Mission, Goals, Values
Message From the Chief of Police
Chief’s Executive Staff

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Mission Statement
To make Aurora safer every day.

Organizational Goals
Aurora will be a safe city.

Vision Statement
Aurora will work toward being the safest large city in America.
We will accomplish this by:
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- Preparedness and immediate response to public safety emergencies
- Building strong community partnerships through constitutional and respectful police service

Core Values
All members of the department are instilled with the three basic values of Integrity, Honor and Duty.

Integrity
- Trustworthiness
- Honesty
- Ethical Standards
- Fairness

Honor
- Loyalty
- Respect

Duty
- Professionalism
- Service
- Dedication
- Pride

CALEA Accreditation - The Aurora Police Department is an accredited law enforcement agency and meets the high standards of the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.
The Aurora Police Department compiles an Annual Public Safety Report summarizing the extensive work accomplished by the department in cooperation with overwhelming support from our community. The report outlines how the Aurora Police Department is dedicated to forging a strong, cooperative partnership with citizens and businesses in our community built upon trust and respect. Among other things, this report provides the public with an overview of the department, crime reports, and community interactions. It also details how our devoted volunteers, civilian employees and sworn officers diligently work together to enhance public safety. The culmination of these efforts has made Aurora one of the safest cities of its size in the United States of America.

This Annual Public Safety Report summarizes the significant accomplishments, which can be attributed to the hard work of the men and women of the Aurora Police Department. We strive to make Aurora a safer place every day in innovative ways.

The relationship with the community plays the most integral part in our ability to effectively combat crime and positively affect the overall quality of life within the city. We are constantly evaluating our practices to ensure that we are serving the unique needs of our diverse community.

On behalf of the department, I also extend our appreciation for the hard work of the City Manager, the Mayor, members of City Council, and the numerous other city employees who work alongside our officers to ensure we are able to provide extraordinary service to our citizens every day.

In closing, I would like to thank the men and women of the Aurora Police Department for their continued service, dedication, and professionalism. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days per year, these men and women work to provide a service to the community that is often challenging and dangerous. Support service employees and volunteers alike are often behind the scenes but they are instrumental in shaping the success of this organization. The tenacity and daily courage exhibited by front-line officers is something to be proud of as a Chief of Police.

It has been my sincere pleasure to serve as the Chief of Police for the Aurora Police Department for another year.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Metz, Chief of Police
Pictured below is the command staff in place during 2017.

- Deputy Chief - Paul O'Keefe
- Chief of Police - Nicholas Metz
- Department Legal Advisor - Nancy Rodgers
- Metro Division Chief - Vanessa Wilson
- Compliance & Professional Standards Division Chief - Kevin Flynn
- Operations Division Chief - Jim Puscian
- Department Legal Advisor - Angela Garcia
- District 1 Commander - Harry Glidden
- District 2 Commander - Marcus Dudley
- District 3 Commander - Darin Parker
- Investigations Bureau Commander - Ernie Ortiz
- Administrative Support Supervisor - Danelle Carrel
- Manager of Police Business Services - John Schneebeck

Not Pictured:
- Internal Affairs Commander - Lee Condreay
- Executive Officer - Lt. Chris Amsler
The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the city of Aurora’s crime and traffic-related issues for the 2015-2016 period. The report examines the state of crime relative to cities of similar size, as well as a review of 2015 and 2016 crime trends in Aurora. The final sections of the report examine specific accomplishments, events and major case resolutions.

### 2.1 Introduction

In the 2016 Annual Report, the population data furnished was in fact data representative of 2017. Therefore, data in this section has not changed in contrast to last year’s report.

Aurora’s population has grown by more than 138,000 new residents (62.25%), from 222,930 in 1988 to 361,710 in 2017. This statistic is important when assessing the crime rates in the city and can impact the way in which the Aurora Police Department addresses crime.

