AURORA POLICE

2014

Annual Public Safety Report

15001 East Alameda Parkway
Aurora, Colorado 80012

Mission, Goals, Values

Mission Statement:

To make Aurora safer every day.

Organizational Goals:

Aurora will be the safest large city in America by 2020:

Vision:

Aurora will be the safest large city in America

We will accomplish this by:

1. Reducing crime and fear of crime.
2. Partnering with the community to identify and solve problems.
3. Operating the department efficiently.

Core Values:

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

Integrity

- Trustworthiness
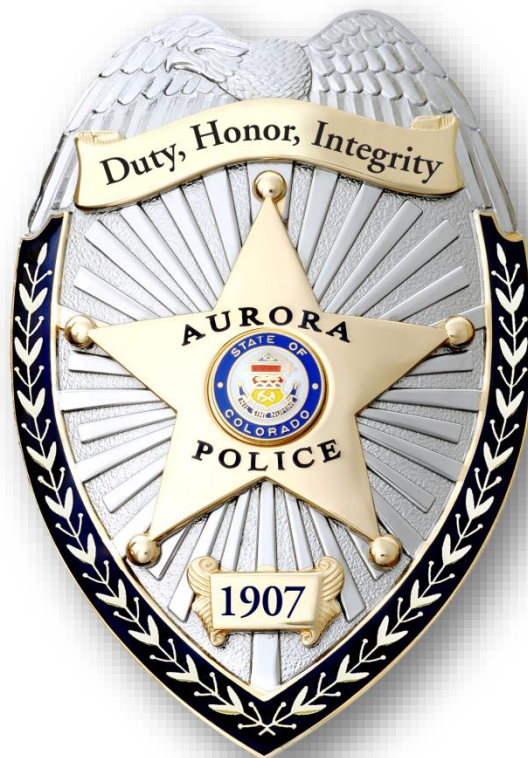- Honesty
- Ethical Standards
- Fairness

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 2014 Annual Public Safety Report summarizes the significant work accomplished by the men and women of the Aurora Police Department to reduce crime in our city. As you will see in this report, Aurora is one of the safest cities of its size in the United States.

On behalf of the more than 808 sworn and civilian members of the Aurora Police Department, I want to thank all the individuals, organizations and businesses who partnered with us and supported our efforts to reduce crime and improve quality of life in the City of Aurora in 2014. We in the Aurora Police Department enjoy a very special partnership with the citizens we serve, and we are very grateful for the extraordinary support we receive every day.

On behalf of the department, I also extend our appreciation and thanks to the City Manager, Mayor and City Council members, along with all the other city employees who work to ensure that we can provide the most reliable and professional service possible to our citizens.

I offer my thanks and praise to every member of the Aurora Police Department. As evidenced in this report, their performance, dedication and commitment to our city is extraordinary.

