

**Phil Lund, Mayor**

City of Cañon City, Colorado

March 5, 2026

Chief of Police

Cañon City Police Department

And All Personnel of the CCPD

Dear Chief, Commanders, Officers, Support Staff, and K-9 Teams —

This letter is simple. We are on the same team.

All of us — the officers on patrol, the leaders in the department, those working outside of uniform whose contributions keep everything running, the city’s leadership, and the citizens we serve — are here for the same reason: to make Cañon City a safe, free, and thriving place to live. That shared purpose is worth saying out loud, and worth saying often.

Cañon City is a small city, but the challenges we face don’t respect our size. Drug activity, property crime, mental health crises playing out on our streets — these are real, and they land on your doorstep every single shift. What you may not always hear is what’s on the other side of that work. When our community is safe, families can raise their children with confidence. Neighbors can enjoy the extraordinary natural beauty surrounding this city — the river, the canyons, the open space that makes this place unlike anywhere else. People can build lives here, put down roots, prosper economically, and actually enjoy where they live. That is not an accident. That is, in no small part, because of you. The role you play in making this community what it is cannot be overstated, and we are grateful for it.

Crime will not be tolerated in this city. Communities that get this right share a common formula — effective, professional law enforcement paired with political leadership that backs them up. You will have that. My voice will be a consistent, pro-law-enforcement voice, because when public safety works, everyone wins.

We’ve all watched the news. Some communities are losing the battle, and worse, losing the balance. The breakdown of trust between law enforcement and the public is playing out in real time across the country, and it takes a toll — not just on those cities, but on how citizens everywhere begin to perceive the men and women in uniform. Cañon City does not live in a bubble. Those perceptions find their way here too. That’s exactly why the work we do together matters so much. We have an opportunity — and a responsibility — to show what it looks like when law enforcement and community leadership are genuinely on the same side.

We also all took an oath — to the Constitution, to the citizens, to something bigger than any one of us. The freedoms protected by the First, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments aren't obstacles to good policing. They are what we are all here to defend. When law enforcement and community both understand that, trust grows — and trust makes everyone safer, including the men and women wearing the badge. And freedom — precious freedom — is preserved.

The job is hard. The decisions made in seconds, the weight of what gets seen on a single shift — that does not go unnoticed. Your safety matters to us, not just while on duty but off as well. Our goal is for Cañon City to be as good a place for you as it is for the citizens you serve. A place where you can come home, enjoy your lives, and know that your families are safe too. That is what we are building together.

To every person in this department — on the street or off it, in command or in support, in uniform or behind the desk, on two legs or four — your work is seen, and it matters. Thank you.

Working alongside you, this city can be the best it can be — not just for those we serve, but for every person who calls Cañon City home, including each of you. And for the thousands who visit this community every year. Our commitment is to them as well.

Let's keep building our city together.

### **Cañon City Forward — Together!**

With appreciation, respect, and prayers for your safety,

**Phil Lund**

Mayor, City of Cañon City

*CC: Ryan Stevens, City Administrator*