### Aurora’s Population by District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APD District 1</th>
<th>Sq. miles</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APD District 1</td>
<td>17.87</td>
<td>124,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APD District 2</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>97,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APD District 3</td>
<td>46.51</td>
<td>144,722</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2
Department Demographics

The Aurora Police Department continues to work to support the Civil Service Commission to improve the diversity profile of our agency through vigorous recruitment efforts directed at young men and women who are considering a police career and are more representative of the city’s diverse population. The Aurora Police Department has two full-time Officers assigned to the Recruiting Unit who focus on recruiting applicants from all facets of our community. Police Recruiters attend dozens of community events and job fairs each year to get a most diverse pool of applicants for sworn and non-sworn positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>% of sworn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>80.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3
Connecting the Dots and Solving Crimes

The monthly IMPACT meeting continues to be a valuable and effective communication and crime fighting process for the entire department and an opportunity for the Chief of Police and Executive Staff to ensure that the department’s principles are being followed. This strategy meeting also serves a dual purpose in that operational commanders are required to discuss areas where they are succeeding and where opportunities for improvement exist. It also provides a forum for all department units to offer assistance to solve problems and put more eyes on the crime and policing challenges that affect the city. IMPACT meetings continually help units align their operations with the department’s and city’s missions and goals.

IMPACT
Indentify Major Patterns And Crime Trends
The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) annually publishes the “Crime in the US” report. The report relies on data collected and reported by participating agencies. Additionally, the report adheres to the established Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards. The UCR aims to create consistency in reporting for all participating agencies nationwide.

The Aurora Police Department voluntarily participates in the UCR system. For the purposes of this report, the focus will be on the seven major crimes reported in UCR. These are the only crimes reported nationally to the FBI and the only measures to compare one city’s crime trends with another’s. For reporting purposes, the seven major crimes are categorized into two groups: Violent Crime (murder, forcible sex assault [rape], aggravated assault, robbery) and Property Crime (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft). The Total Major Crime or Index Crime is an aggregate of the total Violent Crime and total Property Crime, providing an overall view of major crime in an area.

The UCR system counts each victim of murder, sex assault and aggravated assault as an individual crime occurrence, whereas only incidents of robbery, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft are counted. This means that a double murder occurring at the same time in the same location is treated as two murders but a robbery in which a store clerk and three customers are the victims is counted as only one robbery. The FBI collects data continuously but publishes its final report on crime for a given year in the fall of the succeeding year.

### Section 3

**Uniform Crime Reporting System**

This section of the report compares the compiled crime data reported to the FBI for 2017 with the finalized data for 2016 submitted to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The intent is to provide an overview of the crime-reduction efforts of the Police Department during the last calendar year. In addition to the seven major crimes, statistical reporting of traffic enforcement is included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UCR crimes are measured by a count of victims/incidents that were reported (not necessarily occurred) during the data period.</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Yearly Difference</th>
<th>Yearly % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/01 - 12/31</td>
<td>+ or -</td>
<td>% change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### MAJOR CRIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>+ or -</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder Victims</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>+8</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Assault Victims</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>+57</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault Victims</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>1,224</td>
<td>+169</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>+106</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MAJOR VIOLENT CRIMES REPORTED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>+ or-</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,981</td>
<td>2,321</td>
<td>+340</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-fatal shootings as shown below are not reported as an independent category under UCR, but these are included in the aggravated assault category in the chart above. Non-fatal shootings are an indicator of crime and a high-priority focus for the department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shooting Incidents</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>+ or-</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>+34</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Property Crime
In 2017 property crime decreased by 1.1%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Yearly Difference</th>
<th>Yearly % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01/01 - 12/31</td>
<td>+ or-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>1,667</td>
<td>1,669</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>1,547</td>
<td>2,194</td>
<td>+647</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>8,086</td>
<td>7,314</td>
<td>-772</td>
<td>(9.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR PROPERTY CRIMES REPORTED</td>
<td>11,300</td>
<td>11,177</td>
<td>-123</td>
<td>(1.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 Arrests and Summonses
In 2017, Aurora Police Officers made a total of 16,482 criminal arrests. This is an 11.7% decrease from the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Yearly Difference</th>
<th>Yearly % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01/01 - 12/31</td>
<td>+ or-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Arrests</td>
<td>10,020</td>
<td>9,713</td>
<td>-307</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Summonses</td>
<td>8,649</td>
<td>6,769</td>
<td>-1,880</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUI/DUID</td>
<td>2,214</td>
<td>1,558</td>
<td>-656</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ARRESTS</td>
<td>18,669</td>
<td>16,482</td>
<td>-2,187</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1 A Message from the Traffic Unit

