

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## Grand Junction Police Department





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**Officer Dennis**

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# MISSION & CORE VALUES

## MISSION

We are committed to enhancing community safety, reducing fear of crime, and elevating the quality of life through partnerships and innovative policing initiatives.

## CORE VALUES

Professionalism  
Integrity  
Compassion  
Service

## VISION

Policing with honor and distinction.

This photo of Officer Naik and child was taken during the 2023 Kite Day event. It was selected as one of 11 winners of the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services Division 2024 "Community Policing in Action" photo contest.





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Dear community members and friends,

I am honored to share our 2023 Annual Report. This report is just one of the components in our ongoing commitment to transparency and safety within our community.

In 2023, we responded to 62,071 calls for service, a slight increase to the 59,879 in 2022. With an ever-growing number of people who come into the City of Grand Junction to live, shop, and play, comes an increase in criminal activity.

In 2023, we saw a slight increase in theft by shoplift. We are working with businesses and community members on proactive intelligence-led policing strategies to address and help reduce these types of crimes. With the use of innovative technology, we are able to collect, analyze, and formulate responses to calls for service. Traffic remains an ongoing issue nationwide and Grand Junction is not immune to this. In 2023, we collaborated with local law enforcement agencies to perform monthly surge operations in high traffic complaint areas which yielded an increase in traffic contacts. We have continued these surge operations, with the goal of improving public safety on our roadways.

Our goal in policing is not only to respond to incidents but to prevent them through proactive measures and community engagement. The relationships we have with local public safety agencies, City of Grand Junction leadership, businesses, and residents are vital in creating a safe community.

Our biggest asset, by far, continues to be our people. Their commitment to serving the community with professionalism, integrity, and compassion is not only their duty, but also a part of the culture we strive for. Building and fostering positive community relationships remains at the forefront of serving this community. I encourage you to connect with us over social media and at the various community events our team participates in like Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, and Community Police Academy.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. It is an honor to work alongside the men and women of the Grand Junction Police Department who serve the members of this community.

