



**CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, CITY HALL,  
#1 CITY HALL PLACE, PUEBLO, COLORADO 81003.**

**MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025  
5:30 PM**

***Individuals Requiring Special Accommodations Should Notify the City's ADA Coordinator at (719) 553-2295 by Noon on the Friday Preceding the Meeting.***

***Executive Committee meetings are special meetings of the City Council and are informal Council meetings for the purpose of receiving information and discussion among Council Members; no official action is taken at such meetings. The public is invited to attend, but public comment is generally not received unless otherwise noted.***

## **Agenda**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>A. CITY UPDATE AND LOBBYIST UPDATE</b><br>Brian McCain, Chief of Staff<br>Gil Romero - Capitol Success Group<br>15 minute presentation                                                                          | 5:30 p.m. |
| <b>B. GDS MUNICIPALIZATION SURVEY UPDATE</b><br>Andrew Hayes, Public Works Director<br>Mathew Butler - Principal - GDS Associates<br>Garrett Cole - Vice President - GDS Associates<br>20 minute presentation      | 5:45 p.m. |
| <b>C. HSPPR UPDATES</b><br>Julie Justman - VP of Operations<br>Erina Van Dusen - Director of Shelter Operations - Pueblo<br>Lindsey Vigna - Assistant Director of Animal Law Enforcement<br>15 minute presentation | 6:25 p.m. |
| <b>D. BRING POWER HOME - BLACK HILLS OFF-RAMP &amp; FRANCHISE AGREEMENT</b><br>Dianne Danti - Bring Power Home<br>Ken Danti - Bring Power Home<br>15 minute presentation                                           | 6:50 p.m. |
| <b>E. CITY COUNCIL BOARD AND COMMISSION UPDATE</b><br>City Council                                                                                                                                                 | 7:15 p.m. |

15 minute presentation

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS, UNDER C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4)(E)(I) AND TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE, ACQUISITION, LEASE, TRANSFER, OR SALE OF ANY REAL, PERSONAL, OR OTHER PROPERTY INTEREST PURSUANT TO C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(A) AND MORE FULLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: TO DISCUSS THE SALE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY RELATED TO A POTENTIAL PEDCO PROSPECT.** 7:30 p.m.

