

# The Spotlight



A Publication of the Boulder Police Department

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## Chief Greg Testa talks future focus & current challenges

*Boulder Police Chief Greg Testa has been in the top spot at the Boulder Police Department for several months now, after having served as the interim chief of police since April 1, 2014. He talks about what he's learned so far, issues facing the department and the Boulder community, and what our focus will be in the coming years.*

as compared to being a chief – deputy chiefs really focus on issues inside the department and their divisions. As chief, there's much more emphasis on issues outside the organization in terms of the community, city council and other city departments. There are many large-scale projects underway in Boulder and while the police department isn't the lead on many of them, we do collaborate with those departments to provide input and police perspective on those projects.

**You've been with the department for 27 ½ years and were a deputy chief for five of those years. What are your impressions of the police chief job so far?**

**What's the biggest challenge facing our department internally right now?**

It's become evident to me how much of a difference there is between being a second in command

The biggest thing in front of us internally is the transition

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From left to right: Deputy Chief Curtis Johnson (Operations), Chief Greg Testa and Deputy Chief Carey Weinheimer (Support & Staff Services).

# ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

Most of you have heard of the “ice bucket challenges” that people are doing for good causes. Recently, the Northglenn Police Department challenged the Boulder Police Department to raise money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund by participating in an ice bucket challenge. Boulder Police Chief Greg Testa accepted, but decided that being doused with a bucket of water wasn’t enough of a real challenge...so he talked Boulder Fire-Rescue into spraying down participants from one of their bucket trucks. (Which Boulder Fire-Rescue gladly did!)

Employees from the police department, the City Manager’s Office, Public Works, Communications, Energy Future, Open Space & Mountain Parks, the City Attorney’s Office plus Parks and Rec participated, and raised more than \$1,000 which will be contributed to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

Chief Testa challenged other chiefs to take the challenge, including: Sheriff Joe Pelle; Longmont Police Chief Mike Butler; Erie Police Chief Marco Vasquez; Lafayette Police Chief Rick Bashor; Louisville Police Chief Dave Hayes and University of Colorado Police Chief Melissa Zak.

A big thank you to everyone who participated, and to Boulder Fire-Rescue for the assist.



Boulder Fire-Rescue douses Ice Bucket Challenge participants at Scott Carpenter Park on Sept. 22, 2014.

## Outstanding!

### Det. Steve Faber receives awards for work with victims, elderly

Detective Steve Faber has been recognized several times this year for his outstanding work with victims of crime, members of the community and a variety of community agencies who partner with the Boulder Police Department.

Earlier this year, the Elder Justice Coalition of Boulder County presented Steve with their Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Recognition Award, which recognizes those whose efforts have contributed to enhancing the safety, security and dignity of elders in Boulder County.

Detective Sgt. Jim MacPherson, in his letter nominating Steve for the award, said “Steve Faber has sought to help the elderly and disabled. He has forged very strong relationships with HHS and particularly the case workers with Adult Protective Services.”

Team members with Adult Protective Services were very complimentary of Steve’s work, saying, “When our team thinks about ways to describe Steve, we think of the following: friend, intelligent, methodical, determined, stubborn, feisty, driven, thorough, kind, thoughtful and extremely compassionate... he is not only working for justice but to truly improve lives however he can.”

The Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence also awarded Steve their “Outstanding Law Enforcement Award” in recognition of his service to promote a safe, just and equitable world for victims and their families.

And last, but not least, Steve was also nominated for the Beth Haynes Memorial Award, given annually by the Boulder County Domestic Violence Task Force. Other members of the department were also nominated, including Officer Colleen Wilcox, Officer Nate Logue and Officer Beth McNally. (Detective Jo Shuler of the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office won the award).

Congratulations to Detective Steve Faber and all of the award nominees from BPD. We appreciate your good work and your service to the Boulder community.



Detective Steve Faber (middle) is pictured with his Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention Recognition Award, along with Detective Sgt. Jim MacPherson (left) and Steve’s wife, Debbie (right).

## OSMP’s Voice and Sight Tag Program New rules for allowing dogs off-leash

Boulder is one of the best places to enjoy the outdoors, and it’s one of the few places along the Front Range which provides areas where you may walk your dog off-leash – as long as your canine companion is registered with the city’s Voice and Sight Tag Program.

There are some new rules going into effect in 2015 if you’re interested in participating in the program, including a requirement that dog guardians and their dogs attend a free education class. Dog guardians who keep their pets leashed aren’t required to take the class.

