



## Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, May 2, 2024

3:00 PM

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

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*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 Police Department.*

### *Call to Order and Attendance*

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

Guest: Deputy Chief Oren Bersagel-Briese for Chief Croom

**Present** 6 - Andy Powell, Don MacBrayne, Richard Morton, Carl Smith, Steve Thayer, and Debra Beck

**Attendance** 2 - Sam Varela, and Kim Stremel

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

[PS 2024-013](#) PSC April 4,2024 Minutes

Attachments: [PSC April 4, 2024 Minutes](#)

**Mr. MacBrayne moved to approve the April 4, 2024 minutes. Ms. Van Court seconded the motion; the motion carried.**

**Yes:** 9 - Hammelman, Powell, MacBrayne, Morton, Smith, Thayer, Beck, Van Court, and Marsh

### **Fire Department Report**

[PS 2024-014](#) CRFD March Report

Attachments: [CRFD March Report](#)

Deputy Chief Rich Martin retiring in July

Hiring Updates

- Backfilling 3 positions; candidates will begin the Fire Academy in August
- Active recruitment for a Plans Examiner

Light Up Red campaign

- Honors fallen firefighters This nationwide lighting, sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), leads up to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend on May 4-5, 2024

Introduction and Bio of Deputy Chief of Operations - Oren Bersagel-Briese

- 25 years of service with CRFD; Training Chief for the past 5 years
- 4th generation firefighter

- Grew up in VA; relocated to Colorado in 1999

Committee members did a brief question and answer session with Deputy Chief Bersagel-Briese regarding his new role within the department.

## Police Department Report

[PS 2024-012](#) CRPD March Report

Attachments: [CRPD March 2024](#)

### Hiring Updates

- This week the department extended 2 conditional offers to 1 lateral candidate and 1 academy recruit
- The last recruitment saw over 120 candidates and it was narrowed down to a group of 10 candidates
- The PD currently has 1 vacated position to fill

### Department Updates

2024 Citizens Academy is currently in progress

### Five-Year Strategic Plan

- Presented with recommended changes from the April 4th meeting
- The Strategic Plan will be presented to Council on May 21st
- The Commission asked how many members of the public attended the Strategic Plan on April 29th, to which Commander replied no members from the community attended.
- Vote on Strategic Plan - Chairperson Marsh made a motion to recommend to Council to adopt the Castle Rock Police Department's Strategic Plan as presented. The motion was passed 8-0 (Commission Member Smith was not present for the vote due to a technical difficulty)

## New Business

Member Smith asked the group if they knew anything about a survey being conducted by the Town to add a ballot measure in November asking voters to approve a .2% public safety tax? Many members of the Commission are aware of the survey which is randomly being sent through text messages inviting Castle Rock residents to participate. Citizens can also access the on-line version through a link on the Town of Castle Rock's Facebook page.

## Old Business

N/A

## Commissioner Comments and Questions

- Councilmember Cavey asked if interior drones are used by the PD? Commander Varela answered they are in use and the department has numerous drone pilots
- Would the department ever consider the use of a robot dog ? Commander Varela advised robotics are currently being used on the SWAT team. Drones have actually replaced some jobs done by robotics
- Member Van Court asked if training change as technology changes? Commander Varela said training adjustments are absolutely necessary due to technology advances
- Member Morton asked how will the conservative budget present challenges to both the Fire and Police Departments? Councilmember Cavey responded the Town isn't cutting anything, they are monitoring revenue and expenditures, then prioritizing future needs. She added that CR is the only "full-service" municipality in Douglas County providing municipal Police and Fire services
- Councilmember Cavey asked about the implications of HB24-1372 - a bill regulating the use of prone restraint by law enforcement. Commander Varela advised the bill has been pared down and will most likely become policy development and training requirement for law enforcement agencies. He went on to say that in Castle Rock, all Use of Force are entered into early warning systems are monitored by the Professional Standards unit. All incidents are looked at individually and include the review of body-worn-camera footage

## Adjourn

**Mr. Hammelman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Morton seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.**

**The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at the Police Department.**