Carla Sikes, City Attorney

30 minute presentation

## **ADJOURNMENT**



# Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region

History & 2024: A Year in Review

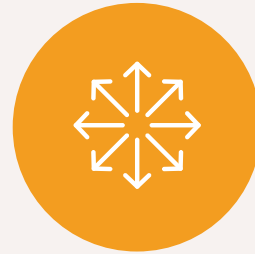




# Agenda



**HSPPR's History  
in Pueblo**



**Celebrating 2024:  
Shelter  
Operations**



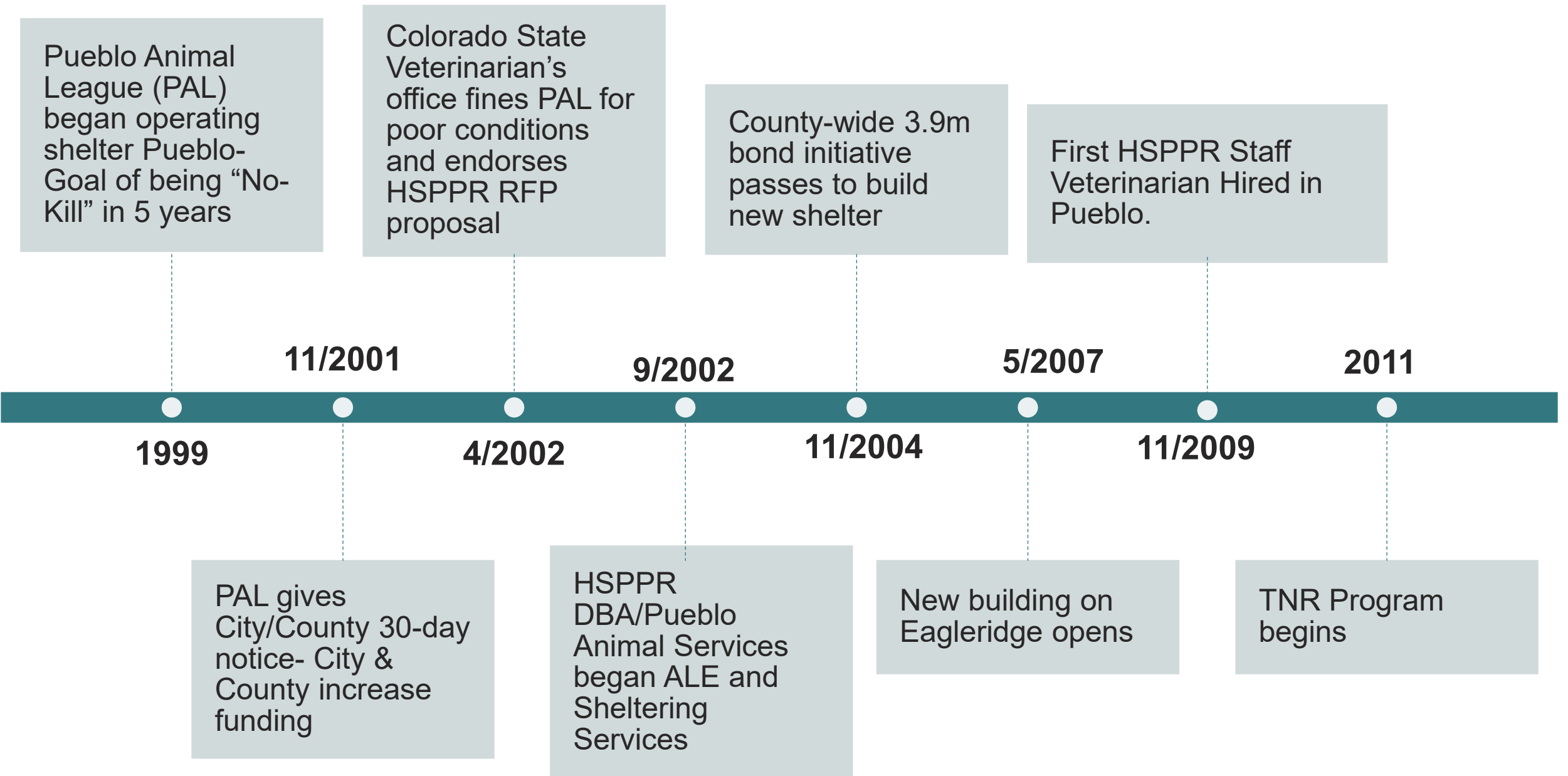
**Celebrating 2024:  
Animal Law  
Enforcement**