Here’s what you need to do to apply for the special “green tag” for your dog, which shows that your pooch is registered with the city’s Voice and Sight Tag Program:

- \* Attend a free, one-time class about the City of Boulder’s expectations for voice and sight control.
- \* Provide proof of current rabies vaccination. Boulder residents will need to meet this requirement by obtaining a City of Boulder dog license.
- \* Pay the registration fees: \$13/City of Boulder residents & \$33/Boulder County residents.



\* Current Voice and Sight Tag Program participants must comply with the new program requirements by Jan. 1, 2015 to continue to have voice and sight control privileges. If you’ve registered for a Voice and Sight Tag in 2014 or before, it will expire at the end of the 2014 calendar year. For more information, check out: [www.VoiceandSight.org](http://www.VoiceandSight.org).

## BEHIND THE BADGE

NAME: GEORGETTE JOHNSON  
ASSIGNMENT: CODE ENFORCEMENT  
YEARS ON THE FORCE: 28 (TOTAL)



Georgette Johnson began her career with the Boulder Police Department in 1981 working in Records and Information Services (RIS). After seven years, she decided to stay home and raise her babies. Georgette is the mother of three girls, now ages 30, 28 and 19. In 1993, she returned to the department and job-shared, working part-time in RIS at night. A few years later, a part-time position in the Community Police Center (CPC/police annex) opened up and Georgette worked there as well as RIS until she was able to work full time in the CPC.

Georgette spent time riding with Code Enforcement and found she enjoyed being out the field and helping people which might come from her background in social work. She applied for an opening for Code Enforcement Officer and was hired on July 7, 2014. When asked what she liked best about her new position, she commented “I don’t like making enemies. I like making friends.” She said she gets great satisfaction from posting a notice and having people comply. Some of

the calls she responds to are tall and noxious weeds, sidewalk obstructions and trash accumulation. She is currently working on a project to clear the walkways on Table Mesa Drive. Georgette said she likes the city’s new Inquire Boulder website which allows people, anonymously if they choose, to make inquiries and file complaints on-line and provides for a simpler way for Code Enforcement to follow-up on those calls.

When asked what she liked the least about the job she said wearing a bullet-proof vest and writing tickets. She prides herself in quality customer service and the fact that she’s able to resolve situations through communication rather than issuing

# Chief Testa, cont'd

Continued from page 1

at the management staff level (command staff). As an organization, we're experiencing unprecedented change: five out of the six commanders will be new in their positions as of Jan. 1, 2015, and I will have appointed two deputy chiefs, three commanders and five sergeants (total of 9 new sergeants). These positions are crucial because they're the leadership of our organization. They set the framework, the direction and they help our employees do their jobs and reach their goals. These are key positions. We have important decisions to make and we have to get it right.

## What about external issues?

In general in the United States, there is a lot of skepticism and mistrust in government and law enforcement definitely feels that mistrust. Something can happen at an east or west coast police department, for example, that affects all law enforcement agencies across the nation. We need to be cognizant of those matters because it's important that we maintain the public's trust, be accountable to our residents and operate with transparency.

## "Community policing" is a term we hear all the time. What does it mean to you?

This is a model of policing that is standard practice across the country. For me, it's about building relationships with the community, residents and business owners and partnering with them and collaborating with them to solve problems. They're in the best position to know what issues are facing them

and what resources they want us to provide to help them solve those problems. I think we have a good structure in place because we've pushed decision making down to the line level so that officers are empowered to make appropriate decisions without tying those decisions up in a bureaucracy. I want officers to continue to engage the public and the business community so that we can provide the best police services possible, and solve problems and address concerns.

## Technology is changing the way we do business, and many police departments are using body-worn cameras for their officers. Are we soon to follow that practice?

The Boulder City Council recently approved the 2015 budget and included in that budget is money for the police department to purchase 150 body cameras. Those cameras will dramatically change the way we do business in terms of investigations; the cameras will allow us to accurately document what's happening during an interaction or interview, and is one more tool we can use to solve crimes. We're planning training sessions around the proper use of body cameras, and members of management staff are working on a body camera policy so that everyone is clear about how they're intended to be used, and how they're not intended to be used.

## Additional contact information:

### Emergency Assistance — 24 hours

Police 911  
Fire 911  
Medical 911  
Mental Health 303-447-1665  
Rocky Mountain Poison Center  
1-800-222-1222  
Xcel Energy/Electrical outage  
1-800-895-1999  
Xcel Energy /Gas leak or odor  
1-800-895-2999

### Non-Emergency Assistance

Police 303-441-3333  
Fire 303-441-3333  
Medical 303-441-3333  
Police Records 303-441-3300  
Professional Standards  
303-441-3312  
Public Works 303-441-3249  
Paramedics

### Community Police Center

303-413-7324  
Located on 16th Street, just south of  
Pearl St.  
Staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.  
to 5 p.m.