In 2017, the Traffic Section continued its traffic safety efforts through the utilization of additional Colorado Department of Transportation grants. These programs included Pedestrian Education and Safety Enforcement, Driving Under the Influence and High Visibility Enforcement, Seat Belt Click It or Ticket, Citywide Speed Enforcement, Following Too Closely and Child Passenger Safety events.

In 2017, 1,558 DUI arrests were made in the city of Aurora. The three-officer DUI Enforcement Team made 583 (or roughly 35 percent) of those arrests. The Traffic Section performed 15 DUI High Visibility Enforcement operations. In cooperation with CDOT and the “Summer of Heat” campaign, the Traffic Section conducted four checkpoints between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The DUI Enforcement Team continued to be one of the leading teams in Colorado for DUI arrests. The Unit received the Top DUI Team in the state, awarded by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and special recognition was given to the individual officers in the Unit. In addition, the Traffic Section’s Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Agency Coordinator was named “DRE of the Year” for 2017, awarded by CDOT. This award is presented to only one DRE a year.

In 2017 there were 25 fatal collisions resulting in 26 deaths. This was a 7.4 percent decrease in fatal collisions and 16.1 percent decrease in fatalities from 2016. Of the 25 fatal collisions in 2017, 12 of them involved subjects who were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Nine of them involved vehicle operators who were DUI, and two collisions involved pedestrians who were under the influence of alcohol and drugs. One was the result of both the vehicle operator and the pedestrian being under the influence. There were 19 deaths in non-pedestrian collisions in 2017. Unfortunately, 11 of the 19 people who were killed in collisions were not using proper safety equipment (to include seat belts, helmets, child safety seats, etc.).

The Traffic Section provided over 900 hours of formal classroom training to department personnel, city employees, the United States Air Force, Colorado District Attorneys Council, and other outside agencies. This training consisted of basic collision investigations, collision reconstruction, traffic laws, basic Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Drug Recognition Expert training (DRE), police motorcycle operator training, speed enforcement laser certification, prosecuting impaired drivers to the Colorado District Attorneys Council (CDAC), collision reconstruction to CDAC, victim advocate training to MADD, alcohol and drug impairment training to city employee supervisors, and collision investigations to city supervisors. The Traffic Section continues to take a leadership role with regard to training.

In 2017, the inaugural “Every 15 Minutes” program was presented at Hinkley High School. This was the first time the program was ever presented in the city of Aurora and the greater Denver metro area. “Every 15 Minutes” is a two-day event that offers real-life experience without the real-life risks as it relates to impaired driving. This emotionally charged program is designed to dramatically instill teenagers with the potentially dangerous consequences of driving impaired. Students are challenged to think about drinking, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved. “Every 15 Minutes” is another example of the Traffic Section’s commitment to community and dedication to proactive education.
**4.2 Assessment of Traffic Enforcement Efforts**
The Police Department continues to increase its dedication to traffic safety throughout the city of Aurora. Reducing the number of fatal and injury collisions continues to be a major focus for the Traffic Section. The Traffic Section continues to expand the number of public education events it conducts. By educating drivers on safe driving behaviors, we can all work together to make the roadways safer for all users.

