

# Media Advisory

## Pueblo Board Of County Commissioners



Pueblo County Courthouse  
215 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pueblo, CO 81003

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For immediate release: Friday, August 18, 2017**

- WHAT:** The Pueblo County Jail Task Force's comprehensive report will be delivered to the public, as promised, on Wednesday, August 30. According to a survey of Colorado's 10 large counties, the Pueblo County jail is the most over-crowded county jail, operating at an average of 145 percent above capacity. The overcrowding is putting detention deputies' safety at risk and exacerbating the jail's overall aging conditions.
- Currently, the jail's critical building system needs, overcrowding and safety hazards, have cost Pueblo County, and ultimately tax payers, approximately \$1.8 million in budget overages for 2017. Those maintenance overages are projected to cost Pueblo County nearly \$14.7 million by 2024 if the aging infrastructure and overcrowding issues continue.
- The report includes short and long-term solutions to address the superfluous maintenance costs as well as the safety and community issues created by long-term overcrowding and the jail's aging infrastructure. The JTF also evaluated the repurposing of the existing dormitories at the existing jail to become a detox and drug treatment center for the community. This treatment center could play a critical role in helping reduce the surging population of the jail and help reverse some negative trends seen in the community.
- This event is open to the public.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, August 30, 2017  
12:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Sangre De Cristo Arts Center  
Ballroom  
210 N. Santa Fe Ave.  
Pueblo, CO 81003
- MEDIA  
INFO:** Media are asked to please be set up NO LATER THAN 12:00 P.M. in the ballroom. A mult box will be provided.

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Paris Carmichael, Pueblo County Community Information Manager, at 719-252-8550 or [carmichp@pueblocounty.us](mailto:carmichp@pueblocounty.us).

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ABOUT THE PUEBLO COUNTY JAIL TASK FORCE: The Pueblo County Jail Task Force met for the first time on Friday, March 17. The task force studied the current conditions and operations of the jail. From the beginning, they promised to deliver a comprehensive report, in the summer of 2017, recommending a short and long-term solution to address the Pueblo County Jail's problems. The task force is comprised of 30 members and includes representatives from county and city entities, members of the sheriff's office, local business and company owners, representatives from local hospitals and citizens. The Pueblo County Jail Task Force held five monthly meetings and five subcommittees met intermittently. More information about the Pueblo County Jail Task Force is available on the county's website: <http://county.pueblo.org/pueblocountyjailtaskforce>.