



## **BRUCE NEWMAN ★ Huerfano County Sheriff**

500 S. Albert Street • Walsenburg, CO 81089 • Ph. (719) 738-1600 • Fax (719) 738-3676

To the Mayor and City Council of Walsenburg:

I am writing to notify you that the Huerfano County Sheriff's Office will no longer provide contract law enforcement services to the City of Walsenburg, effective Jan. 1, 2025. After careful consideration and an assessment of the current operational demands placed on the Sheriff's Office, it has become clear that we are unable to continue this partnership.

Law enforcement has significantly changed in Colorado and across the country in the last several years. Decisions made at the state level have given our office and our deputies more liability and increased responsibilities. At the same time, it has become more difficult to attract and keep quality deputies. Beyond the astounding salaries on offer from larger and wealthier counties, fewer people are interested in law enforcement careers. As the demands on our limited resources have grown, we need to focus on the needs of the entire County, all 7,000 people spread over 1,593 square miles. Unfortunately, it is not feasible to remain the sole provider of law enforcement service to the City without compromising the safety and security of the rest of the County.

I value the relationship between the City and the County. We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and building a strong working relationship with the new City police department. We would prefer to be proactive in this effort and start working together sooner rather than later. While this change will present more challenges for both the City and the County, it gives us an opportunity to improve the overall level of service for our residents. Ultimately, I believe this is in the best interests of our entire community.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you wish to discuss this matter further. Please let me know if I can assist during the transition period.

Thank you for your understanding and dedication to the safety of our shared community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Newman".

Bruce Newman  
Huerfano County Sheriff