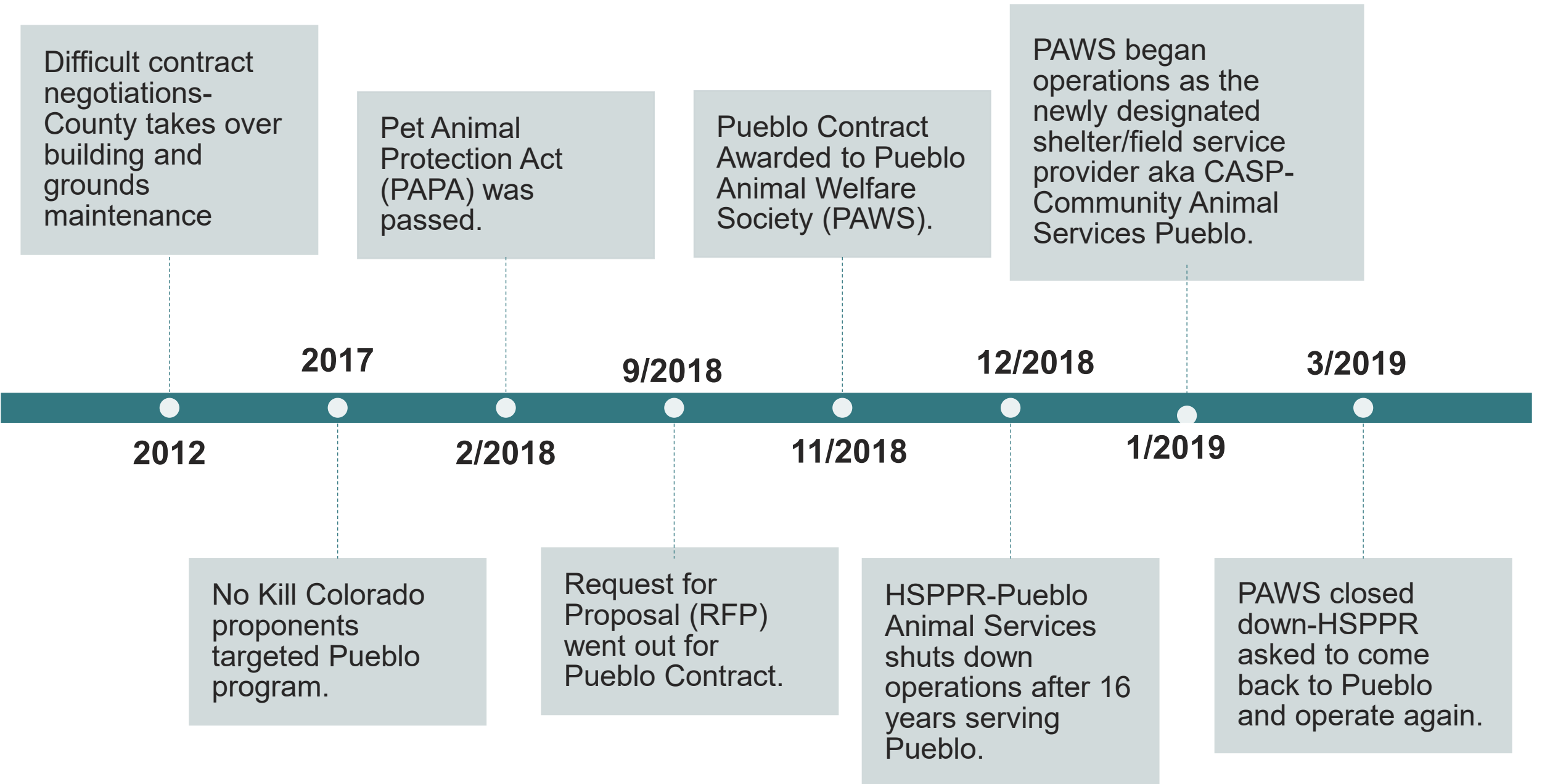


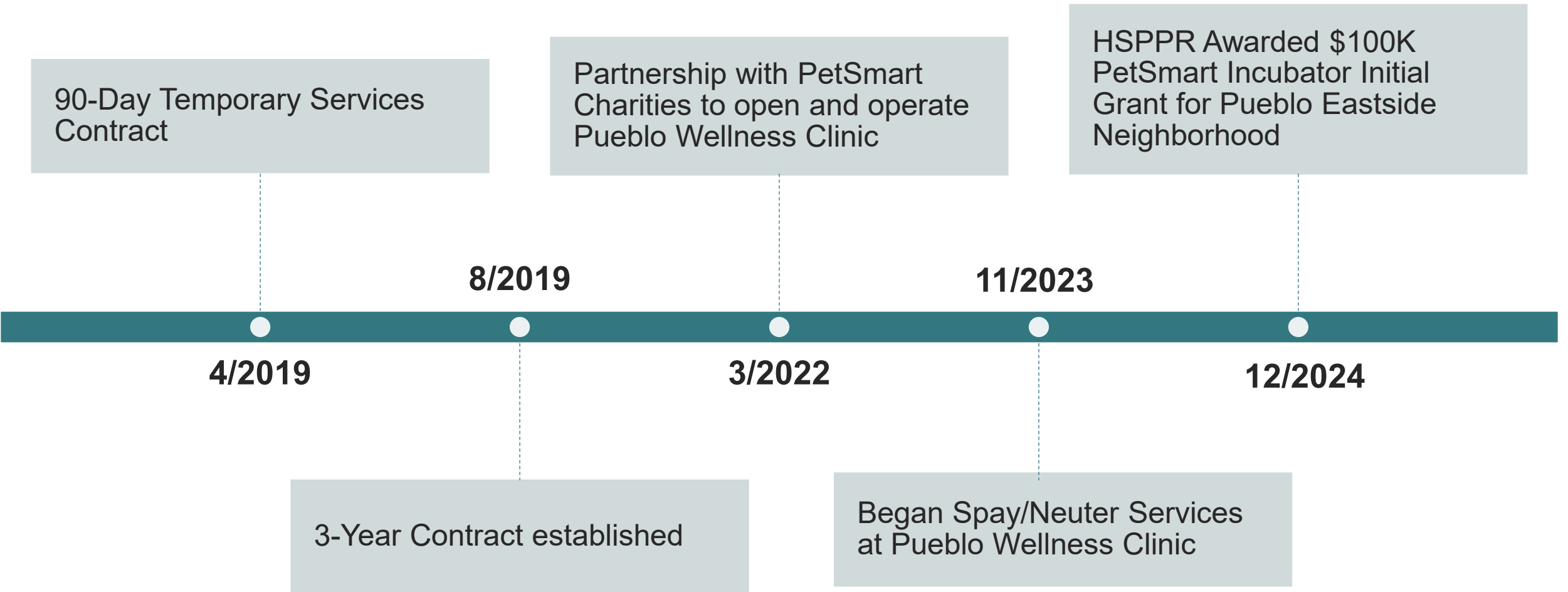
# **History of Pueblo Operations**



## History of Pueblo Operations









# Celebrating 2024: Shelter Operations



# Animal Intakes

- We provided a safe place for **8,216** animals
  - 4,195 Dogs
  - 3,704 Cats
  - 363 other animals





# Animal Adoptions

- We rehomed **2,704** animals
  - 1,227 Dogs
  - 1,223 Cats
  - 254 other animals





# Animals Transferred to Other Agencies

- We networked for **2,672** animals to be rehomed by partner agencies
  - 1,025 Dogs
  - 1,573 Cats
  - 74 other animals





# Lost Animals reunited with their Owners

- We reunited **1,515** animals with their owners
  - 1,382 Dogs
  - 125 Cats
  - 8 other animals





# Community Cats

- We spayed/neutered & vaccinated **1,382** Community Cats
  - 1,066 through our Community Cat Program
  - 316 cats from shelter care





# Pueblo Wellness Clinic

| SERVICE            | 2023  | 2024  | Percent Change |
|--------------------|-------|-------|----------------|
| PUBLIC SPAY/NEUTER | 223   | 1,024 | 359%           |
| PUBLIC VACCINATION | 3,177 | 3,585 | 12.8%          |
| PUBLIC WELLNESS    | 1,252 | 1,331 | 6.3%           |

- HSPPR has spayed and neutered over 15,000 animals in 2024 across all of our locations
- 2,617 were performed at the Pueblo Community Animal Shelter





# Glimpse into 2025

- Volunteer Hours (Jan/Feb YoY):
  - 36% increase overall in the number of volunteers contributing hours
  - Overall increase of volunteer hours by 23%
- Provided a Safe Place for 1,665 Animals
- 687 Animal Adoptions
- 358 Animals Transferred to Other Organizations
- 201 Community Cats Received TNR Services
- Pueblo Wellness Clinic saw 944 patients and spayed/neutered 365 animals