Terry Jones
Interim Chief of Police for 2014

Duty, Honor, Integrity

SECTION 1: Executive Command Staff

Terence F. Jones
Interim Chief of Police

Rob McGregor
Acting Deputy Chief of Police

James Puscian
Acting Division Chief
Investigative Division

Kevin Flynn
Division Chief
Operations Division

John R. Schneebeck
Manager
Business Services Bureau

SECTION 2: Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the City of Aurora's crime and traffic-related issues for the 2013-2014 period. The report examines the state of crime relative to cities of similar size, as well as a review of 2013 and 2014 crime trends in Aurora. The final sections of the report examine specific accomplishments, events, and major case resolutions.
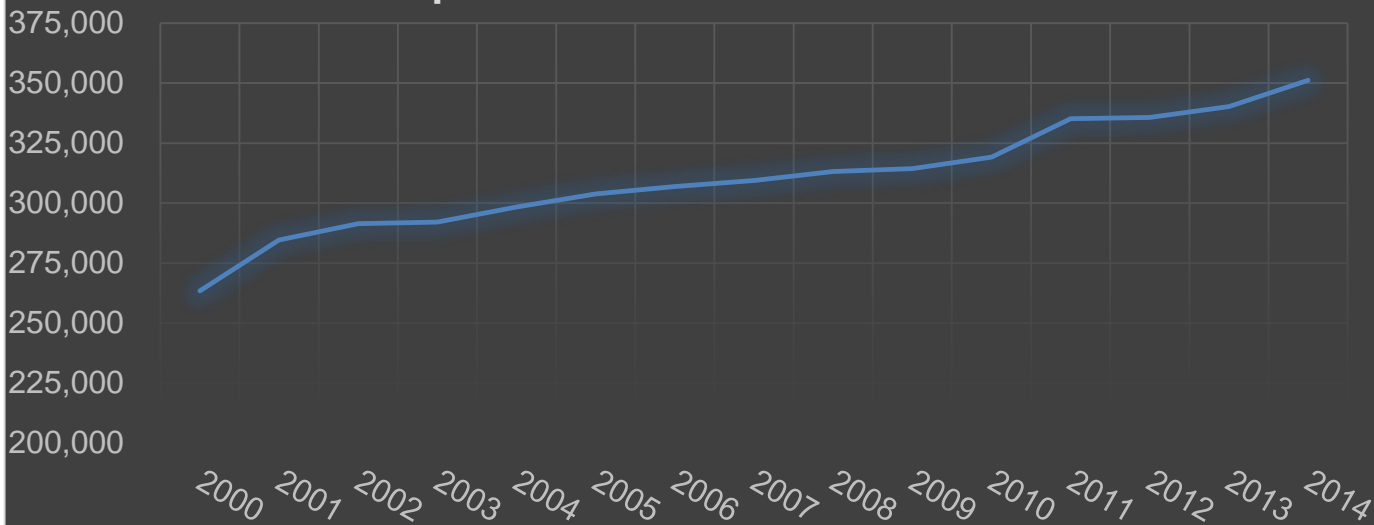
2.1 | Population

The City of Aurora continues to grow. Over the past 26 years, the population of the city has grown by more than 135,000 new residents from 222,930 in 1988 to 359,714 in 2014. This statistic is important when assessing the crime rate for the city. In addition, the land mass of the city has also grown from 147 square miles in 2005 to 154 square miles in 2014, impacting the department's response times to citizen requests for service.

Population By Police District		
District	Sq. Miles	Population
1	19	122,500
2	101	95,459
3	53	141,755

The individual sums exceed the total due to GIS mapping that has the districts covering some areas outside of Aurora.

Aurora Population Growth over the last 15 Years

These population estimates reflect numbers created by the City's Planning Department and the official 2010 census. Population estimates reported by the FBI for Crime Statistics are developed by the U. S. Census Bureau and are not always in agreement with calculated estimates provided by Aurora for the years between each official census.

SECTION 2: Introduction

2.2 | Department Demographics

The Aurora Police Department continues to work to support the Civil Service Commission and the City Attorney's office 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.


Officer Larry Bankston receives his badge from Interim Chief of Police Terry Jones during the graduation ceremony for Academy Class 2014-2L

Sworn Officer Demographics		
Category:	#:	% of Sworn:
White	573	**84.1%**
Black	27	**4.0%**
Hispanic	56	**8.2%**
Asian	8	**1.2%**
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	**0.1%**
Native American	6	**0.9%**
Two or More Races	10	**1.5%**

2.2 | Connecting the Dots and Solving Crimes

The monthly "Crime, Quality of Life and Traffic" (CQT) 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 those where they are not. 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. CQT meetings continually help units align their operations with the departments and city's missions and goals.
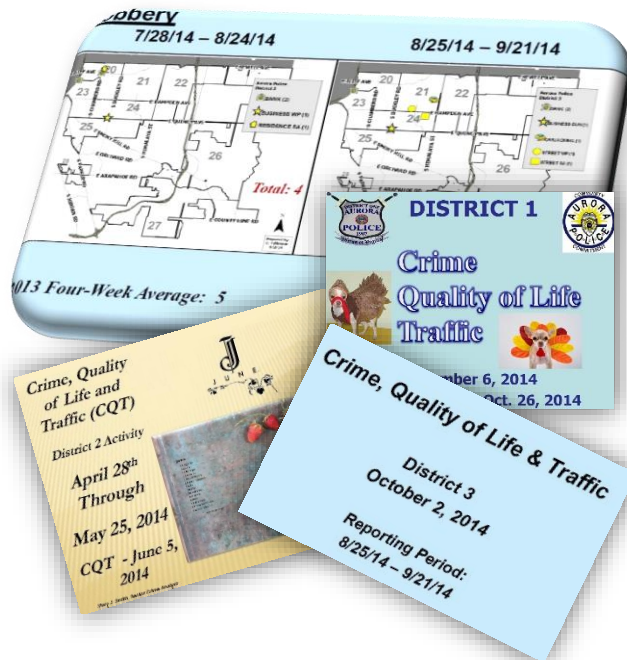
The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) annually publishes the "Crime in the US" report. The report relies on data collected and reported on by participating agencies. Additionally, the report adheres to the established Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards. The UCR aims to create consistency in 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 to another. 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 o**r **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 only counted as 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.

