



Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4630
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

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Contact:

ANDREA RASIZER

Communication Services Director

Direct: 303-795-4284

Mobile: 303-882-1909

E-mail: arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe County to host Aug. 29 – 30 meetings in Watkins *Sheriff Grayson Robinson, Commissioner Bockenfeld to answer questions about the Arapahoe Law Enforcement Authority*

ARAPAHOE COUNTY, CO --- Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson and Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld will host two community meetings for Watkins residents on Aug. 29 and 30 to answer questions about the importance of the Arapahoe Law Enforcement Authority and a potential November 2007 ballot issue.

Prior to the Town of Watkins incorporation in 2004, Watkins property owners were part of the Arapahoe Law Enforcement Authority, or ALEA. The ALEA is a taxing authority that pays for law enforcement services in unincorporated areas of Arapahoe County.

ALEA funds the salaries, benefits, equipment and support services for patrol officers in the Sheriff's Office assigned to cover unincorporated Arapahoe County. The tax is only applied to taxable properties in unincorporated Arapahoe County. Property owners within any city or town do not pay the ALEA levy.

Because there is no statutory provision to restore the ALEA property tax after the discontinuance of an incorporation, Watkins property owners currently are not paying for law enforcement services in their community.

The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners has been asked to place the ALEA matter on the November 2007 ballot for consideration by voters within the former Town of Watkins. The Commissioners will need to decide by Sept. 4 whether to place the ALEA question on the upcoming General Election ballot.

Robinson and Bockenfeld will meet with Watkins residents to answer questions about the ALEA during two community meetings. The first meeting will be held 7 p.m. Aug. 29 at the Bennett Fire Station 92 Meeting Room, 35900 E. Highway 36 Watkins, 80137. The second meeting will be held 7 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Foxridge Farms Clubhouse, 26900 E. Colfax Ave. Aurora, 80018.

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