# Celebrating 2024: Animal Law Enforcement



## ALE 2024 Overview

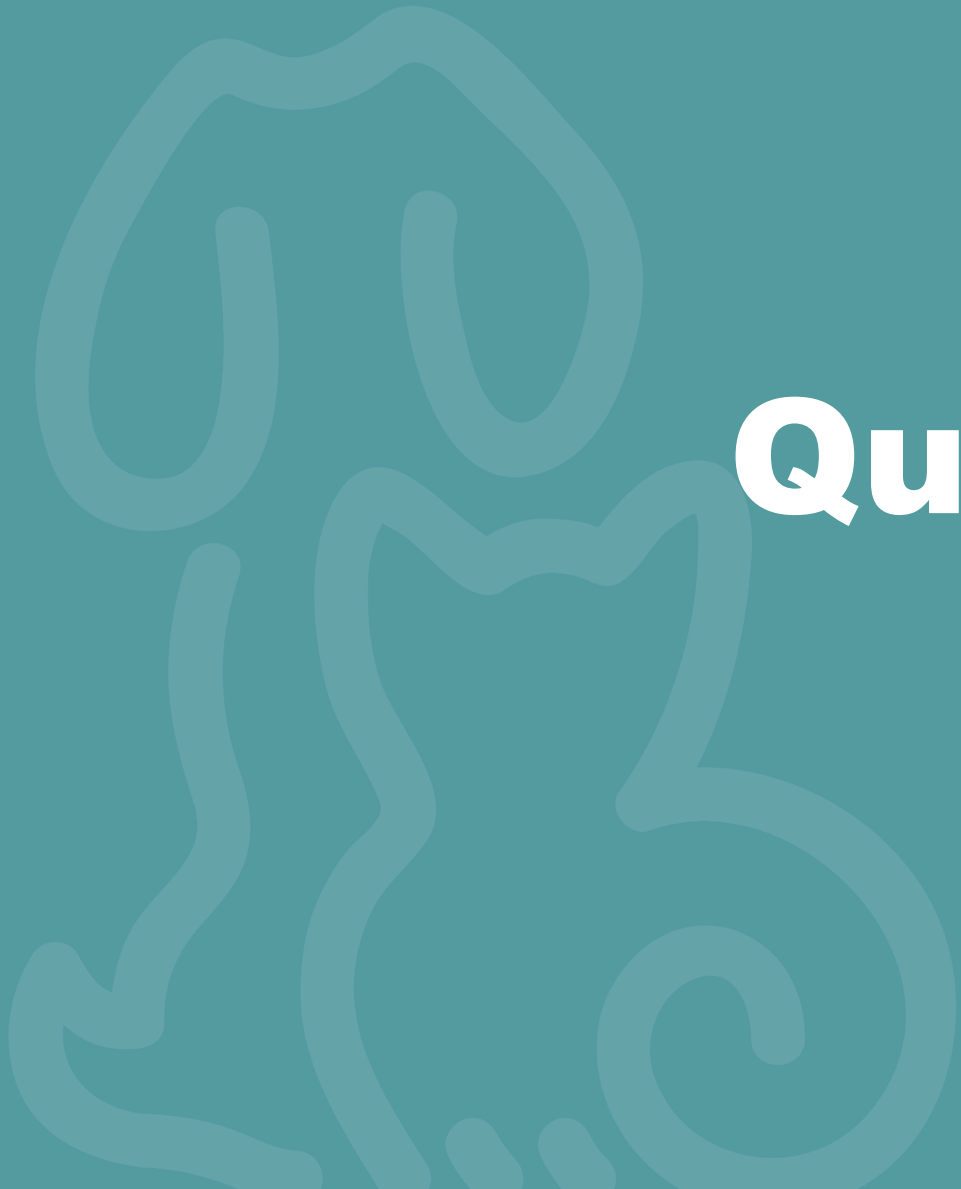
- 15,552 Total Calls for Service
- 1,665 Dangerous Animal Responses
- 584 Injured Animal Calls
- 16 Public Events
- 262 Court Appearances
- 3,242 Responses to Cruelty Investigations
- 1,137 Contained Stray Animal Impounds
- 353 Proactive Patrols