Sincerely,  
Matt Smith - Chief of Police



# COMMAND STRUCTURE



**Greg Caton**  
City Manager



**Matt Smith**  
Chief of Police



**Gary Marak**  
Deputy Chief  
Operations



**William Baker**  
Deputy Chief  
Services



**Shawn Hasty**  
Deputy Chief  
Special Units



**Suzette  
Freidenberger**  
Investigations  
Commander



**Doug Norcross**  
Patrol  
Commander



**Robert Fisher**  
Patrol  
Commander



**Cory Tomps**  
Professional  
Standards  
Commander



**Sean Crocker**  
Special Teams  
Commander



**Chris Taylor**  
Patrol  
Commander



**Trent Rundquist**  
Civilian Manager  
Lab Services



**Amber Peck**  
Civilian Manager  
Civilian Services



**Cindy Casteel**  
Communications  
Center Manager

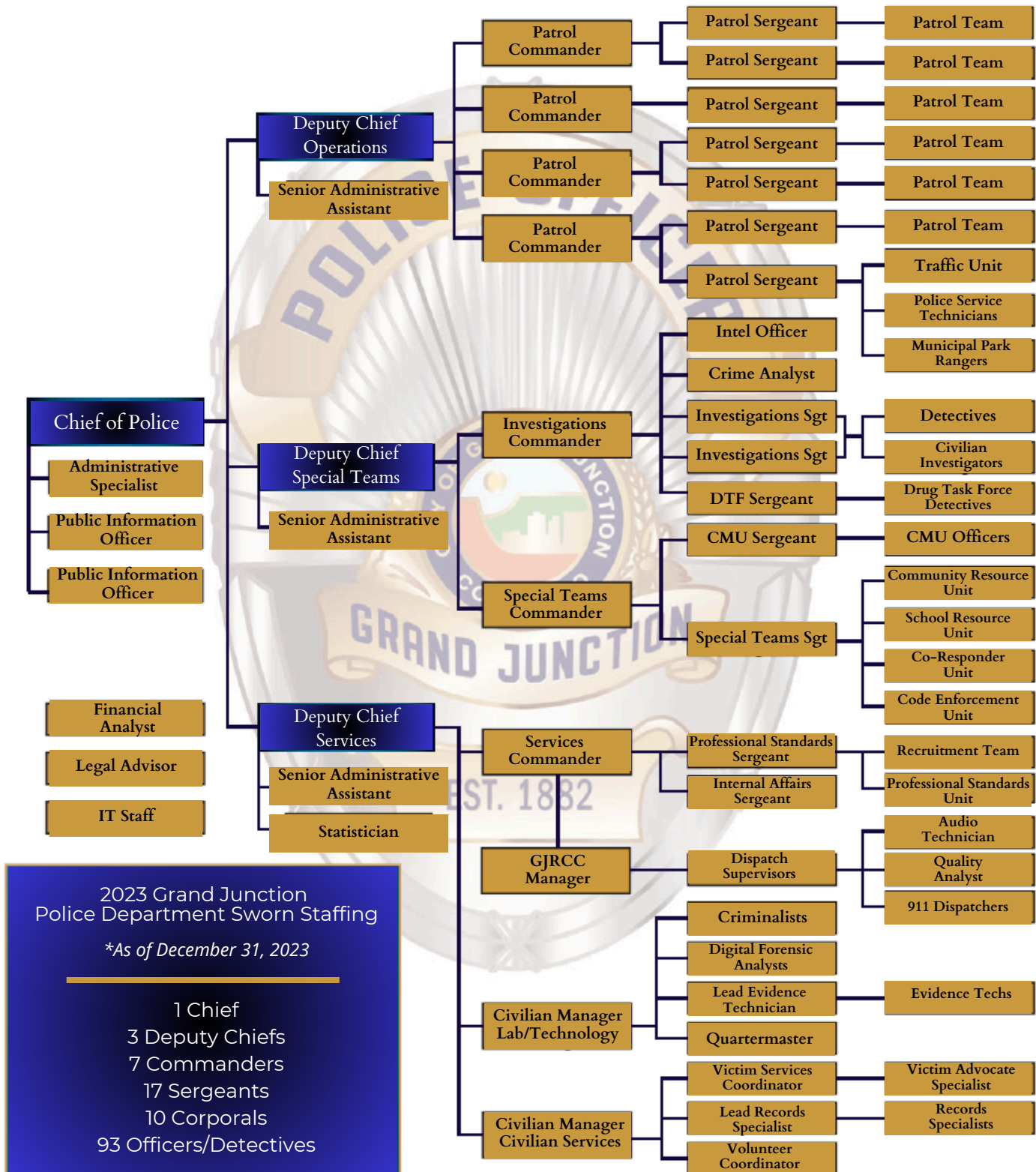


**Jason Sawyer**  
Patrol  
Commander





# AGENCY ORGANIZATION





# CRIME OVERVIEW



OFFENSES	2022	2023	%
Homicide	3	2	-33%
Rape	70	59	-16%
Robbery	49	55	12%
Aggravated Assault	201	231	15%
Burglary	454	388	-15%
Theft	1493	1525	2%
Auto Theft	502	491	2%
Harassment	637	654	3%





# MEET OUR TEAMS

## *Police Operations*

The Grand Junction Police Department's Police Operations Division is a cornerstone of the Grand Junction Police Department's efforts to ensure the safety and security of the community it serves. This branch of the GJPD refers to the various activities and duties performed by police officers and other law enforcement personnel while on patrol. The primary goal of patrol operations is to maintain public safety, prevent and respond to crimes, and foster community relations.

**GJPD Police Operations Division includes six Patrol Teams, the Traffic Unit, Police Service Technicians, and Municipal Park Rangers.**





The "Legacy" statue by Greg Todd stands in the front of the Grand Junction Police Department





# MEET OUR TEAMS

## Patrol

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible division of the Grand Junction Police Department, responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service. This division, comprised of over 60 uniformed police officers in marked vehicles, is responsible for responding to crimes in progress, disturbances, and other incidents requiring police assistance. This can also include proactively patrolling areas to deter criminal activity through their visible presence. Patrol Officers also work to engage with community members to build trust and cooperation. You will often see them talking with residents and participating in local events to strengthen police-community relationships.

**62,071 CALLS FOR SERVICE**



**Officer Wiens and a Police Service Technician  
tape off the scene of an incident**





**CJPD Police Service Technicians**



**Officer Ferguson at a crash**



**Officers responding to a robbery**



**Police Service Technician  
booking in evidence**



**Municipal Park Ranger  
on Main Street**





# MEET OUR TEAMS



**Grand Junction Police Department Forensic Investigator and Grand Junction Fire Department Fire Investigator on scene of an arson which occurred in December, 2023**





# *Police Services*

The Grand Junction Police Department's Services Division encompasses a broad range of functions by sworn and non-sworn personnel. These operations go beyond the traditional patrol duties and involve various specialized services and administrative functions. A large number of the GJPD's civilian employees make up the Services Operations, providing important services to Patrol and the community.

