



# *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

David J. Lucero Sheriff  
Steve Bryant Undersheriff

Mark A. Mears  
Bureau Chief  
*Law Enforcement*

Paul J. Toth  
Bureau Chief  
*Detention*

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471

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### **Former Sheriff's Sergeant Arrested Following Independent Investigation**

**Pueblo, CO:** A former Pueblo County Sheriff's Sergeant was arrested today on a warrant issued by a Pueblo County District Court Judge stemming from an independent investigation into allegations that he unlawfully retained and misused funds collected from Pueblo County Sheriff's employees' paychecks after the dissolution of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #7.

Jason Hanratty, 43, was arrested for felony theft and first-degree official misconduct. He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail and his bond has been set at \$50,000. The case has been referred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office for the determination of formal charges.

Hanratty resigned from the Sheriff's Office on April 15. He was assigned to the patrol division as a sergeant and had been employed at the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office since April 2007.

The arrest warrant signed by the District Court Judge alleges that Hanratty, for more than two years, misappropriated over \$17,000 in union dues from 41 Pueblo County Sheriff's employees. Hanratty, who was the vice president of the FOP, allegedly deposited the funds into personal and business accounts under his control.

The investigation was referred to and conducted by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office to ensure impartiality and accountability.

Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero issued the following statement:

"This arrest is both troubling and necessary. The allegations in this case describe conduct that is entirely inconsistent with the values and expectations of the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office. We are sworn to uphold the law — not break it — and that obligation extends to every member of this agency, without exception.

As Sheriff, I took immediate steps to request an outside agency to handle the criminal inquiry to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. We will continue to cooperate fully with the District Attorney's Office as this matter progresses through the legal system."

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office is committed to serving the community with honor, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to public safety and security. Our mission is to control crime, problem solve, reduce the perception of fear, and ultimately improve the quality of life by working in partnership with our citizens.

Further information will be released as this case moves forward.

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**About the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office**

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to protecting life and property, upholding the law, and fostering community partnerships through professional and ethical law enforcement services.