

**John C. "JC" Copeland**

506 Indian Creek Rd.

Walsenburg, CO 81089

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

Carl Young, County Administrator,

administrator@huerfano.us.

401 Main Street, Walsenburg, CO 81089



Dear Mr Young and county commissioners:

As a property owner in Huerfano county I have a suggestion to improve our county which was reinforced by the front page of the Denver Post today **Housing is so expensive in Colorado that school districts are becoming landlords to attract teachers.**

The county commissioners and you have a fiduciary responsibility to use the assets under your control. You have the Rio Cuchara Inn in deteriorating condition without a planned use.

Redevelop the structures to accommodate the needs of the community:

housing for visiting nurses,  
veteran use when visiting SPRHC,  
deputies, or  
single teachers.

It can be developed into apartment living with additional amenities. Why has this asset been ignored?

Our community needs affordable living for the professionals we need and to adequately staff our police, teachers and nurses. We have the assets. This will help us have better schools, better crime preventions, and health care. What better goals could we have?

We need to use the limited assets, resources, and personnel available in our county.our schools. Our major employer SPRHC and our schools need help.

I also have noticed the lack of effort or planning in acquiring new police officers, teachers, and nurses. None of the listed employers attend or approach on a constant basis of new graduates from area colleges: CSU-Pueblo, CU-Colorado Springs, Fort Lewis College, Western State, Adams State, Trinidad Junior College, and Lamar Community College. These should be our prime candidates. We can lure them and maybe retain them with affordable housing and solicitation. Why don't we go for the best options?

I would like to hear of your intentions going forward. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely yours,

JC Copeland

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