**GJPD Services Operations includes the department's Professional Standards Unit/Training, Recruiting, Internal Affairs, 911 Dispatch, Volunteer Services, Victim Services, Records, Evidence/Property, Digital Forensics Analysts, Drug Chemists, and Quarter Master.**





# MEET OUR TEAMS

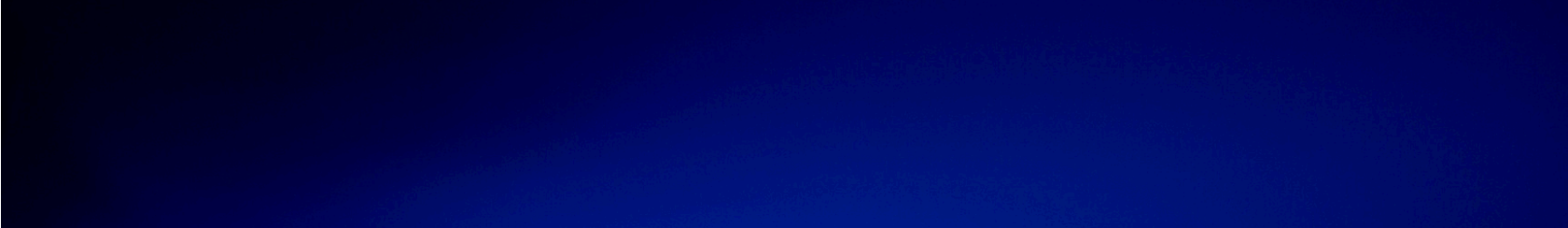
## *Dispatch*

The Grand Junction Regional Communication Center (GJRCC) is a 24 - hour, 365 day operation, responsible for dispatching over 25 law enforcement and fire/EMS agencies in the region.

The GJRCC was recognized by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch as an Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) for emergency dispatching and was re-accredited as the 291st Medical ACE in the world. Centers who earn ACE status are the embodiment of dispatch done right, and have demonstrated strong local oversight, and a commitment to data-driven continuous improvement.