## Community Engagement

- Pueblo Chili and Frijoles Festival
- Dr. Suess-Read Across America
- Dog Days of Summer
- Eastside Cleanup Event
- AMR Safety Jam
- CSU Pueblo Career Fair
- Riverwalk Fright Night
- Pueblo Parade of Lights



# Questions?



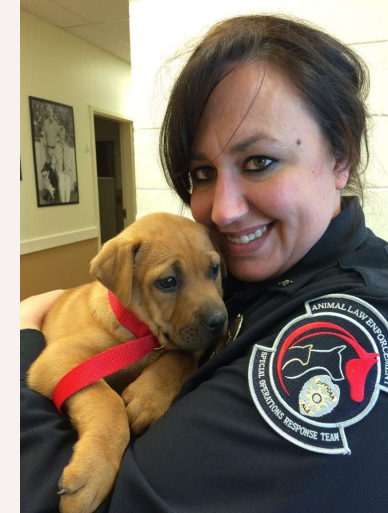
# Thank You!



Julie Justman  
*Vice President of Operations*



Erina Van Dusen  
*Director of Shelter Operations*



Lindsey Vigna  
*Assistant Director of Animal  
Law Enforcement*

# Bring Power Home Pueblo

— City Council Work Session —  
April 07, 2025

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# Franchise Agreement and Off-Ramp

- Introduction
- Terminate/Void Franchise Agreement
- Franchise Agreement
- Residents Buy-In
- Summary
- Questions?



# Definitions

**Company - Black Hills Energy**

**BHE - Black Hills Energy**

**BPH2020 - Bring Power Home 2020**

**Off-Ramp - Terminate franchise agreement**

**VP - Vice President**

**PAGS - Pueblo Airport Generation Station**



# Introduction

**Bring Power Home Pueblo members would like to give you information on the franchise agreement and the 2025 off-ramp.**

**The city is able to just take the off-ramp without municipalization per a vote and it would be the simplest and easiest first step with departing from BHE.**

**The City is able to keep the franchise fee and BHE can not legally turn off the electricity until there is an alternate provider.**

**The city will not pay the debt from their general funds. It will be paid by the utility using the revenue from the electric bill payers.**



# Take off-ramp without municipalization or condemning utility assets

**From:** "Pereira - DORA, Joseph" <[joseph.pereira@state.co.us](mailto:joseph.pereira@state.co.us)>  
**Subject:** **Re: Questions about franchise agreement with Black Hills**  
**Date:** February 20, 2025 at 1:36:57 PM MST  
**To:** "[ken@danti.net](mailto:ken@danti.net)" <[ken@danti.net](mailto:ken@danti.net)>

Ken-

My understanding is that if you take the off-ramp, you would not be required to take any steps. All it means is that Pueblo is not participating in the franchise. You can study your options.

I'll check with the team to make sure this is accurate.

Joseph Pereira  
Deputy Director



## **BPH2020 Campaign Analysis**

**BPH2020 Campaign in 2020 failed. We have analyzed the reasons. We had 3 councilors opposed to it that were advertising for Black Hills.**

**We were campaigning during COVID19, making canvassing impossible.**

**BPH2020 budget was \$50,000 and BHE budget was over \$2 million.**



## Continuation of Utility Service, Article 4.1B and 16

**In the event this Franchise is not renewed at the expiration of its term or is terminated for any reason, and the City has not provided for alternative utility service, The Company shall have no right to discontinue service or to remove any Company Facilities and the City shall have no right to require the removal of Company Facilities.**



## Supply of Electricity, Article 6.2

The Company shall take all reasonable and necessary steps to assure an adequate supply of electricity to the City and its residents, at just and reasonable rates.



