

Pueblo County *Sheriff*

David J. Lucero



News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471

Date: January 4, 2023

Sheriff Lucero Announces First Promotions of His Tenure

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff elect David J. Lucero recently announced the permanent appointment of Steve Bryant as Undersheriff and the promotions of four other employees as well as some organizational changes.

“This is a proud moment for me to be able to announce these promotions, the first of my tenure as your sheriff,” said Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero. “We are fortunate to have so many outstanding employees at the PCSO and I’m proud to be able to promote these fine individuals to leadership positions in our agency.”

Lucero was elected Sheriff in November but has been serving in the role as the appointed Sheriff since October, following the retirement of longtime Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. Lucero will be sworn in as Sheriff January 10.

In the meantime, Lucero has begun the process of filling some of the leadership vacancies brought about by Taylor’s retirement.

Bryant had been acting Undersheriff since October, filling the position vacated by Lucero, when he was appointed Sheriff. Other promotions announced by Lucero are **Jeremy Bacor** promoted to captain, **John Romo** promoted to Lieutenant and **Aleah Hawkins** and **Jeff Alfonso**, both promoted to sergeant. All promotions were effective December 1.

Lucero also announced he is combining the Emergency Services Bureau with the Law Enforcement Bureau. **Mark Mears**, who had been Chief of the Emergency Services Bureau and acting Chief of Law Enforcement, has assumed the permanent position of Chief of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services. In another move, Lucero re-assigned Captain **Felix Gallardo** to Emergency Services. Gallardo previously had been captain at the Dennis Maes Judicial Building. **Sgt. Bethany Solano**, who had been a patrol sergeant, has been named Inspector in internal affairs.



Lucero said it's a privilege and honor for him to appoint Bryant, a longtime, dedicated PCSO employee, to fill the No. 2 position in the agency.

"Undersheriff Bryant is the type of leader who consistently instills the highest level of integrity and professionalism among all those he leads," said Lucero. "He has the experience, knowledge and ability to help lead this agency into the future. I look forward to seeing the positive impact he is going to have as Undersheriff."

Undersheriff Steve Bryant is a 36-year-veteran of the Sheriff's Office and has worked in all three Sheriff's Office bureaus – Detention, Patrol and Emergency Services. Prior to his appointment as Undersheriff, Bryant was Chief of the Law Enforcement Bureau. He previously served as Captain in the Emergency Services Bureau and the Law Enforcement Bureau. Bryant began his career in 1986 as a detention deputy and was promoted to sergeant in 2016 and lieutenant in 2017. Bryant has worked in investigations, including the Hi-Tech Crime Unit and oversaw the SWAT team and operations at Colorado State University Pueblo. He also spearheaded the Sheriff's Office Drone Program, supervised DARE/SRO deputies and worked in transportation, recreation and medical.

"I've had an incredible career at the Sheriff's Office and I am blessed to work with some of the finest people anywhere," Bryant said. "I'm grateful to Sheriff Lucero for this opportunity to be his Undersheriff. I know I have big shoes to fill. I will work diligently to support the mission of this office and help each one of our members in the continuance of their careers with the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office."

Captain Jeremy Bacor is a 20-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office. Bacor most recently had been a lieutenant in the investigation's unit, working in High-Tech crimes. He began his career as a detention deputy and later transferred to patrol. He has worked in investigations, narcotics, hostage negotiations, the honor guard and was on the Joint Terrorism Task Force. He was promoted to sergeant in 2012, was named inspector in 2016 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2019. Bacor is assigned to the Dennis Maes Judicial Building.

"I have had the privilege to work with some of the best people in my tenure, blessed with some amazing assignments and have been part of several great teams," said Bacor. "Now I have an opportunity to continue to serve as a steward with this organization, investing in others as I was invested in, ushering in the sheriff's vision and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the finest professionals. I look forward to rising to any occasion that challenges us."

Lieutenant John Romo is a 19-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office. He most recently was the inspector in internal affairs. Romo began his career as a detention deputy, where he was also a training officer and a member of the STAT team. In 2008, he was promoted to patrol deputy, where he was a training officer, a member of the SWAT team and a driving instructor for the Pueblo Law Enforcement Academy. In 2016, Romo was promoted to narcotics detective and a year later, promoted to sergeant. As a sergeant, he worked in patrol, narcotics, administrative and as the inspector. Romo is assigned to the patrol unit.

"I am honored to be a Pueblo County Sheriff's Lieutenant," Romo said. "I want to thank Sheriff Lucero for this opportunity that I have been given to mentor and help lead our deputies toward fulfilling the goals of this organization. My expectation is to maintain the highest ethical standards and uphold the values of my community and the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office."

Sergeant Aleah Hawkins has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2015, beginning her career as a detention deputy. She was promoted to patrol deputy, where she also served as a deputy at Colorado State University Pueblo and was certified in traffic investigations and critical incident training. She most recently was a detective in the Criminal Investigations Unit assigned to the Pueblo County Jail. As an investigator, Hawkins became certified in shooting investigations, sexual assault on a disabled person, sexual assault investigator, interview and interrogations and crime scene investigations. Hawkins is assigned to the Detention Bureau.

"I will lead the deputies with faith, integrity and accountability and I will ensure the inmates in custody will be treated with respect, fairness and firmness," Hawkins said. "My goal as a sergeant is to mentor deputies in conducting proper criminal investigations and be the driving force in the quest for success with discipline, confidence and courage."

Sergeant Jeff Alfonso is a 25-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office and has been a patrol deputy for the past 11 ½ years, most recently at Colorado State University Pueblo. Alfonso was hired as a detention deputy in 1997 and while there was on the jail STAT team for nine years and served as the team leader for six years. He formerly served as a background investigator and a drug recognition expert for the Sheriff's Office. He currently is a firearms instructor, firearms armorer, Standard Field Sobriety Test instructor and an intoxilyzer instructor. Alfonso is assigned to the patrol unit.

"This promotion is an honor and gives me the opportunity to continue to coach and mentor other patrol deputies and help them grow in their careers with the Sheriff's Office," Alfonso said.

Lucero said of all the newly promoted, "I could not ask for more highly skilled or hardworking individuals to fill these significant leadership positions in our agency. They are well-trained, experienced and are all capable of handling the responsibilities they will assume with these new positions. I look forward to watching them excel and grow in their leadership abilities."

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