



# MINES

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

CODE 4 CHRONICLES



The latest news from Colorado School of Mines Department of Public Safety.

## Chiefly Speaking

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### Dear Mines Community:

Nearing the end of the semester, I know it's been very challenging, but I remain impressed by what you've accomplished. I hope you'll be able to relax and recharge over the break. Many of you were able to join us for our virtual town hall, where we shared more about the department's mission, addressed some questions, and provided details about how we go about collaborating to keep our campus community safe. This newsletter will work to provide increased transparency so that you may get to know us and remain connected during

these arduous times and beyond. We welcome your feedback, questions, concerns, and look forward to future editions where we will continue to highlight some of the work the men and women do to keep the campus community a safe place to live, learn, work, and conduct research. Again, we are fortunate to be a part of such a vibrant and rich community, and we are absolutely dedicated to serving and being a part of the Oredigger family. I wish each of you a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Dustin Olson

Chief of Police

Director of Public Safety



## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Colorado School of Mines Police Department to make the Mines campus the safest campus in Colorado.

Department members strive to provide progressive, professional and courteous police services in partnership with the Colorado School of Mines community and the residents of the City of Golden.



## Mines PD Has Moved!

After years at our old home, Mines Police Department has moved into some fancy new digs. The new office is in Suite 116 in the McNeil Building, located within the new parking structure. We are best accessible from the ground floor of the parking garage or the doors facing the Geology Museum. We welcome you to stop by and see us!



## Bike Safety Over the Holidays

Bike theft is the #1 crime on Mines campus and opens the campus for more crimes of opportunity. Bike racks are not monitored 24 hours a day, and thieves know campus will be empty during the break. Don't be a victim this holiday season- bring your bike inside and lock it in your room. If you have not yet registered your bike with Mines PD, do so today. You can come into the office or register online, and we will send you a permit. It's easy, and it's free!

## How can we help?

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### Mental Health

Be sure to look out for yourself and your fellow students during these difficult times. The MPD and the Mines Health Center offer many resources that are open for anyone to use. Check out

[You@Mines](#) in Trailhead for some great information about setting goals and making new good habits. Here are some other tips to keep in mind to take care of yourself.

### **You are not alone.**

We are naturally social beings. Don't forget to keep in touch with the people around you, the people you rely on, and the people who care about you. You might be enjoying college freedom and aren't interested in calling Mom or Dad every day, but there is so much going on, they want to know that you're okay. Be sure to check in with them periodically, even if it's just a quick text to let them know that things are fine. Maybe ask how they are; Remember, their lives have been turned upside-down too.

### **You won't get what you don't ask for.**

It's okay to ask for help. No one is perfect or able to handle everything alone. It's not a sign of weakness to ask for help. Most people genuinely want to help other people, so don't worry that you're a burden. You are worth anyone's time.

### **Someone is always here to talk.**

We aren't training for law enforcement only. Our officers spend time on de-escalation and crisis training. They have experience working with victims of crimes and trauma, as well as people who are struggling with many other life challenges. You can find any of our officers on campus or call us any time at 303-273-3333.

### **Mines offers so many resources and a supportive community.**

Our [Wellness Center](#) has many resources and contacts within the local community as well as self-initiated resources for those who aren't initially comfortable talking to someone in-person. If you are concerned about a friend or classmate, contact our department or our [CARE team](#) to help us reach out.

## **Meet Our Mines Officers**

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### **Please welcome our newest Mines PD officer, Officer Boyd!**

We would like to introduce our newest officer, Officer Boyd. He is excited to join the Mines community and get to everyone. Officer Boyd is a great addition of our department, and we know you will welcome him into the Mines family.



### **You grew up locally, right? Where, and how long have you been in law enforcement?**

I grew up in Park Hill and lived all over the Metro Area. I've worked in law enforcement for seven years.

### **What attracted you to Mines? What is your favorite part of working at Mines?**

The close community attracted me to Mines, and the ability to truly

practice community policing is my favorite part.

