

Town of Carbondale Police Department

511 Colorado Ave, Suite 911
Carbondale, CO 81623
970-963-2662



LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

May 28, 2021

To the Carbondale Community,

Here are a few of the latest things going on at the Carbondale Police Department.

Independent Consultant hired to review incident

The Carbondale Police Department continues to learn from the December 24, 2020, incident the department has an objective to improve our communication and listen to individuals and our community. The Carbondale Police Department has begun working on some new programs/initiatives as part of our commitment to you, our community.

I have increased department training in several areas including anti-bias policing, implicit bias training and community policing. This is just the start of some of the training changes going on.

The Town has contracted with Powers Police Consulting and Investigations to review the December 24th incident. Staff has begun providing documents and digital evidence from the incident. I welcome this review and look forward to the findings. Additionally, at my direction, officers will not ask people to leave a business without the business representative signing a document that states they are not having the person removed based on race, color, religion, gender, orientation, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. The decision must be based on behavior.

The Town is also working on bringing a third-party organization to review the department's policies, procedures, and culture. This will happen after Powers Police Consulting and Investigation's review of the department. I look forward to participating in this review as it will assist the department to ensure we are using best practices.

The conclusions and recommendations from both reviews will be used to help guide the department as we move forward in the partnership with the community.

Citizens' Academy held in English and Spanish

We have wonderful people working here that are invested in Carbondale and I want our community to meet us and see this for themselves. Therefore, the Carbondale Police Department will be hosting a Police Citizen's Academy. Our objective is to provide information and knowledge of how and why our officers do what we do. It will be part of our open communication commitment between community and the department. Following the English Citizens' Police Academy, we will

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host a Spanish Citizens' Police Academy for our Latino community. My hope is these academies will make our community feel more welcome to come discuss issues or concerns with us.

Staff changes to better meet community needs

The police department continues to make positive adjustments since last October to be more aligned with best practices. As of July 1st, 2021, the Carbondale Police Department will no longer provide officer to the drug task force, TRIDENT. As a result, I will be adding a full-time investigator position to meet the growing demands of our community. Sex assaults, especially child sex assaults require a tremendous amount of time and care to properly investigate. This move will allow the department to ensure the needs of one of our community's most precious and vulnerable victims are met.

In 2017 Resolution No. 6 was signed approved by the Board of Trustees. Part of that Resolution was to have a Public Relations Officer. Officer Paul Lazo, who is bilingual, has recently filled that position. He is tasked with creating community events, educational tips and participate in other outreach programs as we progress. Officer Lazo is known for his sense of humor and his approachability. I look forward to the good work he will be doing.

I look forward to serving our community and strengthening our relationship with our community. Please contact me directly with any questions or feedback concerning the Carbondale Police Department.

Kirk Wilson, MPA
Chief of Police