

The Pueblo Chieftain

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Trendsetter

By THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Many police departments around the country now require recruits to have at least two years of college. Far fewer require four-year degrees.

Count the Pueblo Police Department among the latter. It's an initiative of Chief Jim Billings, who persuaded City Council to approve the policy.

Only 2 percent of city police departments in the nation require four-year degrees, according to the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Lakewood is the only other city in Colorado to require them.

Chief Billings calls Pueblo a trendsetter. He believes cops with college degrees make better officers. They certainly bring more world views to bear within the department.

Gone are the days when harness-bull policemen could keep the peace with their billy clubs. Today's officers need skills commensurate with a more complex society. We commend Chief Billings and his department for being on the leading edge of this development.