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'Flagrant disregard'



A transit bus used for the Highland Park route sits at the Pueblo Transit Center on March 16, 2023.

ZACHARY ALLEN/THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Pueblo seeks new city clerk

Job open after Stoller takes position in AZ

James Bartolo
 Pueblo Chieftain
 USA TODAY NETWORK

After nearly six years as Pueblo city clerk, Marisa Stoller was appointed to work in an Arizona city with more than 400,000 residents.

Stoller began her first day as the Tucson city clerk on Feb. 22. Her position in Pueblo remains posted online and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on March 5. The city of Pueblo is looking for a candidate with five or more years of records management and administrative support experience. The next city clerk will receive a salary between \$116,698 and \$142,658.

Additional qualifications for the Pueblo city clerk position include a Pueblo County residence within six months of a candidate's date of hire, at least a bachelor's degree in public administration or business management, two years of experience in a supervisory position, and a valid driver's license.

What does a Pueblo city clerk do?

The Pueblo city clerk is an appointed position responsible for municipal election organization, record management, serving as the clerk of Pueblo City Council, and licensing liquor, marijuana and tobacco retailers. During city council meetings, the clerk may be seen recording meeting minutes, reading meeting agendas, calling for votes, or swearing in officials.

A Pueblo city clerk must have knowledge of legislative processes, Colorado election law, licensing law,

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Pueblo sanctioned for destroying city bus at center of lawsuit

Justin Reutter
 Pueblo Chieftain
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Colorado's U.S. District Court has sanctioned the city of Pueblo after finding the city intentionally destroyed evidence in a 2022 lawsuit against the city.

The lawsuit arose from a June 25, 2022, incident in which a city transit bus

crashed into the home of the plaintiffs, David Salama and Nancy Salama, after the bus was hit by a third-party in a Ford Focus.

In the suit, the Salamas claim that the driver of the bus would not have hit the house when struck by the Ford Focus if the bus driver had not been negligent, while the city contends that the driver hit her head and lost consciousness,

causing her to lose control of the bus.

Three months after the lawsuit was filed, the bus was sold for scrap and destroyed, according to court records.

As a result, the court upheld a sanction imposed by Magistrate Judge Maritza Braswell that does not allow city

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Postal workers demand better pay, working conditions

Justin Reutter
 Pueblo Chieftain
 USA TODAY NETWORK

The National Association of Letter Carriers Local Branch 229 in Pueblo joined national demonstrations on Feb. 22 to demand better wages and working conditions.

Contract negotiations are set to begin this week with USPS to negotiate the next 36-month contract.

"We're here (because) the Postal Service is trying to privatize us and take our rights away," said Donald Hemphill, president of NALC 229.

"They're trying to take the union away, and we're short-staffed. They

don't want to hire," Hemphill said. "Our parcels have picked up like 90%. And some of our carriers are getting older, not getting younger. We can do it, but we need a lot of manpower to help out, and they just don't want to hire."

Letter carriers provide a vital service to the community, especially older individuals who rely on the postal service to

deliver their mail, including vital medications, Hemphill said.

"Some of them are secluded in their home, they can't get to the post office, especially in rural areas like Boone and Avondale, they rely on us to get stuff to them. It is very beneficial for them to

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