**What do you like to do on your days off/What are your favorite hobbies?**

I like to cook, go paddle-boarding, hang out with friends and family, and watch movies.

**Favorite movie?**

Bad Boys 2

**Favorite local restaurant?**

Sassafras American Eatery

(For those who are interested in checking it out, there is a Golden location at 1027 Washington Ave)

**What is your favorite donut?**

Custard Filled Long John Donuts or Eclairs

**Is there something interesting or unique about you that you'd like to share?**

I love Halloween.

(This is absolutely true. Officer Boyd has a righteously decorated desk for every holiday with some top-notch “feng shui” design all other days).

Officer Boyd joined us this summer and is looking forward to getting to know more of you on campus. He is an awesome addition to Mines PD, and we hope you'll be sure to say, “Hi,” when you see him!

## Questioning Authority

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Sometimes the details of the legal system can be confusing. Here, we hope to answer your questions surrounding issues in law enforcement and the judicial system. If you have questions you would like answered, please submit them to [publicsafety@mines.edu](mailto:publicsafety@mines.edu).



## **What do I do if I'm stopped by the police?**

A question often arises about how to act during a traffic stop, usually after, "How do I get out of getting a ticket?" First, to give a little background: if you are stopped by the police, they must have reasonable suspicion that there has been a traffic violation or suspicion that you or your vehicle has been involved in some other criminal activity. Police should not stop you without that level of suspicion.

Some actions you can take to ensure the stop goes smoothly are to pull immediately to the right side of the road and stop. Often, drivers try to be "helpful" by driving a few blocks for the next street or a parking lot or something. Basically, an officer will initiate the traffic stop where they feel it best, so follow the law and pull over immediately. If you feel the need to be a Breaking News story for continuing down the road, then you're welcome to keep driving, but it's not recommended.

At that point, it is recommended to put your car in park, roll both front windows all the way down, and wait for the officer with both hands on the top of the steering wheel; this lets the officer know that you're not reaching for something they should worry about, like a weapon or a stale donut. Typically, when they first speak to you, they will identify themselves as a police officer of their agency and inform you of the reason they stopped you. If they do not, and you would like to know right away, it is entirely appropriate to ask, though waiting to ask until you have answered their first questions sends a signal of cooperation.

You will then be asked to provide a driver license, registration card, and proof of your insurance. Before moving your hands to retrieve them, it is a good idea to explain to the officer where the documents are and where you will be reaching. It is common for an officer to ask questions as you are retrieving the requested documents. You are not required to answer questions unrelated to the reason for the stop, but politeness is always encouraged. If you choose to not answer those questions, simply telling the officer you decline to answer those questions is acceptable.

Once you have turned over the requested documents, it is a good idea to return your hands to the top of the steering wheel. The officer will likely walk away to confirm the validity of the documents and then return with either a citation, a

warning, or a business card. Arguing about the allegation during the stop is entirely unproductive and definitely DO NOT get out of your car to argue the point. Following up with the department or in court is the proper way to voice your disagreement; any time spent watching court dramas will tell you that disagreement is their specialty, but they remain keenly aware of a judge's eye-rolling. If you are requested to sign a citation, remember, you are not admitting guilt, but simply promising to comply with the requirements of the ticket. It is highly recommended that you read what those requirements are and put the ticket in a place where you know where it is and won't end up ruined- my dog ate my ticket isn't an acceptable excuse. Besides, dogs don't like eating tickets any more than you like getting one; believe me, I've tried.

Other things to keep in mind, if you are not issued a citation or written warning, an officer in the State of Colorado is required to give you his or her business card with instructions for feedback printed on the back. If this does not happen, simply request a business card. An officer can have you and/or any passengers get into or out of the car at any time during the stop. Courtesy, respect, and cooperation are your friends. And finally, police officers want traffic stops to go as smoothly as you do; consider how you would want to be treated as an officer approaching an unknown situation, and this advice will allow that to happen. Be safe and make good choices.

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