**290,279 CALLS HANDLED**  
**151,765 INCIDENTS DISPATCHED**





**911 Dispatcher dispatches first responders to emergencies**

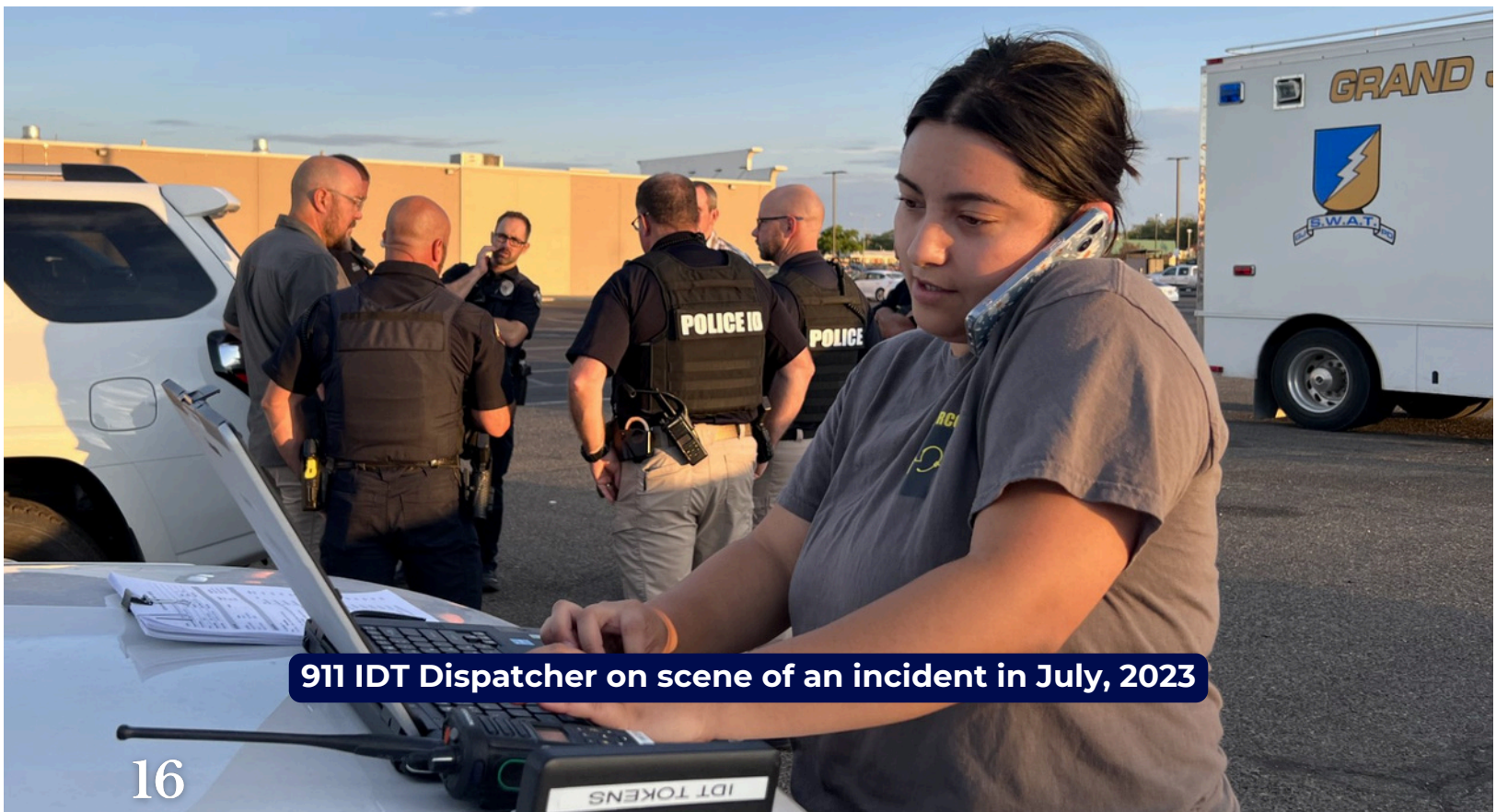




# MEET OUR TEAMS

## *Incident Dispatch Team*

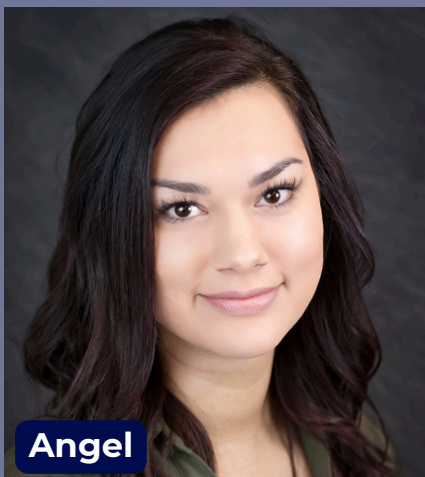
The Incident Dispatch Team (IDT), comprised of members from the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center, responds to large incidents in mobile communications vehicles. The IDT has provided support for Country Jam and the Grand Junction Air Show. This team also responds to unplanned incidents, including search and rescue incidents, large scale SWAT or police incidents, and major accidents on the interstate.





# *Stork Awards*

In 2023, five 911 Dispatchers with the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center assisted community members with the deliveries of their babies. The stork pin, awarded to dispatchers who assist in the delivery of a baby, signifies the impact this act had on this significant life event.



2023  
Stork Pin  
Recipients





# MEET OUR TEAMS



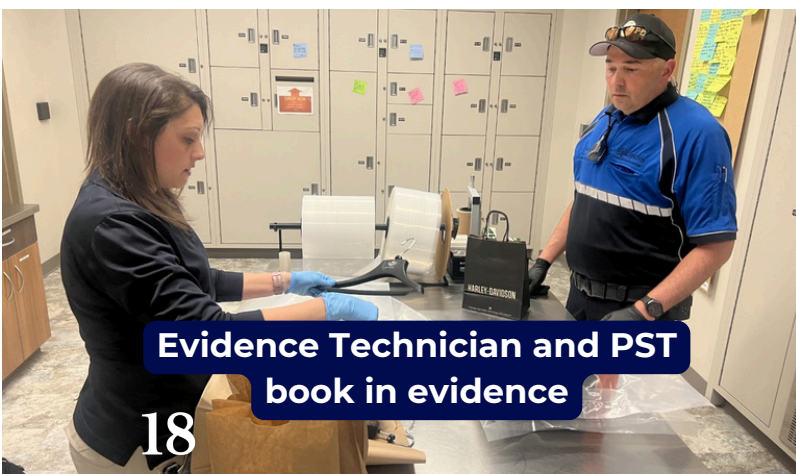
**GJPD Firearms Instructor Raber gives instructions during in-service training**