**4.3 Top Five Traffic Collision Locations**
The number of collisions was slightly lower or consistent with last year’s numbers at most locations. The majority of collisions at our top five intersections in 2017 were non-injury.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2016 totals</th>
<th>2017 totals</th>
<th>Crash % changes</th>
<th>2016 Injury crashes</th>
<th>2017 Injury crashes</th>
<th>Injury changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>S. Parker Rd. &amp; S. Peoria St.</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>-4.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S. Parker Rd. &amp; S. I-225 N/B</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>-6.5%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>S. Havana St &amp; E. Iliff Ave.</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>I-225 N/B at E. Mississippi Ave.</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>E. Iliff Ave. &amp; S. Chambers Rd.</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-25.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**4.4 Total Traffic Collisions**
In 2017, Aurora saw an overall 1.2 percent decrease in traffic collisions. The number of injury collisions decreased 5.5 percent, and fatal collisions decreased 7.4 percent. Preliminary numbers provided by the state of Colorado show 646 statewide fatal collisions in 2017, an increase from 608 statewide fatal collisions in 2016.
In 2017, the total number of traffic citations issued department-wide was up 11.8 percent compared with 2016. The Motorcycle Enforcement Team (MET) issued 15,513 municipal citations in 2017, which accounted for approximately 50 percent of traffic citations issued.

DUI and DUID arrests fell 29.6 percent from 2016 to 2017. Despite the decrease, the department continues to remain proactive in its fight against drunken and impaired drivers--arresting 1,558 impaired drivers in 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traffic Tickets</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>% Ticket change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Tickets</td>
<td>26,554</td>
<td>28,844</td>
<td>-8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Tickets</td>
<td>1,972</td>
<td>3,060</td>
<td>-55.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tickets</td>
<td>28,526</td>
<td>31,904</td>
<td>-11.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUI/DUID Arrests</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,214</td>
<td>1,558</td>
<td>-29.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recently members of the Aurora Police Department’s DUI Enforcement Team participated in the Denver Walk Like MADD 5K #Drunkdrivingendshere
Section 5
Significant Highlights and Accomplishments

5.1 Chief Metz Implements a Community Policing Advisory Team (CPAT)

In February of 2017, Chief of Police Nick Metz implemented a new department initiative for enhancing community relations – the establishment of a Community Policing Advisory Team (CPAT). This group was identified as a departmental goal in the most recent Initiatives for Enhancing Community Relations booklet.

The Community Policing Advisory Team is composed of members of our diverse community who will advise on a variety of issues to include, but not limited to:

- Community policing and engagement strategies, as well as directly assist APD in community outreach.
- Provide consultant advice to the department during times of crisis directly impacting the police and the community.
- Provide advice and opinion pertaining to current or proposed policies, procedures and training.
- Assist in creating mechanisms in improving communication between police and community.
- Assist in creating mechanisms in how best the community can recognize great work by our employees.

There are currently 16 members of the Community Policing Advisory Team chosen by Chief Nick Metz from among public and private sector business partners, community groups, faith communities, and private citizens. Current membership includes representatives from Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek Schools, AKCRT (Aurora Key Community Response Team), the immigrant and refugee communities, the youth community, the business community, the Asian community, the Hispanic/Latino community, the LGBTQ community, the NAACP, the Christian faith community, the Muslim faith community, the Aurora Human Rights Commission, and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.
The **ALERT TEAM** is a group of Aurora Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (ACPAAA) member volunteers who are organized and willing to serve the Department in specialized, usually unplanned functions. The team is available to the Department as needed and may be called by any command level officer or supervisor for large-scale events. The team consists of trained volunteer citizens.

The **ALERT TEAM** includes members who have received training in some of the following areas: Citizen Missing/Abducted Response Team (**CMART**), Community Emergency Response Team members who are able to provide some of the following services:

- Four wheel drive vehicles with drivers to assist in transportation during a snow emergency
- Nursing and/or medical or CPR treatment
- General drivers to move critical/essential personnel
- Phone bank workers to supplement communication
- Dispense food, emergency supplies, etc., at disaster site
- Emergency babysitting for children of on-duty officers during a disaster
- Emergency housing for officers who live outside of Aurora when weather doesn’t permit them to get home
- Equipment available to load: snowmobile, trailer to haul equipment, generator, truck with snowplow and ATV
5.3 Establishment of the APD Foundation

