



Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, May 7, 2026

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 & Rescue headquarters or Police Department.

Call to Order and Attendance

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

Present 8 - Richard Morton, Laurie Van Court, Andy Powell, Robert Dziubla, Trevor Knotts, Steven Goedecke, Steve Thayer, and Clark Hammelman

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

[PS 2026-010](#) Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes - April 2, 2026

Mr. Dziubla moved to approve the April 2, 2026 meeting minutes. Ms. Van Court seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Yes: 8 - Morton, Van Court, Powell, Dziubla, Knotts, Goedecke, Thayer, and Hammelman

Fire Department Report

[PS 2026-013](#) CRFD March Report

Fire Department Report - Commission members were emailed a copy of the Fire Department's March report prior to today meeting.

- Chief Croom thanked community members and partners who attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Station 156 on April 8th.
- The Fire Department is conducting interviews for an Administrative Assistant position during the week of May 11th.
- Staff also acknowledged the retirement of a Fire Examiner.
- Four firefighter candidates are scheduled to attend the West Metro Fire Academy this fall.
- The Founders Village accidental house fire remains under investigation, with preliminary findings indicating a barbecue grill blown over by wind as the likely cause.
- Mitigation work has been completed in Metzler Open Space.
- CRFD continues evaluating additional open spaces and tree-removal needs throughout the community.
 - Staff noted that not all dead tree species require removal, as some

vegetation can provide natural firebreak value during mitigation planning.

- Fire mitigation operations are ongoing within the Pinyon Soleil development area, including removal of beetle-kill trees across approximately 12 acres.
- Chief Croom discussed the department's use of Pano AI, an AI-based wildfire detection system utilizing:
 - 360-degree cameras
 - Satellite data
 - Real-time smoke monitoring
 - Unlike infrared-only systems, Pano AI primarily uses smoke detection and AI analysis to generate alerts, allowing agencies to identify fires very early in development.
 - Douglas County agencies and partners, including Xcel Energy, are using the system to improve wildfire situational awareness and support faster deployment of resources during high-risk conditions.
 - The technology is also proving valuable in wildfire cause-and-origin investigations.
- Commission Member Knotts asked about the department's standard wildfire response approach.
- Chief Croom explained:
 - Any wildfire occurring during Red Flag conditions automatically receives a two-alarm response.
 - The strategy is to aggressively attack fires during the earliest stages.
 - Helicopters are deployed when available and necessary.
 - State and federal resources are requested once local resources become fully committed.
- Commission Member Dzuibla asked how fire-damaged buildings are determined to be safe or unsafe.
- Chief Croom explained that both the Fire Department and Building Department have authority to:
 - "Red tag" unsafe structures
 - Or deem buildings structurally safe for Certificate of Occupancy (CO) issuance.
- The Fire Department is updating its five-year strategic plan. The revised strategic plan will be integrated with the CRFD Master Plan to better align long-term operational and community objectives.

- At this time, fireworks remain scheduled as part of the Town's Fourth of July festivities.
- Chief Croom thanked outgoing Public Safety Commission members for their continued service, support, and contributions to public safety initiatives. He encouraged members to continue serving the community through other boards and commissions.

Police Department Report

[PS 2026-014](#) CRPD March Report

Police Department Report - Commission members were emailed a copy of the Police Department's March report prior to today meeting.

- Chief Cauley thanked all who attended the Police Department's Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 2nd.
- April arrest activity reflected continued proactive patrol and interdiction efforts throughout the community.
- Chief Cauley reported on newly passed legislation requiring mandatory lethality assessments during all domestic violence investigations. (HB26-1009)
- E-moto enforcement April 23rd:
 - 5 written warnings issued.
 - Officers contacted three full e-moto riders.
 - Parents were contacted and educated regarding applicable laws and safety concerns.
 - Staff noted:
 - None of the contacted riders fled from officers.
 - None had previous enforcement contacts related to illegal riding activity.
- Recruitment opened for two Dispatch Supervisor positions on April 22nd.
 - Four internal candidates applied for the promotional opportunities.
 - One dispatcher candidate is currently completing background investigations.
 - Amie Kirtley was promoted to Police Communications Manager on April 25th.
- New Community Service Officer began employment on April 27th.
- The department introduced Ryker, a 16-month-old Dutch Shepherd imported from Germany, as its newest Police K9.
 - Ryker's handler is MPO Matt Fuino.
 - Ryker is dual-certified in:
 - Narcotics detection
 - Patrol operations
- Chief Cauley concluded the meeting with a presentation on the Police Department's OPL (One-By-One Policing Leadership) program.
 - The program is focused on:
 - Developing leadership skills
 - Improving organizational culture
 - Reinforcing servant-leadership principles throughout the department
 - OPL emphasizes:
 - Employee growth

- Accountability
- Communication
- Building a positive workplace culture that supports both employee wellness and operational excellence

New Business

Chairperson Hammelman expressed gratitude to the outgoing Public Safety Commission members for their dedicated service and continued support of the community, while also reminding the remaining commissioners of the upcoming volunteer interviews scheduled for May 12th and the need for the Commission to formally select a new chairperson.

Old Business

Commissioner Comments and Questions

Adjourn

Mr. Goedeke made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Thayer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.