**Records Specialist**



**Digital Forensic Analyst analyzes a cellphone**



**Evidence Technician and PST book in evidence**



**911 Dispatcher dispatches a call**





**GJPD Public Safety and Victim Services Volunteers**

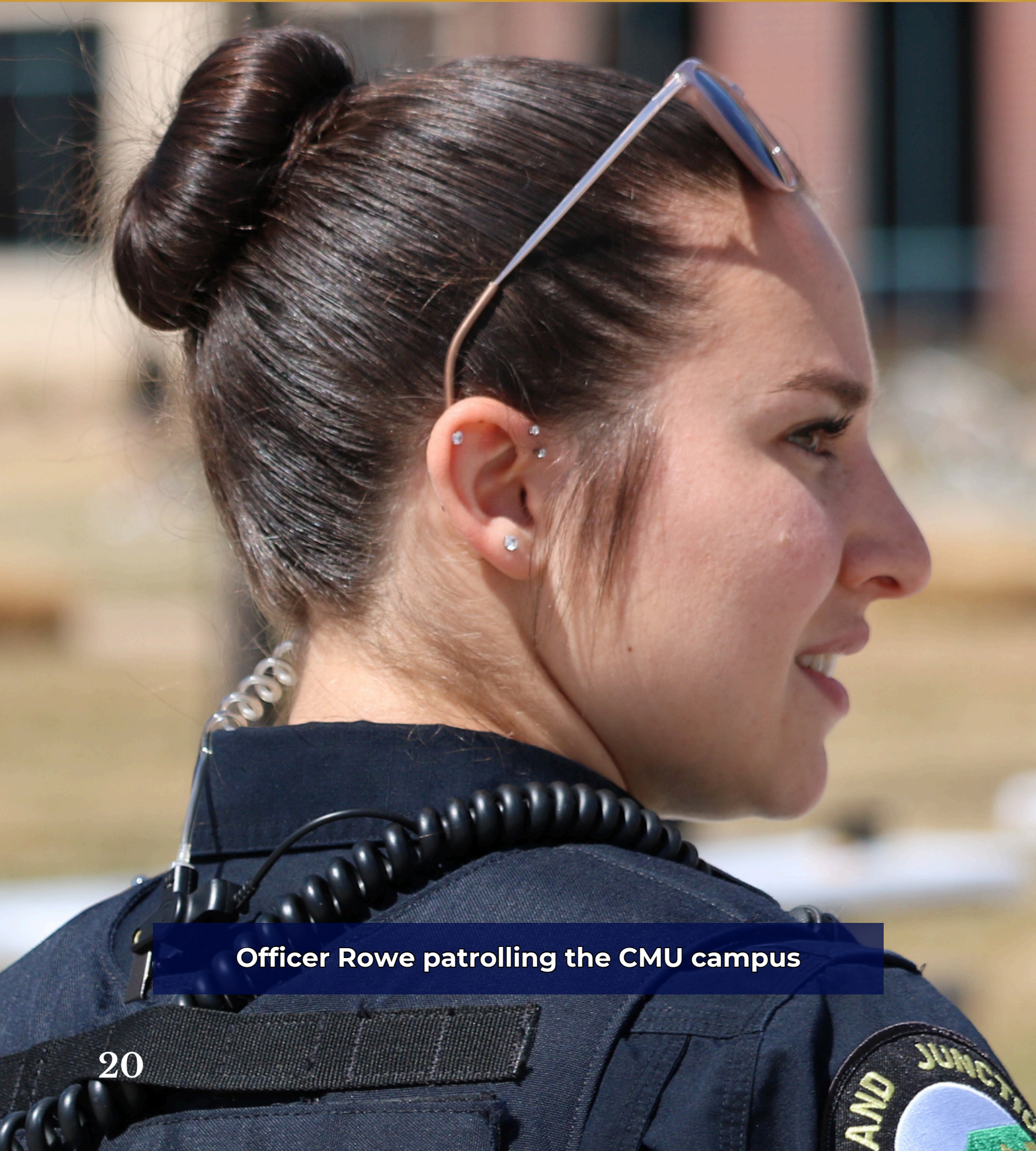


**Criminalist analyzes a sample of an illegal substance**





# MEET OUR TEAMS



Officer Rowe patrolling the CMU campus



# *Special Units*

The Grand Junction Police Department's Special Units have distinct roles focused on specific areas or responsibilities of community safety and well-being. Whether it is having a presence in the city's public schools and university, working complex cases, serving the unhoused population, crime analysis, or working to ensure the compliance of ordinances and regulations set by the City of Grand Junction, our Special Units are essential for maintaining order, safety, and quality of life within our community.