In 2017, the APD Foundation was established. The APD Foundation is a non-profit foundation that serves to raise support and awareness for the Aurora Police Department. In part, the APD Foundation’s mission is to provide assistance to the Aurora Police Department by providing additional training, community outreach support, specialized equipment, employee development opportunities, etc. Support from the APD Foundation comes solely from private, donated funds where general funds might not otherwise be available. The funds are controlled and allocated by a board of community members, who ultimately drive the mission of the foundation. The creation of the APD Foundation will be instrumental in fostering support for the members of the Aurora Police Department and will assist members in continuing to serve the needs of the community to the fullest extent.

5.4 Implementation of a ‘Night Duty Captain’ Position

In recent years, there have been four positions designating the rank of Captain within the Aurora Police Department. In 2017, Chief Metz implemented a Night Duty Captain position. The creation of this position added a fifth Captain to the command structure at the Police Department.

The first selected Night Duty Captain was Capt. Stephen Redfearn. In this new role, Capt. Redfearn is responsible for overseeing city-wide operations during hours where other command members may not traditionally be present. The Night Duty Captain acts as a measure of supervisory oversight during large-scale incidents and critical incidents. This newly formed role aims to serve the needs of the community by extending hours of an APD command member.

5.5 Creation of the Neighborhood Policing Unit

The Neighborhood Policing Unit (NPU) was created to assist in bridging the gap between patrol officers and the community in Northwest Aurora. In order to better serve this diverse community, the Aurora Police Department decided to create a unit within the department that was both a proactive enforcement team and approachable by the residents in the area it served. In order to accomplish this, the Aurora Police Department looked at the successful use of bicycle patrol across the country, finding that bicycles provided the right amount of mobility to effectively patrol this large geographic area while breaking the traditional barriers of a police car. The members of NPU are easily identified by their distinctive high-visibility blue uniform shirts.

During the course of 2017 Officers from the Neighborhood Policing Unit initiated over 1,600 contacts with residents. These contacts ranged from enforcement to community engagement. Officers of the NPU also began a working partnership with the businesses in the area. These partnerships are essential to ensuring the needs of the community are met. As the Neighborhood Policing Unit expands it will continue to serve a growing number of residents in the area.
6.1 APD Volunteers in the Spotlight

In 2017, the Aurora Police Department received assistance from 476 volunteers. These volunteers were active in various areas throughout the department.

There were six interpreters, 145 volunteers known as VIPs (Volunteers in Policing), 48 Victim Advocates, five Chaplains, 41 Explorers (part of our youth team volunteers, some of whom move on to become officers), and 229 CPAs (Citizen Police Academy members and Alumni-ACPAAA).

These volunteers allow the department to place more officers in the community to more effectively protect and serve. Our volunteers are an award-winning team that donated 36,583 hours and saved the city of Aurora $883,114 in 2017. The volunteers of the Aurora Police Department are a core support component within the agency and they deserve recognition for their selflessness!
Special Victims Unit

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) was created in September 2015 in order to enforce mandatory reporting laws for at-risk elders and at-risk adults with an intellectual or developmental disability, some of those most vulnerable adults in our communities. The unit arrived at the name “Special Victims Unit” because of its involvement with such a diverse, vulnerable victim population. The team’s task is to investigate and file charges on people, caregivers, or facilities who abuse, neglect, or exploit at-risk elders and at-risk adults with an IDD.

The SVU consists of a Sergeant, one Detective, four Investigators at the officer rank, and one Senior Resource Officer. The Sergeant of the unit is tasked with maintaining relationships with various stakeholders in the at-risk community and training APD members in the intricacies of mandatory reporting laws. Members of SVU partnered with the Arc of Aurora and The Autism Society to learn about people with intellectual disabilities and various multi-disciplinary teams to understand the challenges faced in the elder community. The team has quickly become the model team in the region for handling crimes against at-risk elders and adults. For their efforts, the team has been awarded the Larry Ruiz 2016 “Excellence in Inclusion” Award presented by the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, and the unit also received the Aurora Police Departments Chief’s Unit Citation in 2017.

