

Pueblo Police Department Citizen's Academy

Hi my name is Ruth ,and I am with the Eiler Heights Neighborhood Watch Program. From July 22nd thru August 20th for two days a week, 3 hrs each day I spent being the eyes and ears for the Eiler Heights Neighborhood Association. I volunteered to go to the Pueblo Police Department Citizen's Academy. I thought oh my goodness what did I get myself hooked into. Well I don't regret doing this at all, I learned so much about our Police Department and the Officer's . I would go as far as saying,"if you have anything to say bad about our Police Department then you know absolutely nothing about our Police Department & what they do." I challenge all of you get off the couch and go through this Citizen's Police Academy see what they are all about Don't just take the word of another person not even mine.

The Objective of the Citizen Academy

The objective of the Citizen's Police Academy is to promote community policing. The Pueblo Police Department and the citizens need to work together to solve not only major crimes but community problems as a whole. One small aspect of this union is to communicate and educate not only the citizen but the officer as well. All citizens should have general understanding about how Pueblo Police Department functions. The Citizen's Academy is designed to develop a better bond between community and Police Department we may work together to make our community a better and safer environment.

The Mission of the Pueblo Police Department

The mission of the Pueblo Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the City of Pueblo by working cooperatively with our community and within the framework of the United States Constitution, to solve crime problems and to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear and provide for a safe environment .

The first day was an introduction to the Pueblo Police Department with Chief Luis Velez speaking. The first things on the agenda were introductions,a history of the Pueblo Police Department & a tour of the New Police Department. One thing I heard loud and clear was the fact that there are good officers & there are bad officers. The Police Department tries to weed out the bad officers. What an honest statement I thought.

I also heard that it is their job as officers to help people weed out the bad people so that that the good people feel safe in our community.

I thought to myself, "We are all good people it's those who make bad choices in their life that make them bad people." I thought to myself, " that is just like what was said earlier about bad officers and good officers."

Just because there are people who make bad choices doesn't make all of us bad people. The same is true of officers... just because there are some officers that make bad choices doesn't make all the other officers bad. This was my thinking.

I was told and would like to add. The City and the Department itself goes through a very lengthy process to weed out the bad people before they are even hired as Police Officers. Once hired even training Officers try to weed out or help train to fix the bad Officers once they've completed the academy. Finally (Very Few) Officers remaining still do end up being bad decision makers once they are on their own. This is when they try to provide additional training or mentoring to help but the few that still can't be helped are eventually weeded out (Quit) or lose their jobs by their actions they may have handled inappropriately.

We'll on with my endeavor

Things that you learn at this Academy are how the the following Departments work:

- * **Dispatch**
- * **Patrol Division**
- * **Investigations**
- * **Statute Review**
- * **C.S.I.**
- * **Traffic Accident Investigations**
- * **Internal Affairs**
- * **Municipal Court**
- * **T.I. Training Lab**
- * **Swat & Bomb Squad**
- * **Gangs & Narcotics**

We also were introduced to & learned about:

- * **Writing a Crime Report**
- * **Court Proceedings**
- * **Community Policing ,Crime Prevention & Volunteer Program**
- * **DUI & Intoxilyzer**

But the best part is you get to be an Officer in a Mock Crime Scene & you get to ride along in a cruiser with an Officer & experience what they go through everyday.

Have you ever wondered why it takes so long for the Police to answer your call when you call in for help? If you could find out why, would you take the opportunity to find out why?

Do you often wonder what the Police do on their job? If you had the opportunity to find out would you?

If you said yes to any of these questions then I think it would be beneficial for you to spend some time going through the Citizen's Academy.

I have heard the Pueblo Police Department was bad. You know that saying you can't always believe what you hear. That statement the Pueblo Police Department is Bad is so not true. Find the truth out for yourself go take the Citizen's Academy. Get the facts, then you can make statement .