3.2 | Reporting Methodology

Two reporting methods are utilized in this report: volume and rate. Volume represents the actual number of crime incidents reported in accordance with the UCR. While the volume of crime in a specific area is critical to strategic planning and identifying trends, this statistic does not provide a comparative measure.

The rate of crime interprets the volume in terms of population. A rate provides a method for comparison of data between different agencies. For the purposes of this report, rates are stated as volume (or UCR incidents) per 1,000 citizens in the population.

SECTION 4: Crime In Comparative Cities

The City of Aurora compares to 42 other major cities that participate in the UCR system. Aurora is grouped with law enforcement jurisdictions servicing a population of 250,000-500,000. Because city growth dictates who is included in the group, the composition of the group can change each year. As a result, our comparisons are restricted to a one-year historical view. Within this section, the report analyzes rates of crime in accordance with the UCR rules.


4.1 | City-Officer Staffing Comparisons

2013 Officers Per 1,000 Residents
(Average 2.07 / Aurora 1.97)
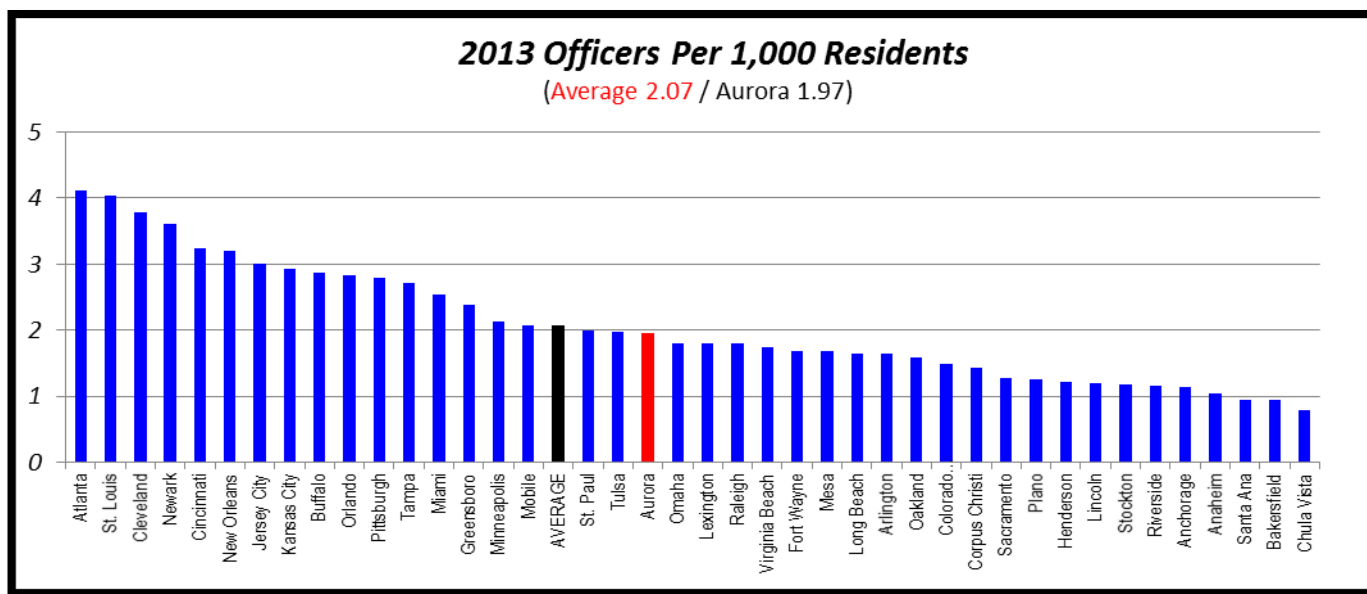
2013 Comparable Cities Population