Due to the extreme challenges in assembling a case that can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt from victims who have diminished capacities, the SVU seeks to stop any type of abuse that may be occurring. Once abuse is stopped, the SVU attempts to build a case that will serve its victim’s justice. Each year as the Mandatory Reporting Community becomes educated of these laws, law enforcement agencies see an increase in workload. The SVU has seen a 35 percent increase in workload each year since inception. In 2017 SVU handled 499 cases forwarded from patrol and 989 referrals from DHS divided by five investigators.

SVU has set precedence in the metro area having obtained a guilty plea on the first elder homicide by neglect. On one occasion, SVU rescued an at-risk adult kidnapping victim with the help of SWAT. All SVU cases are complex, with investigative challenges and multiple layers of bureaucracy to contend with in the at-risk community. To help with the reporting and complexities of handling these cases, the Colorado At-Risk Elder System (CARES) has been implemented.

This is a web-based system that allows 26 police departments in the 18th Judicial District to make mandatory reporting notifications. With successful implementation, the CARES system will be implemented statewide.
6.3

K9 Unit

In 2017, the APD K9 Unit consisted of seven teams, meaning a dog and a handler paired together. All of the K9 teams are dual purpose, meaning they have two specialties. All K9 teams are certified in patrol functions such as obedience, area and building searching, and apprehension of criminal suspects. The K9s all have a second job as well; they are either trained in narcotic or explosive detection. Our canines are routinely used to help search for criminal suspects, narcotics or to sweep venues and public events for the safety of all. Explosive detection dogs are also certified and able to locate firearms, ammunition and/or shell casings, and other evidence as well. Our canine partners have found large amounts of illegal narcotics, and the explosive detection canines have been instrumental in locating firearms and evidence in firearm-related offenses.

The K9 unit’s main purpose is to support patrol and other enforcement teams, both inside the APD and with outside agencies as well. The K9s are highly trained, very brave and possess exceptional senses that allows for law enforcement tasks to be completed in a quicker and safer manner. The training that these partners receive is for the betterment of our officers and the community. The unit staffs the city seven days a week and is on an on-call basis 365 days a year. In 2017, the K9 Unit had over 1,800 calls for service, assisted in over 750 arrests of criminal suspects, and had almost 100 surrenders. A surrender occurs when a suspect complies with police orders and gives up peacefully due to the dog's presence on a scene. The majority of the K9 Unit’s deployments occur when dealing with a suspect wanted on felony charges or a suspect who poses a serious threat to the public at large. The unit is commended for locating and seizing large amounts of contraband, drugs, cash, firearms and ammunition used in felonious crimes.

The K9 Unit is also responsible for continuously training, and teams must re-certify every year in each of their respective disciplines. The K9 teams routinely make multiple public appearances at schools, community events and numerous fundraisers every year. The dogs in the K9 unit are very social and happy until it is time to go to work, and our teams have earned the respect across the country as very professional, proactive and talented. The unit has assisted in many high-profile investigations and arrests of suspects for many local, state and federal agencies. The unit has also been directly responsible for the apprehension of suspects wanted on multiple violent crimes and has also been instrumental in searching for and locating multiple items of evidence, critical to the successful prosecution of criminal legal proceedings. The K9 Unit is held in very high regard not only in the law enforcement community, but also amongst the community. The K9 Unit maintains its own Facebook page that is wildly popular and exemplifies the community interaction that the APD strives for.

The K9’s live at home with the handlers and are a very important part of a handler’s life and family, making them so much more than just a partner. They are the eyes, ears and protection for their handler and the community in which they serve.
The Aurora Police Department’s Records Unit is composed of two Sections, the Front Desk and Records. Our staff consists of 35 Record Technicians, six Report Technicians, one Administrative Specialist, two Lead Technicians, six Record Supervisors, one Front Desk Supervisor, one Front Desk Sergeant, and one Manager of Police Records.

Our staff works around the clock, 24/7, in Records, and from 06:00 to 00:00 at the Front Desk, to provide the best support and service possible to the Police Department and community.

