



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Is the Lafayette Police Department an accredited police agency?

- The Lafayette Police Department is an accredited police agency through the Colorado Chiefs of Police Association (CACP) and has been since 1988. This accreditation exists to enable CACP members to achieve a “Professional” status. The adoption of minimum professional standards is necessary for Colorado police and sheriff organizations to achieve the status of “Professional.” CACP, through the Professional Standards Committee, safeguard the integrity of the accreditation process for their members by utilizing professionally accepted methods for CACP professional accreditation. This ensures the police department will be following “best practices” for law enforcement professionals.

### What steps does the Lafayette Police Department take to be a professional law enforcement agency?

- As stated above the Lafayette Police Department is an accredited police agency.
- Additionally, the Lafayette Police Department subscribes to *Lexipol: Public Safety Policy Training Solutions* to provide the most current and legally sound policy manual that follows “best practice” guidelines. Access our policy manual [here](#).
- The police chief hosts quarterly Best Practices meetings with surrounding police chiefs.
- The Lafayette Police Department is an associate member of [Police Executive Research Forum \(PERF\)](#).
- In addition to state mandated training, Lafayette Police Department has an extensive in-service training program that far exceeds the requirements of [Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Rule 28](#).

### Are Lafayette police officers trained in de-escalation?

- Lafayette police officers are very highly trained and skilled professionals. They receive an extensive amount of on-going training throughout their careers. De-escalation is a very important skill set taught to officers through training videos and during in-service training classes. We also require each officer to attend a week-long class, Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which focuses on de-escalation and teaches officers how to help people who are in a mental health crisis. Not all police agencies require this training.

### How does the Lafayette Police Department recruit officers?

- All job postings are listed on the [City of Lafayette website](#), Indeed.com, and governmentjobs.com. Lafayette Police Department staff also attend job fairs and teach at some of the local police academies.

### Are officers of the Lafayette Police Department thoroughly vetted to ensure they do not have a history of abuse, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, or an issue with discrimination?

- The Lafayette Police Department conducts a very thorough background investigation into all applicants that are hired for the Lafayette Police Department. Perspective applicants submit to intense interviews, a polygraph, a psychological examination, a Personnel Evaluation Profile, as well as a very thorough look at their background.



During the background investigation, we go beyond interviewing family and friends, we look at social media, interview acquaintances, and speak to former employers.

## Do Lafayette police officers utilize body-worn cameras?

- Currently the Lafayette Police Department does not have body worn cameras, but they have been funded in the 2021 budget.

## What is Colorado Senate Bill 20-217?

- Senate Bill 20-217 was passed in June 2020 by Colorado legislature to enhance law enforcement integrity. View full details [here](#). The Lafayette Police Department is currently in compliance with the requirement of SB20-217.

## Does the Lafayette Police Department allow chokeholds?

- No. Lafayette Police Department policy number 300.3.6 states: “An officer is prohibited from using a chokehold upon another person. A chokehold is defined as a method by which a person applies sufficient pressure to a person to make breathing difficult or impossible. It also includes pressure to stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries (CRS § 18-1-707).”

## Are officers of the Lafayette Police Department required to intervene and report excessive use of force?

- Yes. Lafayette Police Department policy number 300.2.1 states: “An officer shall intervene to prevent or stop another peace officer from using physical force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by CRS § 18-1-707.”
- “An officer who witnesses another peace officer using force in excess of that permitted by CRS § 18-1-707 shall report such use of force in writing to the officer's immediate supervisor. Such report shall be within 10 days of the occurrence and include the date, time, and place of the occurrence, the identities, if known, and description of the participants, and a description of the events and the force used (CRS § 18-8-802).”

## Does the Lafayette Police Department have an independent, unbiased team to investigate police actions?

- Yes. An officer involved shooting or in-custody death is investigated by the independent Boulder County Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT). Pursuant to statute and protocol, Boulder County has designated a Critical Incident Response Team to respond to every Boulder County officer-involved shooting that results in injury or death. This team is comprised of dedicated and experienced multi-agency law enforcement personnel to ensure an objective and thorough investigation is completed in these cases. The District Attorney's Office plays an active role in assisting the CIRT. The agency involved in the incident does not play an active role in the investigation. Once the investigation is complete, the CIRT presents their findings to the District Attorney.
- Additionally, any allegations of criminal misconduct by an employee of the Lafayette Police Department is evaluated to see if it will be investigated internally or if an outside law enforcement agency will be requested by the Chief of Police to do an independent investigation.



## Who provides dispatch services for the Lafayette Police Department?

- The Boulder County Communication Center provides dispatch services to the Lafayette Police Department. All calls are screened through trained dispatchers before they are aired to an officer to handle. If you need to speak to an officer, the non-emergency number to the communication center is (303) 441-4444.

## How can I file a complaint or give an officer a compliment?

- If you had contact with a police officer and received a business card, there is a telephone number on the back of the card (303-661-1455) directing you to a comment line.
- If you would like to speak to the on-duty supervisor about an incident, please contact the Boulder County Dispatch Center, 303-441-4444, and request a supervisor call you.
- If you would like to fill out a complaint/compliment form, they are located on the Lafayette Police Department [website](#) and in paper form in the Lafayette Police Department's lobby.
- If you do not feel comfortable speaking directly to a police officer, we have arranged for a liaison at [Sister Carmen](#), 655 Aspen Ridge Drive and at [Clinica Family Health](#), 1735 South Public Rd. They can assist in contacting the Lafayette Police Department's professional standards investigator.

## Are there ways for residents to become more familiar with officers and the police department?

- The Lafayette Police Department has many ways for people to get to know their local police officers. One of the best ways is to attend a Citizens' Police Academy. Attendees can see and experience what officers do on a daily basis to keep the community safe.
- We also host a variety of community events including Coffee With A Cop, Public Safety Day for Kids, Bicycle Rodeo, National Night Out, and Santa Cop.
- Another great way to get to know your local police officers is to come out and [ride along with an officer](#).