



PRESS RELEASE



*Pueblo County Sheriff's Office
Pueblo Police Department
Colorado State Patrol
10th Judicial District Attorney*



For Immediate Release

Date: July 9, 2021

Local Law Enforcement to Issue Citations for Expired License Plates

Pueblo, CO: Law enforcement officials in Pueblo County soon will begin issuing citations to motorists who have not renewed their license plates and continue to drive with expired temporary registrations or tags. Enforcement is expected to begin July 15.

During the past year, Pueblo County Sheriff's Deputies, Pueblo Police Officers and Colorado State Patrol Troopers relaxed enforcement of expired vehicle tags and new registrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Restrictions caused by the worldwide pandemic prompted the Pueblo Clerk and Records Office to operate by appointment only for those purchasing or renewing license plates in-person at the Pueblo County Courthouse. This change in operation led to appointments being scheduled out to approximately 60 days.

As a result, the past 16 months local law enforcement officials have been lenient about issuing citations for expired temporary registrations and renewal tags. However, law enforcement officials noticed many motorists are taking advantage of the circumstances and are forgoing purchasing or renewing their license plates in a timely manner. Now, they are going to start cracking down on those driving with expired tags and vehicle registrations and those with no visible plates.

"We have utilized quite a bit of discretion on expired plates in the past year and half due to COVID. It is time to return to assertive enforcement for these infractions in the interest of community safety," said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. "Enough is enough. We cannot allow this to continue."

Interim Pueblo Police Chief Chris Noeller added, "while working through the COVID pandemic, Pueblo Police officers relaxed their enforcement of vehicle registration violations because of the difficulty in obtaining updated or new registrations on vehicles. With the advent of kiosks and appointments with the County Clerk's Office, this is no longer the case, and the Pueblo Police Department will be strictly enforcing all registration laws."

Colorado State Patrol Major Brian Lyons said as the community returns to a "new normal", local law enforcement officials and the Pueblo County Clerk's Office continue to see many unregistered or expired vehicle registrations on the roads, even though processes were established to obtain renewals and valid registration throughout the pandemic.

“As a result of non-compliance with registration requirements, we will be stepping up our enforcement efforts for registration violations along with other improper driving violations for motorists operating on roadways throughout Pueblo County,” Lyons said. “We encourage everyone to renew their expired license plates and schedule an appointment with the County Clerk for new vehicle purchase registrations immediately to avoid enforcement actions from law enforcement.”

District Attorney Jeff Chostner said his office will be “aggressive” in assisting law enforcement partners. “Violations of traffic laws are all too frequent occurrences today. Failure to license a vehicle is a blatant flouting of the law,” Chostner said. “I am encouraged that all law enforcement agencies will be aggressively enforcing the license plate requirements in the City and County of Pueblo. All citizens need to adhere to this basic driving requirement.”

Individuals who purchase new vehicles are urged to make an appointment with the Pueblo County Clerk and Records Office as soon as possible to get their license plates. Appointments can be made online at <https://county.pueblo.org/clerk-and-recorder/motor-vehicle>. If you have received your “Title Complete” card, you can register your vehicle online at mydmv.colorado.gov.

Individuals needing to renew their license plates have several options in doing so which do not require making an appointment. Renewals can be done online at www.mydmv.colorado.gov; by mail at Pueblo County Clerk and Record, P.O. Box 555, Pueblo, Co., 81005 or by placing the renewal notice and payment in a drop box located at the Pueblo County Courthouse, 215 W. 10th St. The new tags and registration will be mailed to the owner.

Renewals can also be done at the Express Renewal Kiosks at King Soopers, 3050 W. Northern and the Pueblo West Safeway at 1017 N. Market Plaza, if you are not required to show proof of insurance. New tags and registration will be dispensed at the kiosk.

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