Basic operations for both sections surround providing exemplary customer service and contribute to our mission statement, “to make Aurora safer every day” by assisting our Officers with taking calls for service, writing reports, making information available to in-house systems, sharing information on public and protected platforms, entering important information into state and federal law enforcement databases, sharing information with surrounding jurisdictions for follow-up investigations, ensuring information gets to the appropriate court in a timely manner, and sharing information with both the Colorado and Federal Bureau of Investigation for statistical reporting.

The front desk supports many patrol functions by taking calls for service and writing reports for high-volume incidents such as runaways, missing persons, motor vehicle thefts and crime reports with no suspect information. In 2017, our front desk fielded almost 70,000 calls for service and authored approximately 4,000 reports. This relief is instrumental in allowing our Officers to focus on other enforcement priorities and allows officers to be present in the community.

Along with ensuring accurate data in our Aurora Police Department records management system, a huge portion of our job is to assist in officer and community safety by submitting accurate and timely entry of relevant information into state and federal law enforcement databases. Information submitted to these systems includes missing and endangered adults and juveniles, children who have run away from home, attempts to locate people needed for questioning in criminal acts, suspects who are wanted for committing criminal acts, arrestees who are wanted for not appearing in court for criminal acts, stolen property and motor vehicles. This task is very important as our entries will indicate if someone has a sensitive condition that may compromise their wellbeing while missing, or will let our Officers know if a wanted person has violent or cautionary information that may compromise their or the public’s safety.

Thousands of requests for information are processed each year. During 2017, the numbers below were entered or verified in state or national law enforcement databases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stolen Vehicles</td>
<td>2,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stolen License Plates</td>
<td>1,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runaway Children/Missing Adults</td>
<td>1,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Histories</td>
<td>9,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrants Reviewed</td>
<td>6,580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public requests are processed in accordance with the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act, and may take anywhere from 5 minutes to several hours to process. This task takes a significant amount of legal knowledge specific to criminal justice records release with considerations in weighing a person’s right to privacy with the public’s need to know.
The Aurora Police Department maintains several social media accounts in an effort to keep the community and members of the media informed. Much of the social media content is also aimed at maintaining a level of transparency amongst our community. APD maintains accounts with Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.com.

The use of Facebook has proved to be successful as it enables the APD to reach many members of the community. The use of Facebook has been so successful that the Recruiting, K9 Unit and Traffic Section now have their own pages. The APD also maintains a Facebook page that specifically is dedicated to combating motor vehicle theft.

The department not only has a Twitter and Facebook account in English, but we also maintain a Spanish account to address the Hispanic population. The Spanish accounts include content that is translated to Spanish and specific items that may be particularly relevant to Aurora’s Hispanic community.

The Nextdoor.com account has been a great resource for PAR (Police Area Representative) officers. Each PAR officer has been designated an account that correlates with the areas that they patrol. The use of this neighbor-based social media site has been successful in targeting specific areas as it allows for the PAR officers to inform the audience by individual geographic areas or to all those who are subscribed as having an Aurora address. We encourage all Aurora residents to create a Nextdoor.com account to get public safety information directly from the Aurora Police Department.
Section 8
A Glimpse of 2017

Officer Seneca embraces brave children who battle with cancer at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Officer Kindle Padilla poses with an excited Aurora resident who is about to buy some essentials as a part of the Shop With a Cop event.

Aurora Police Officers and members of APD Command gather before marching in the Denver Pride parade. This is one of APD’s largest annual recruiting events.
During a rare solar eclipse, Division Chief Vanessa Wilson and Financial Support Technician Lori Strain look directly at the sun...with specialized eclipse glasses, of course.

Officer Emily Hitchings cuddles baby Axel as a part of the affectionately titled “Cuddle Watch”

Officers and local businesses rally together to repair a recovered stolen, heavily damaged vehicle for a mother and her daughter. The family was in Aurora for an extended stay while receiving treatment at Children’s Hospital Colorado.