Things I learned from my own observation are that Police Officers are not just Officers they are Doctors, they are Psychologist, Pastors, Babysitters, they are human like us . They have families like us. They chose this job for you and me they are willing to give up their life for you and me. We stand up for our Men and Women who are in the Military who go over into another Country and fight to keep us safe. So I ask you what is the difference? These Men and Women who wear Uniforms who are called Police Officers in this Country are here to protect us . We need to respect, honor and help them to keep **us safe just as we do for our Military who are willing to give up their life to keep us safe.**

Wednesday August 20th 2014 I graduated with others, who took the time to take the Academy. I really didn't want to leave I wanted to stay and be apart of the Department and help in what ever I could. Going to this Citizen's Academy has really opened my eyes and has changed my attitude towards our Police Department. When the next Citizen's Academy happens I hope you will be there. I guarantee you won't be bored. I was told they could have another Academy this year if there are enough people to attend. Please care, you can make a difference we need to pull together to keep us all safe. **There is no cost to you.**

One more thing that I would like to say, "The world isn't getting any better as matter a fact things are getting worse and you can put your head under a pillow and tell it to go away and it is not going to. It's time to make a stand and be supportive of our officers and help them as needed." Think about this....if we had no Police Officers what do you think the world would be like?

**If you would like more information or are interested in attending the Citizen's Academy please call me and I will put you on the list I have already got started.
Ruth -- (719-369-5665)**

Eiler Heights Neighborhood Watch Program

**2014 Pueblo Police
Department
Citizen's Academy**



Pueblo Police Department
200 South Main
Pueblo, CO 81003
Professional Standards and Training
719-320-6029



DIAL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

- **MAIN SWITCHBOARD**
553-2538
- **DISPATCH (NON-EMERGENCY)**
553-2502
- **PATROL CAPTAINS**
DAYS: 553-2542
AFTERNOONS: 553-2564
NIGHTS: 553-2918
- **CRIME STOPPERS**
542-STOP
- **CRIME PREVENTION UNIT**
553-2538
- **REPORT DESK**
553-2485
- **TRAFFIC SECTION**
553-2404
- **TRAFFIC HOTLINE**
553-2581
- **NARCOTICS/GANGS**
553-2910
- **GANG HOTLINE**
553-2939
- **RECORDS/REPORTS**
553-2554
- **CODE ENFORCEMENT**
553-2592
- **GRAFFITI REMOVAL HOTLINE**
562-3801
- **MUNICIPAL COURT**
562-3810

PUEBLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- **MAIN SWITCHBOARD**
583-6125
- **COUNTY JAIL**
583-6135
- **DISPATCH (NON-EMERGENCY)**
583-6253

PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

- **MAIN OFFICE**
553-2830

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- 583-6030

COUNTY/DISTRICT COURT INFORMATION

- 583-7000

CITY HALL

- 553-2655

COUNTY COURT HOUSE

- 583-6000

COLORADO STATE PATROL

- **MAIN OFFICE (PUEBLO)**
288-2636

Govt	Department of Social Services	212 W. 12th St.	583-6160	Food Stamps, AND other	ID, Social Security Card	Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm
Govt	Department of Social Services North Office	805 Desert Flower Blvd.	253-7800	TANF, Child Care, Food Stamps	ID, Birth Certificate	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Govt	Driver's License & ID	827 W. 4th St.	543-5164	ID and Drivers License	Proof of address and ID	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Govt	Pueblo City/County Health Department	101 W. 9th street	583-4300	WIC, PIPS, Medical, Etc	ID, Social Security Card, Clinic	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Govt	Social Security Administration	3769 Parker Blvd.	545-9248	SSI, SSDI, Social Security Card	ID, Birth Certificate	Monday-Friday 9am-3:30pm
HIV/AIDS	Southern Colorado AIDS Project	PO BOX 11451 (01)	924-8925	HIV/AIDS Outreach & Education		Call first
Homeless	Posada	225 Colorado Ave.	545-8776	Homeless Services		Monday-Friday 8am-4pm
Housing	Pueblo Housing Authority	1414 N. Santa Fe, 10th Floor	544-6230	Housing	ID, Social Security Card, Birth Certificate	Monday-Friday 8am-4:20pm
Medical	Pueblo Community Health Center	110 E. Routt Ave.	543-8711	Primary Health Care	Sign up in advance	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8am-9pm Wednesday 9am-9pm Friday 8:30am-5pm
ental	Friendly Harbor	417 W. 12th St.	545-2564	Drop In Day Center		Monday-Friday 9am-4pm Saturday 9am-12pm
Mental	Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center	1304 Chinook Lane	545-2746	Counseling & mental health treatment	Sign up in advance	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Shelter	Wayside Cross Gospel Mission	728 W. 4th St.	544-4000	Single's shelter	ID	Women daily 4pm Men daily 4:40pm
Shelter	Salvation Army	520 W. 13th St.	543-3656	Warming Shelter December to March 1st	Some sort of ID	Daily
Shelter	YWCA Family Crisis Shelter	801 N. Santa Fe	545-8195	Women's Shelter		24-Hour Service
Substance Abuse	Crossroads Turning Point	509 E. 13th St.	546-6666	Alcohol and drug, occurring sub abuse and mental health services	ID	Detox 24-Hour Service Office Hours Monday & Friday 6:30am-5pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 6:30am-7pm Saturday 8:30am-2pm
Vets	Pueblo VA Services	2631 E. 4th St.	583-4544	Veteran Benefits Assistance	DD214, Medical Records	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Utilities	Catholic Charities	429 W. 10th St.	544-4233	Utilities and Rent	ID, Social Security Card	Call first

RESOURCE LIST

TYPE	AGENCY	ADDRESS	PHONE	SERVICE PROVIDED	YOU WILL NEED	HOURS
Children	Bright Beginnings/ Catholic Charities	429 W. 10th St., Suite 101	544-4233	Formula, Diapers	ID, Social Security Card	Call first
Children	Caring Pregnancy Center	500 Colorado	544-9312	Clothing, diapers, formula		Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Children	Hope for Children	801 W. 4th St., Suite 104	545-6821	Family Assistance		Call first
Disability	Center for Disability	1304 Berkley	546-1271	Assist Disabled Individuals	ID, Social Security Card	Call for appt
Disability	Colorado Blue Sky	115 W. 2nd St.	546-0572	Developmentally Disabled	ID, Social Security Card	Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm
Disability	Colorado Blue Sky Housing	2003 Northmoor Terrace	542-6701	Disabled Housing	Agency Referral	
Disaster	American Red Cross	4104 Outlook Blvd. Suite 135D	561-2614	Disaster Assistance		24/7 Phone Access, Office: Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm
Disaster	Salvation Army	520 W. 13th St.	543-3656	Emergency Furniture		Monday-Wednesday 10am-3pm
Disaster	Arc	1115 South Prairie	564-9491	After a disaster; clothing		Call first
Education	El Pueblo Learning and Technology Center	2601 Crawford	560-1007	GED and Job Training	Varies with Programs	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Employment	Pueblo Work Force Center	212 W. 3rd St.	562-3720	Employment		Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm Friday 9am-4:30pm
Employment	Vocational Rehabilitation	720 N. Main St., Suite 320	544-1406	Retaining, education etc.	ID, Social Security Card, Medical Documentation	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Food	Salvation Army Food Bank Program	520 W. 13th St.	543-3656	Food bank boxes	ID, proof of income & address	Tuesday & Thursday 10am-2pm
Food	Salvation Army Feeding Program	520 W. 13th St.	543-3656	Feeding Program - Hot meal		Monday-Saturday at 4pm Sunday at 1pm
Food	Soup Kitchen	422 W. 7th St.	545-6540	Breakfast 9am-10am Lunch 11:15am-12:25pm		Monday-Saturday 7:30am-12:30pm Food Distribution Monday-Friday 9am-12pm
General	Pueblo Cooperative Care Center	326 W. 8th St.	543-7484	Food and clothing	ID, Social Security Card	Business Hours Monday-Friday 7am-1pm
General	Salvation Army	520 W. 13th St.	543-3656	Clothing		Monday-Wednesday 10am-3pm
General	Luv in Action	1044 E. Abriendo	542-0549	Clothing, Food, Household items, & Furniture		Call before Wednesday for a Thursday appt.