**GJPD Special Units include the department's School Resource Unit, Community Resource Unit, Co-Responder Unit, CMU Officers, Code-Enforcement Officers, Investigations Unit, Marijuana Compliance, Drug Task Force, Intelligence, and ARTIC.**





# MEET OUR TEAMS

## *Community Resource Unit*

The Grand Junction Police Department's Community Resource Unit or CRU serves the community by developing and implementing programs to prevent crime, promote safety, and participate in community events. CRU works closely with the unhoused population and strives to maintain positive relationships with those they contact by providing assistance and connecting that population with needed resources.

CRU officers also provide residents and local businesses with active-threat presentations and partner with Mesa County Crime Stoppers and the Downtown Development Authority.

**28 Community Presentations**



**Corporal Culver giving a presentation**





**GJPD SROs, Code-Enforcement, and CRU**



**CMU Officers**



**Co-Responder Unit**



**School Resource Officers at  
OMMS basketball game**





# MEET OUR TEAMS

## *Drug Task Force*

The Western Colorado Drug Task Force (WCDTF), formed in 1998, consists of detectives from the Grand Junction Police Department and Mesa County Sheriff's Office.

From August 2022 to August 2023, the WCDTF collaborated with the West Metro Drug Task Force in Operation Long John, which resulted in 34 arrests and seizures of 412 pounds of methamphetamine, 356,350 fentanyl pills, 22 pounds of fentanyl powder, three kilograms of cocaine, one pound of heroin, two pill presses and 30 firearms. This investigation was ultimately successful in the dismantlement of the Drug Trafficking Organization, which is linked to the Sinaloa Cartel.

**80.01 lbs Fentanyl Seized**

**153.2 lbs Methamphetamine Seized**

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**383.98 lbs Total Drugs Seized**



**WCDTF Detectives with seized drugs**





**Detective Rojo on scene of an incident which occurred in October, 2023**



**Investigations team on scene of an incident in June, 2023**



**Crime Analyst and Intel Officer**





# MEET OUR TEAMS



**Corporal Rose during  
a SWAT training exercise**





# *Collateral Assignments*

Grand Junction Police Officers often take on collateral assignments in addition to their assigned position within the department. These collateral assignments allow officers to specialize in specific areas or provide support in various operational or administrative functions. These specialized skills contribute to the GJPD in diverse ways, enhancing overall service, response, and effectiveness in keeping this community safe.

**Collateral assignments include K9, Crisis Negotiation Team, Honor Guard, SWAT, Bomb Squad, Field Training Officer, Firearms Training Officer, Driving Instructor, Defensive and Patrol Tactics, Drone Operator, Forensic Investigator, and Peer Support.**





# MEET OUR TEAMS

## *Bomb Squad*

The Grand Junction Bomb Squad is comprised of GJPD Officers and firefighters with the Grand Junction Fire Department. This joint team acquired a new Telerob robot in 2023 through a grant. This new technology will enhance the effectiveness and capability during remote operations and allow bomb technicians to safely handle potentially dangerous and explosive materials. Bomb disposal operations are inherently dangerous, and the use of robots allows Bomb Squad Technicians to operate from a safer distance, reducing risk of injury or death to operators and citizens.

This team is dispatched to incidents in over a dozen counties in Colorado and Utah, as well as handling special events such as the ESPN X Games in Aspen, Colorado.



