

Sheriff Joe Pelle Boulder County Sheriff's Department, Colorado Longmont, CO

Joe Pelle began his law enforcement career in 1980 as an officer in the Boulder County Sheriff's Department in Colorado. In 1984, he transferred to the Boulder Police Department and spent 19 years serving as a patrol officer, detective sergeant, field training officer, and Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) commander. As a detective, he worked with both the Narcotics and Crimes Against Persons units.

In 2003, Pelle returned from the Boulder Police Department to lead as Sheriff for the county. Under his direction, the agency has focused on reducing

incarceration by implementing diversion programs for people struggling with mental health issues. He has also led the charge to make sure the county jail is supplied with Narcan to reverse opioid overdoses. He is a staunch advocate of juvenile justice programs that help students address issues such as drug sales, suicidal thoughts, and cyberbullying before they spiral into bigger problems.

Pelle is a certified Peace Officer and has served on numerous boards and associations including the National Sheriffs Association, County Sheriffs of Colorado, International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Criminal Justice Management Board, Colorado Crime Information Center, Partnership for Active Community Engagement, the American Jail Association, and the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in criminal justice from the Metropolitan State University of Denver and the University of Colorado respectively. He is active in his local community and serves as a youth sports coach and board member for the Boulder County Fair.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership is a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice solutions that improve public safety. With 200 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews.

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