

Councilman Gerald Meloni

1. Is crime a problem in Cañon City?

Crime is a concern in Cañon City, as it is in many communities across the country. That said, we are not ignoring the issue. Our City Council, law enforcement, and local agencies have taken meaningful steps to address crime and public safety, and we are seeing the positive effects of that work—particularly when compared to similarly sized communities with similar budget limitations.

2. Do you believe crime is a significant concern for Cañon City residents right now? Why or why not?

Yes, many residents still perceive crime as a significant concern, especially in relation to property crime, drug activity, and issues tied to homelessness and mental illness. However, it's also important to recognize that city leadership and community partners are actively working on these issues. The concern is real, but so are the efforts being made to improve safety and quality of life.

3. What specific role do you believe the City Council should play in addressing public safety in Cañon City?

The City Council plays a vital leadership role in policy, budget, and collaboration. I believe our council has taken this role seriously—supporting police staffing, advocating for grants, and encouraging partnerships with organizations focused on mental health and homelessness. Moving forward, the council should continue listening to residents and empowering both law enforcement and service providers with the tools they need to succeed.

4. Are the current city resources allocated to public safety in Cañon City appropriate for our community's needs? Please explain your reasoning.

Given our population size and budget constraints, I believe we are doing a commendable job allocating resources toward public safety. Our police department, along with local nonprofits and mental health agencies, work

collaboratively to address root causes of crime. That said, public safety needs are always evolving, and we should continually assess whether new investments—especially in prevention and outreach—could enhance our impact.

5. What specific policy approaches or changes, if any, would you support to address crime concerns in Cañon City?

I support continuing the balanced approach already underway: strong public safety enforcement paired with support for local services that address addiction, homelessness, and mental illness. Policies that expand collaboration between law enforcement and health providers, enhance community engagement, and improve data tracking will help us respond more effectively. The key is staying flexible and responsive while building on the strong foundation we already have.