**Grand Junction Bomb Squad's Telerob robot**





**GJPD Driving Training**



**GJPD Honor Guard**



**GJPD Firearms Training**



**Crisis Negotiator Gregory at an incident**





# MEET OUR TEAMS



SWAT responding to an incident in January, 2023



Arrest Control Training

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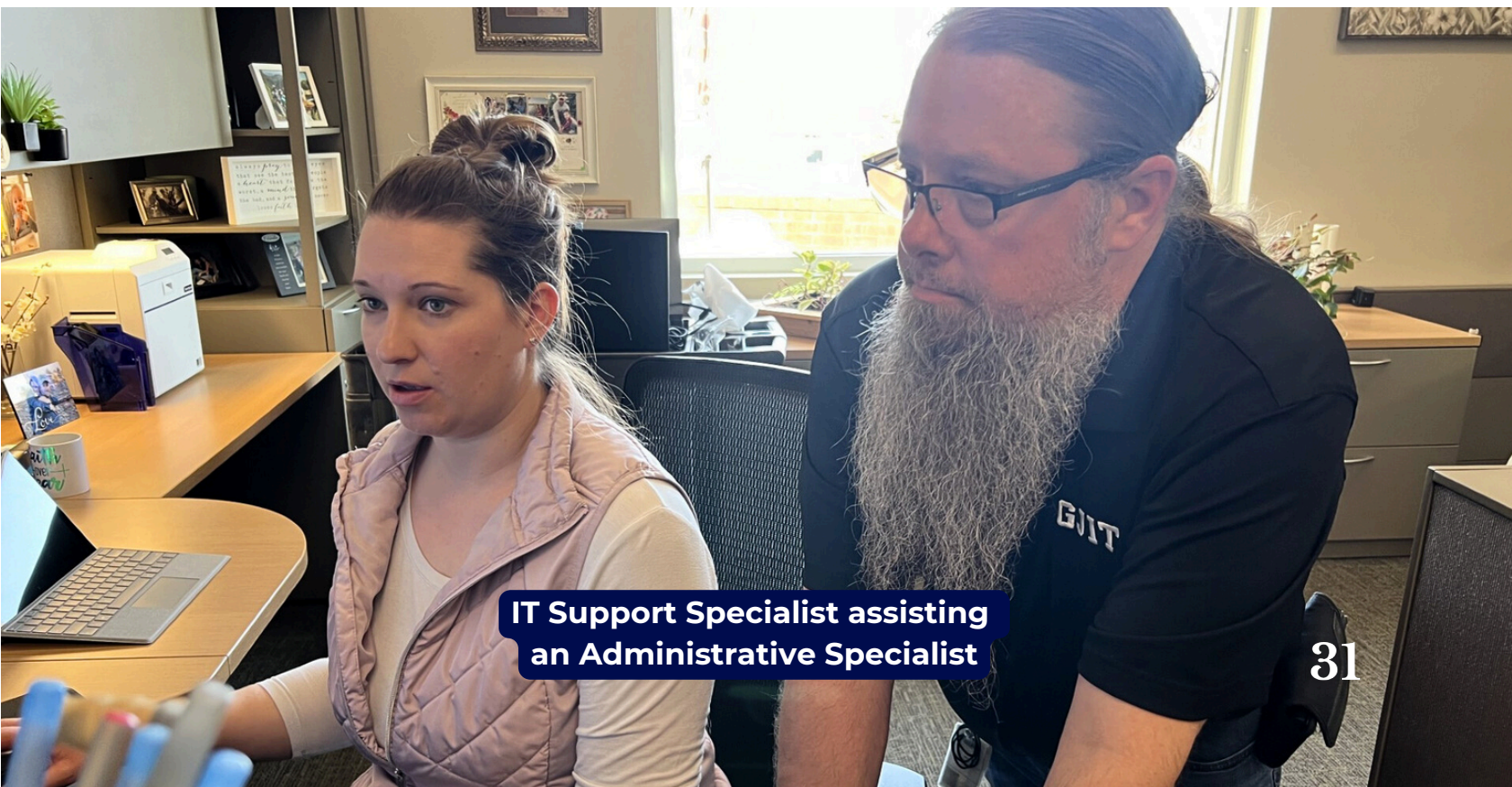
Officers flying a drone during an incident in February, 2023



# Auxiliary Staff

The Grand Junction Police Department's auxiliary staff provides support and assistance to the main operational functions of the organization. This team of individuals performs tasks that are essential to the smooth running of the GJPD.

**Grand Junction Police auxiliary staff includes the department's administrative assistants, maintenance personnel, IT support, a Statistician, Public Safety Legal Advisor, Financial Analyst, and Public Information Officers.**



**IT Support Specialist assisting  
an Administrative Specialist**





# By the Numbers



TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE  
(GJPD ONLY)  
**62,071**



PERSONNEL  
**131 SWORN**  
**101 CIVILIAN**



OPEN RECORDS  
REQUESTS  
**4,940**



PROPERTY &  
EVIDENCE ITEMS  
COLLECTED  
**20,021**



2023 GJPD BUDGET  
**33.7 MILLION**



2023 GJRCC BUDGET  
**7.9 MILLION**

TOTAL BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH CALLS  
**1,036**



AVERAGE TIME SPENT  
PER CALL  
**30 MINUTES**



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TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**3,375**



TOTAL VICTIM SERVICES  
HOURS ON CALL

**17,272**



PARKING TICKETS  
ISSUED

**8,189**



CODE ENFORCEMENT  
CASES OPENED

**1,470**

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GJPD INCIDENTS  
DISPATCHED

**62,071**



TOTAL REGIONAL  
INCIDENTS DISPATCHED

**151,762**

TOTAL CALLS HANDLED BY DISPATCH

**290,279**



TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED

**3,100**





# SOCIAL MEDIA

## #GJPD

# Social Media

## #servingGJ



**38,752 followers in 2023**

3,995,435 Page Reach

Up 288% from 2022



**5,454 followers in 2023**



**5,403 followers in 2023**



Collage of GJPD social media posts of officers

**Connect with us!**

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**@grandjunctionpolicedepartment**



# RETIREMENTS



**Commander Steve Moore** joined the Grand Junction Police Department in 1997 and spent the first half of his career as a Motor Officer, investigating well over 1,000 serious vehicle crashes. He was heavily involved in mentoring the youth of the Grand Valley, coaching the Palisade High School baseball team. For over 38 years, Steve held steadfast to his values and pursuit of justice.



