



Former Routt County Sheriff's Office Houses Evidence Units

New State-of-the-Art, High-Security Facility Opens Early Next Week

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-November 7, 2019-When the facts and information are assembled in this case, the new Evidence Facility for the Routt County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) and Steamboat Springs Police Department (SSPD) proves to be nothing short of state-of-the-art in its new location.

"Our patrol and investigative units have been working together in the new Combined Law Enforcement Facility for several months," commented Sheriff Garrett Wiggins. "It's nice to put the final touches to the project with the addition of the dedicated evidence labs."

The new high-security area occupies approximately 5,000 square-feet in the former Routt County Sheriff's Office, which underwent a four-month comprehensive remodel and is now separate from the jail. The facility is the final component of the Combined Law Enforcement Facility (CLEF) project.

The SSPD evidence section is the last to move from 840 Yampa Street to the new joint facility while the sheriff's evidence team has been working out of temporary storage facilities. SSP evidence will be closed during the move and will officially open in the new location on Monday, November 11. On the county side, its evidence department will reopen following the Veteran's Day holiday.



"Having both agencies under one roof has already paid huge dividends on several occasions including the recent murder case," said Police Chief Cory Christensen. "I only see that cooperation and collaboration growing especially as our evidence teams work in close proximity."

Personnel for both agencies are the custodians for evidence and lost property. They maintain records for all physical evidence and property taken into custody as well as assist with crime scene processing, recording, photography and evidence collection. Evidence technicians often work with outside law enforcement agencies and can be called to testify in court.

In addition, the evidence section helps reunite found property with citizens or properly disposes of items through auction or evidence destruction based on retention policies. Current found property with the SSPD is listed at steamboatsprings.net/lostproperty and updated every two weeks. In a typically year, the SSPD transfers around 7,500 pieces of physical evidence, including more than 1,200 items collected as found property, returning approximately 60% to the owner.

The 26,908-square-foot CLEF, a joint project between the City of Steamboat Springs and Routt County, serves as the headquarters for the Steamboat Springs Police Department, Routt County Sheriff's Office and the Routt County Communications Center. On top of the joint funding by the two government agencies, a \$1 million state grant was awarded to the \$19.3 million project from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

[-WeServeTheCity-](#)

Contact

Tim Corrigan, Chair Pro Tem, Commissioner-District I, Routt County, 970.879.0108 or [email](#)

Kathi Meyer, President Pro Tem, Steamboat Springs City Council, 970.819.4198 or [email](#)

Garrett Wiggins, Sheriff, Routt County Sheriff's Office, 970.879.1090 or [email](#)

Cory Christensen, Chief, Steamboat Springs Police Department, 970.879.4344 or [email](#)