IN BRIEF 2013 42 COMPARABLE CITIES POPULATION	
Mobile, AL	250,557
Orlando, FL	253,238
Fort Wayne, NJ	254,820
Chula Vista, CA	255,073
Jersey City, NJ	256,886
Buffalo, NY	258,789
Lincoln, NE	267,565
Henderson, NE	268,237
Plano, TX	275,795
Newark, NJ	278,246
Greensboro, NC	279,343
St. Paul, MN	294,690
Cincinnati, OH	296,491
Anchorage, AK	299,455
Stockton, CA	299,796
Pittsburgh, PA	307,632
Lexington, KY	308,712
Corpus Christi, TX	314,523
Riverside, CA	316,423
St. Louis, MO	318,563
Santa Ana, CA	332,848
Aurora, CO	343,484
Anaheim, CA	345,320
Tampa, FL	351,314
Bakersfield, CA	361,859
New Orleans, LA	377,022
Arlington, TX	378,765
Wichita, KS	386,486
Cleveland, OH	389,181
Tulsa, OK	394,498
Minneapolis, MN	396,206
Oakland, CA	403,887
Miami, FL	418,394
Omaha, NE	425,076
Raleigh, NC	428,993
Colorado Springs, CO	436,108
Virginia Beach, VA	450,687
Atlanta, GA	451,020
Mesa, AZ	456,155
Kansas City, MO	465,514
Long Beach, CA	469,665
Sacramento, CA	478,182
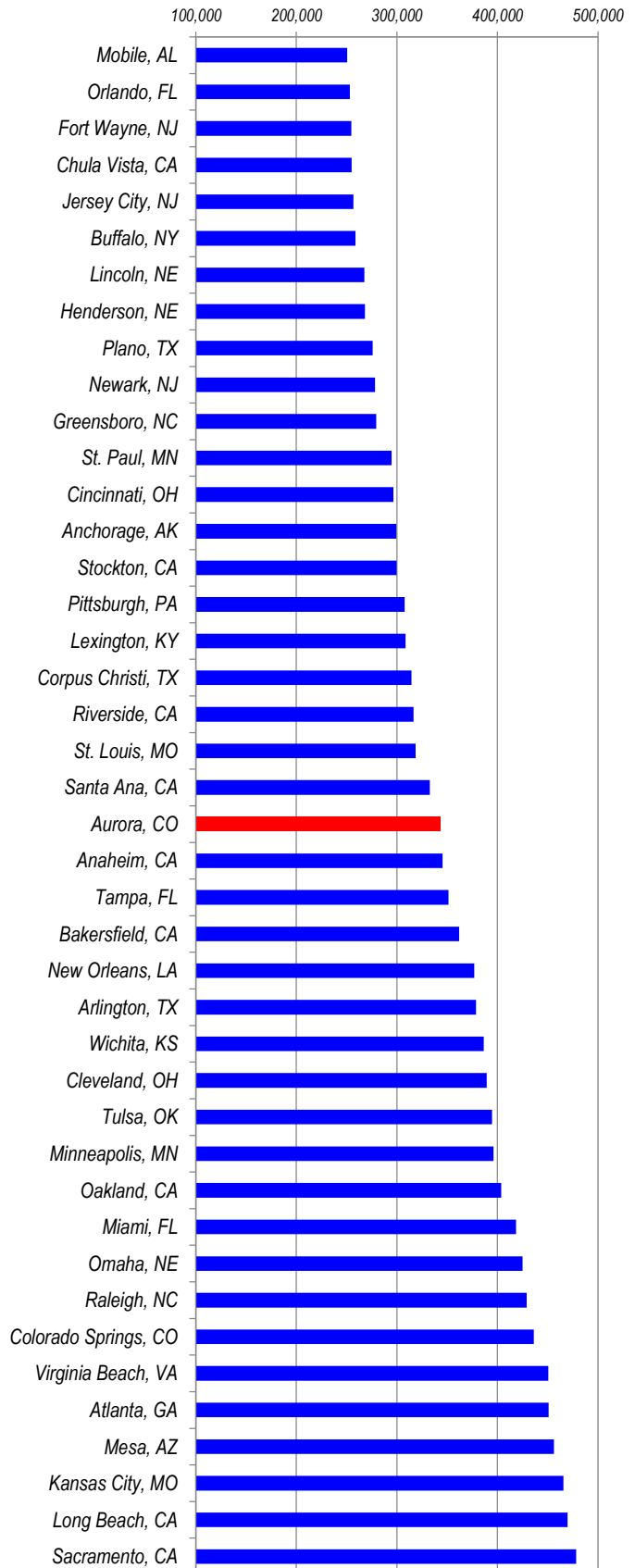
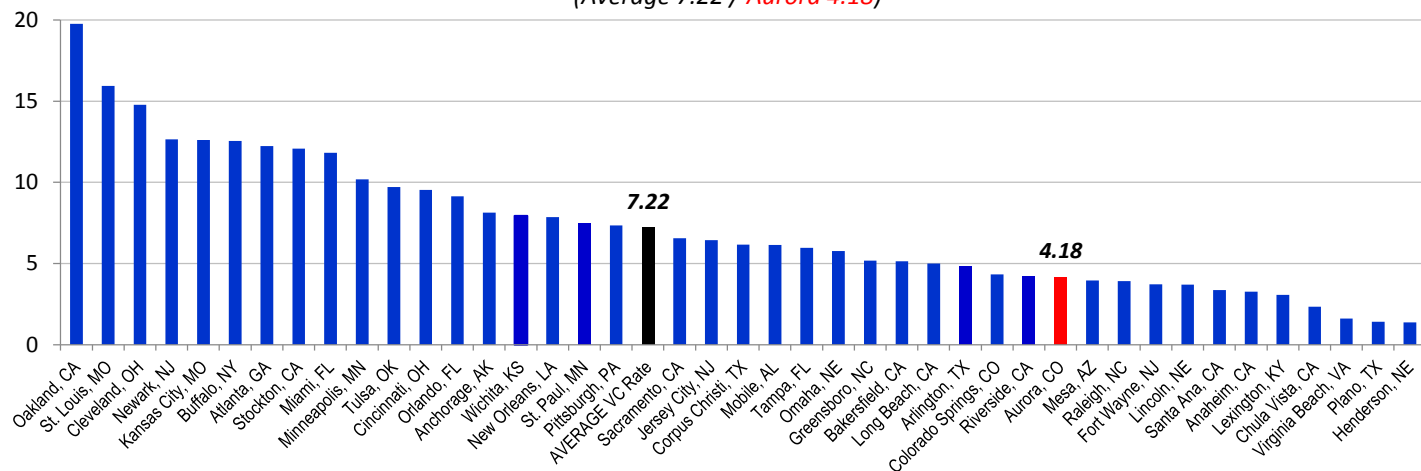## 4.3 | Crime in Perspective (2013)