**Corporal Bob Culver** joined the Grand Junction Police Department in 1990. From his years as a Patrol officer to his tenure in Investigations, Bob consistently showed his resiliency and commitment to solving crimes and helping victims. Bob held numerous collateral duties, including 19 years as a SWAT operator and 15 years as a Field Training Officer. He retired as a member of the Community Resource Unit, where his contributions were invaluable.



**Detective Ed Prescott** was selected to become a Grand Junction Police Officer in 1994, where he served on patrol. In 2001, Ed was assigned to the investigations division where he served as a detective, solving over 1,150 criminal cases, including sex assaults on children and adults, felony assaults, and other high-profile felony crimes and homicides. He was a paramount source of wisdom for all who had the honor of working with him.



**Corporal Tyler Simonson** began his career with the Grand Junction Police Department in 2000 and served as a Police Officer for over 23 years. When teammates talked about Tyler, one consistent thing shone through: his belief in taking care of those around him. "Don't forget to thank them", he would often tell young officers.

*Thank you for your service to the GJPD  
and the City of Grand Junction.*





# WHY I WEAR THE BADGE

"I serve because I enjoy the impact of this profession. We have the opportunity to positively affect the people of this community every day and help those who are in need or who can't help themselves. As a result, we often feel the biggest impact on serving something bigger than ourselves. I also serve for the people around me. The comradery in this profession is impactful, and working together to problem-solve and accomplish a task is very rewarding." ~ **Sergeant Tyler Hinton**



**Sergeant**

"I serve because of those who served me! As a young boy, my mother and I fell victim to domestic violence and abuse. I remember going from victim to Superman when the shiny badge showed up. A victim should NEVER be alone on the worst day of their life, so I choose to wear the shiny badge." ~ **Officer RJ Eaton**



**Officer  
RJ Eaton**

"I grew up watching my grandparents serve their communities, which instilled in me a desire to serve others. I serve to protect the community from those who wish to cause harm. I serve to comfort victims in times of crisis. It is extremely rewarding and fulfilling to be a part of something bigger than myself." ~ **Detective Casey Jones**



**Detective  
Casey Jones**





Officer  
Taylor Rapp

“As the oldest of four, I have always felt like a protector to my younger siblings, and I wanted to become a protector for the community. Interacting with members of the community on good and bad days is a humbling experience. I once had a girl tell her parents, “I didn’t know girls could be cops, too!”. Being able to show her she could be anything she wanted to be is an experience I would not give up for the world. Every day I put my uniform on, I think about changing perceptions and making a difference, no matter how small it may seem.” ~ **Officer Taylor Rapp**



Officer  
Micah Conrads

“Growing up, School Resource Officers would know my name and show up at school and sporting events. I felt like they genuinely cared for me and my peers. Interacting with them helped shape my view of law enforcement and started me down the path of wanting to be a police officer. I enjoy helping people when they are going through a time of crisis. I have had the opportunity to work with some incredible officers who truly value their work and bring peace and calm to stressful situations. I serve because I want to be that officer to those in need and make a difference in my community.”

~ **Officer Micah Conrads**



Officer  
Hannah Wilson

“This community has been a large part of my life in the past few years and I serve to give back to it. I became a police officer to help people and being someone a person can count on. I put my uniform on each day, hoping I can make a difference. I serve to be there for my community and protect the people who live in the place I call home.”

~ **Officer Hannah Wilson**





# PROUD TO SERVE



Photo collage of GJPD employees at work  
and engaging with members of the community





Photo collage of GJPD employees at work  
and engaging with members of the community





# PROUD TO SERVE



Photo collage of GJPD employees at work  
and engaging with members of the community





Photo collage of GJPD employees at work  
and engaging with members of the community





# PROUD TO SERVE



Photo collage of GJPD employees at work  
and engaging with members of the community





Photo collage of GJPD employees at work  
and engaging with members of the community





CITY OF  
**Grand Junction**  
COLORADO  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

555 Ute Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

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911 for Emergencies  
Non-Emergency Dispatch 970-242-6707  
All other information 970-549-5000

[www.gjcity.org](http://www.gjcity.org)