USE OF SEAT BELTS AND SAFETY RESTRAINTS POLICY

<u>Purpose:</u> To provide for the safety of operators of municipal vehicles and equipment by requiring the use of seat belts and safety restraints.

Policy: It is the policy of the City and County to require all employees, volunteers and operators of City and County vehicles and equipment or privately owned vehicles being used for City and County business, to utilize seat belts and shoulder harnesses while operating or riding in the vehicle. The use of seat belts while operating a motor vehicle can significantly reduce the number of deaths and severity of injuries resulting from traffic accidents. In addition, the use of seat belts and safety restraints assists vehicle operators in maintaining proper control of their vehicles during unusual circumstances.

<u>Applicability:</u> All employees, volunteers and operators operating or riding in all types of vehicles whether owned, leased, or rented by the City and County or employee while being used for City and County business.

<u>Procedure:</u> All occupants operating or riding in City and County vehicles or any vehicle used for City and County business shall fasten their safety belts and shoulder harnesses, if so equipped, upon entering the vehicle and shall keep them fastened as long as the vehicle is in motion. It shall be the responsibility of the driver to insure that all persons, including prisoners, are in compliance with this procedure.

<u>Penalty:</u> Violations of this policy will be cause for corrective or disciplinary action in conformance with the City and County's <u>Personnel Merit System</u>. In addition to corrective or disciplinary action, operators of City and County equipment that do not wear seat belts or approved safety restraints may be cited for violation of State or municipal traffic codes.

Exceptions:

Employees operating vehicles in park areas, off roadways, for the purpose of maintenance shall be exempted from using a seat belt.

Peace officers while performing official duties in conformance with Section 42-4-237 (3) (c) of the Colorado Revised Statutes.