## Franchise Fee, Article 4.1A

**The Company shall collect from its customers and shall pay to the City a sum equal to 3% of all Gross Revenue.**



## Continuation of Utility Service, Article 16

**The Company shall be entitled to collect from residents and shall be obligated to pay the City, at the same times and in the same manner as provided in the Franchise, an aggregate amount equal to the amount which the Company would have paid as a Franchise fee as consideration for use of the City's streets.**



## Canon City's Franchise Fee

**Canon City's franchise agreement expired in 2017, the city did not take an off-ramp.**

**In November 2020 the residents of Canon City voted not to renew their franchise.**

**The City requested Black Hills to cancel their franchise fee in order to give their residents lower bills.**

**BHE wanted to put a renewal on the ballot a couple years later but Canon City said NO.**



## Franchise Agreement Term, Article 2.3

**The term of the franchise granted by this Ordinance 8186 shall be for 20 years. This Franchise shall take effect at 12:00 am on August 12, 2010 and shall terminate at 11:59:99 pm on August 12, 2030 unless extended by mutual consent.**



## Municipal Right to Purchase or Condemn, Article 12A

**The right and privilege of the City to purchase or condemn any Company Facilities located within the territorial boundaries of the City, and Company's rights in connection therewith, as set forth in applicable provision of the constitution and statutes of the State of Colorado.**



## Colorado State Statute, 31-15-707-IV

Nothing in this paragraph (a) shall authorize the condemnation or purchase of any such works or systems within 20 years after the granting of any franchise therefor, except for periods of 10 or 15 years thereafter, without the consent of the owner of the franchise.

The deadline for Pueblo to take the off-ramp is August 12, 2025.



# Future Electric Utility

**What are the options for the future utility.**

- 1. Create a not-for-profit municipal or cooperative.**
  - Create an enterprise to operate utility.
  - Contract with an existing utility to operate.
- 2. Have another utility purchase BHE.**
  - Prefer a not-for-profit utility take over ownership.



## How will the debt for the utility be paid?

**The debt for the utility will be paid by the residents bills, the same way that we pay for Black Hills Energy expensive debt.**

**It will not be paid from the city funds. It will not bankrupt the city.**



# How will the residents save money on their bills?

BHE rates pay for the maintenance & operation of the grid. The rates also pay for the following items which include compensations and stock dividends (2023 annual report):

- Black Hills Energy requested 10.5% return on their investments.
- Board of Directors receive between \$200K - \$300K per year.
- President & Chief Executive Officer receive (\$5,639,000) per year.
- VP & Chief Financial Officer receives (\$1,589,000) per year.
- VP & Chief Compliance Officer receives (\$1,673,000) per year.
- VP & Chief Information Officer receives (\$1,067,000) per year.
- VP of Utilities receives (\$1,098,000) per year.
- All legal and employees benefits, etc. (approved by the PUC)

**Total of \$9,593,000 per year including compensation and stocks. These salary packages will increase each year.**

**If we terminate the franchise agreement the Utility will not be paying out these outrageous salary packages.**

# Opposition

- **The reason municipalization has not been successful is because of political will.**
- **The Edison Electric Institute (IOU trade group) has a playbook to fight municipalization.**



## Case Study, Winter Park, Florida 2005

**From former City Commissioner Barbara Devane: “It was the best thing the city has ever done. I’m glad we took it on - plus, it’s making money.”**

**Initially, DeVane was opposed to the breakaway.**



## Involvement of the Residents

- **The residents of Pueblo need to have a say in what their utility will look like.**
- **The city is now conducting Town Halls for the benefit of the residents.**
- **Presentations in council's work sessions from different utilities would be beneficial for the residents.**
- **Bring Power Home Pueblo can help.**



# Rate Increases over the years

Since the signing of the franchise agreement there have been several rate increases. Rates increase in:

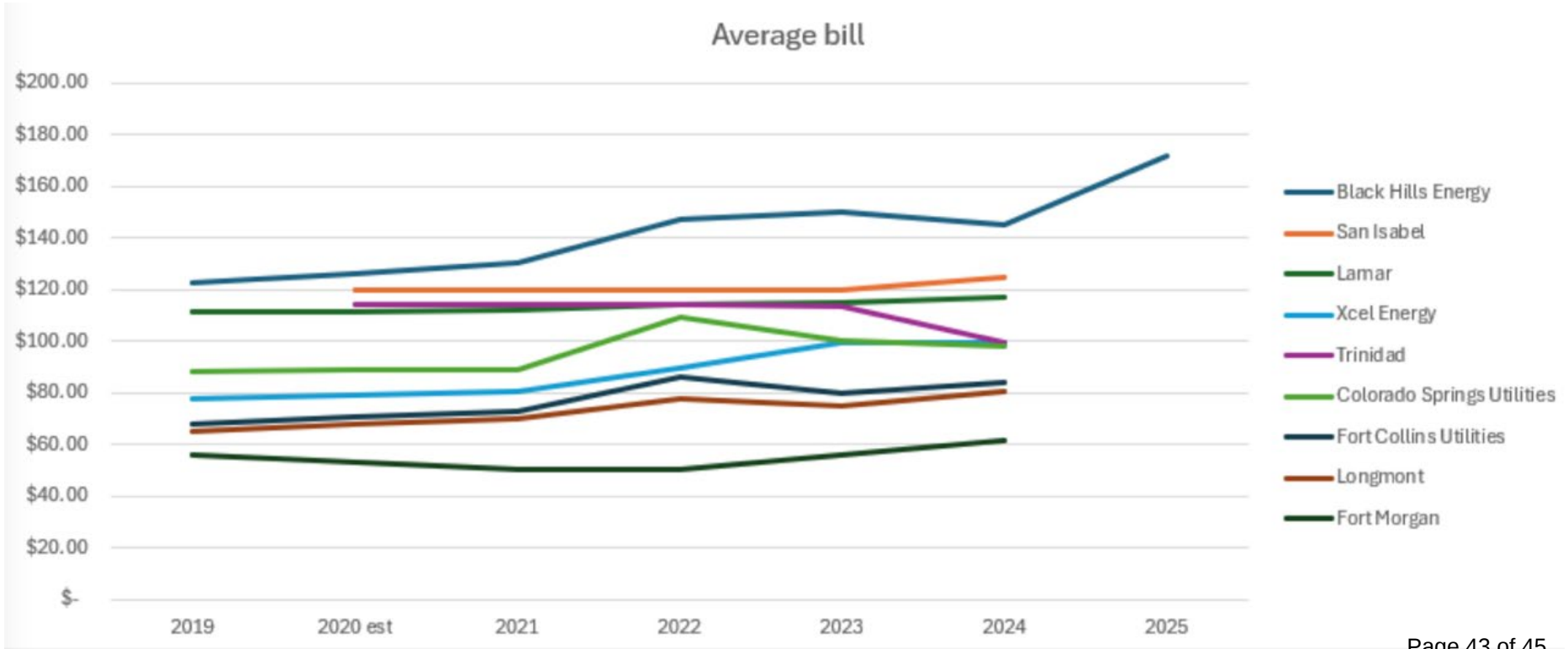
- 2009, Requested \$40.2 million due new power plant(PAGS) and infrastructure.
- 2013, Requested \$14.2 million, received \$3.1 million increase from PUC.
- 2016, Requested \$8.5 million, received \$1 million increase from PUC.
- 2024, Requested \$36 million, revised to \$25 million, received \$17 million increase from PUC.

**Total BHE requested \$98.9 million and approximate total approved from the PUC \$61.3 million.**

BHE will request increases in the future with the PUC being required to approve.



# CAMU rates over time



## Summary

- **Black Hills Energy has the authority to make decisions with the approval of the PUC, treating the city as their financial institution rather than a customer.**
- **We believe this power dynamic needs to shift. *The city must assert its control and negotiate in its own best interest. Let's own rather than rent.***

# Questions?