thefts as of 2024.
- The police department will open another hiring process within the next couple of weeks. New hires who attend the police academy in July, will be ready for the street in late 2025 or early 2026.
- CRPD has one new recruit starting the police academy in January.
- The policing profession, in general, is experiencing challenges in hiring qualified personnel. CRPD would rather have a vacancy rather than just hire an applicant who may not be a good fit for the department and community.
- This same type of challenge is occurring with dispatcher recruitments. A dispatcher hiring process is difficult because you can't always identify the necessary skills needed by an applicant, with no experience, through an interview alone. Their abilities are known once they are hired and in training.

- Chief Cauley meets with each department member individually annually, so he is nearing completion of all 1:1 meetings.
- Commission Member Van Court inquired what steps does CRPD take to prevent tragedies like the ones that occurred in Germany, New Orleans and Las Vegas? Chief Cauley explained that operation plans are developed for community events and key personnel are strategically placed within the events. The police department also partners with public works to use their vehicles to block pedestrian walkways and roadways. As always, CRPD relies on technology such as cameras and drones. The Chief also explained that staff is constantly reviewing information from the intelligence community.
- Colorado House Bill 21-1110 (accessibility to government information technology) - CRPD and CRFD are working with Town communications to maintain the highest levels of transparency possible, however, the current publishing software has proven to be prohibitive. Staff is seeking alternatives that will allow departmental information to be shared in a timely manner.

New Business

- Volunteer Fire Pension** - this plan through FPPA requires two (2) Public Safety Commission members serve on the board. The board experienced a vacancy in May; Commission Member Laurie Van Court volunteered to fill the open position. This matter passed, by a vote, without objection (6-0). Commission Member Van Court abstained.
- Chief Croom will advise the pension board president of Ms. Van Court's appointment.

Introduction of Becca Schnorr - Youth Commission Coordinator

- The Youth Commission consists of nine members initially appointed with staggered terms so that four are appointed for one-year terms and five are appointed with two-year terms. Thereafter, Commissioners will be appointed to two-year terms.
- The Youth Commission will serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council. In addition to this advisory role, the Youth Commission will have the following duties: involvement, communication, engagement and recognition.
- Applications are open May through August 2025.

Old Business

- Commission Member Dzuibla reported a reply was received from Assistant Town Attorney K. Parker stating the Town Clerk's office determined the Commission can make the recommended change from "powers" to "*purpose*" in Article 1 of the Public Safety bylaws. It will now read, "The **purpose** of the Public Safety Commission is to advise the Town Council...".
- Commission Member Dzuibla made a motion in favor of the change; Commission Member Van Court seconded. This matter passed, by a vote,

without objection (7-0).

- Staff will take necessary actions to update and publish the bylaws.

Commissioner Comments and Questions

Adjourn

Ms. Van Court made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Dzuibla seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2025 at the Police Department.