In 2013 for the category of **Violent Crime**, the City of Aurora ranked 11th lowest out of the 42 comparable cities. In that same year, Aurora had a Violent Crime rate of **4.18** UCR incidents per 1,000 in population, which was below the 42-city average of **7.22**.

2013 Violent Crime Rates per 1,000 Residents
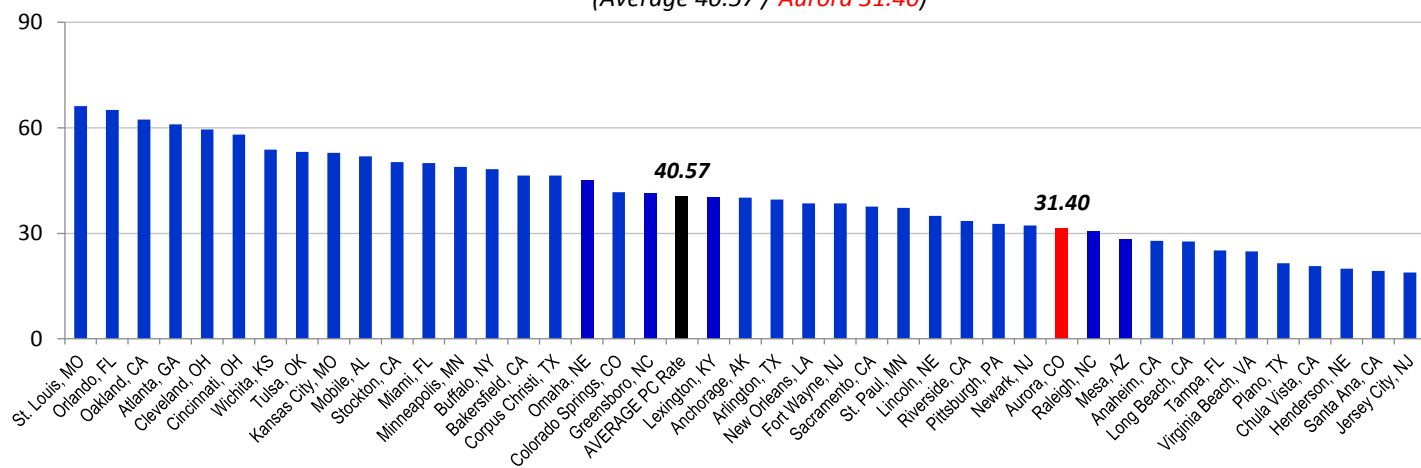*(Average 7.22 / Aurora 4.18)*

In 2013 for the category of **Property Crime**, the City of Aurora ranked 8th lowest out of the 38 comparable cities. In that same year, Aurora had a Property Crime rate of **31.40** UCR incidents per 1,000 in population, which was below the 38-city average of **40.57**.

2013 Property Crime Rates per 1,000 Residents
(Average 40.57 / Aurora 31.40)

4.3 | Crime in Perspective (2013)

The **overall view of crime** in Aurora places the city **12th best,** with a UCR rate of **35.58** major crimes per 1,000 residents. This is below the 42-city average of **47.79** incidents.

2013 Index Crime Rates per 1,000 Residents

(*Average 47.79* / *Aurora 35.58*)

4.4 | Aurora: Safest Large City in Colorado

When the City of Aurora is compared to 76 other major cities with a population of 250,000 or more, Aurora ranks #18th. Denver, which has the largest population in the state ranked 25th. Colorado Springs, which has the second largest population in the state ranked 33rd. This comparison shows that Aurora is the safest large city in the State Of Colorado. (See chart on page 13).

Aurora: Safest Large City in Colorado

Aurora	Denver	Colorado Springs
#1	#2	#3

SECTION 4: Crime In Comparative Cities

4.4 | Aurora: Safest Large City in Colorado

		Crime Rate (per 1,000 citizens) for populations 250,000 and over							
Rank	**State**	**City**	**Population**	**Rate per 1,000**	**Cont. Rank**	**State**	**City**	**Population**	**Rate per 1,000**
1	NEVADA	Henderson	268,237	21.34	38	ALASKA	Anchorage	299,455	48.31
2	CALIFORNIA	Santa Ana	332,848	22.67	39	KENTUCKY	Louisville Metro	671,120	48.31
3	TEXAS	Plano	275,795	22.91	40	TENNESSEE	Nashville	635,673	48.88
4	CALIFORNIA	Chula Vista	255,073	23.05	41	TEXAS	Fort Worth	789,035	49.04
5	NEW YORK	New York	8,396,126	23.15	42	CALIFORNIA	Fresno	508,876	49.40
6	NEW JERSEY	Jersey City	256,886	25.27	43	NEBRASKA	Omaha	425,076	50.71
7	CALIFORNIA	Los Angeles	3,878,725	26.39	44	CALIFORNIA	Bakersfield	361,859	51.60
8	VIRGINIA	Virginia Beach	450,687	26.53	45	TEXAS	Austin	859,180	52.13
9	TEXAS	El Paso	679,700	26.60	46	TEXAS	Corpus Christi	314,523	52.59
10	CALIFORNIA	San Diego	1,349,306	27.44	47	OREGON	Portland	609,136	53.48
11	CALIFORNIA	San Jose	992,143	28.95	48	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Washington	646,449	57.93
12	FLORIDA	Tampa	351,314	31.08	49	ALABAMA	Mobile	250,557	58.08
13	CALIFORNIA	Anaheim	345,320	31.10	50	WISCONSIN	Milwaukee	600,805	58.60
14	ARIZONA	Mesa	456,155	32.28	51	MINNESOTA	Minneapolis	396,206	59.05
15	CALIFORNIA	Long Beach	469,665	32.67	52	TEXAS	Houston	2,180,606	60.49
16	NORTH CAROLINA	Raleigh	428,993	34.55	53	NEW YORK	Buffalo	258,789	60.82
17	MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	643,799	35.55	54	WASHINGTON	Seattle	642,814	61.67
18	**COLORADO**	**Aurora**	**343,484**	**35.58**	55	KANSAS	Wichita	386,486	61.75
19	CALIFORNIA	Riverside	316,423	37.73	56	FLORIDA	Miami	418,394	61.84
20	NEBRASKA	Lincoln	267,565	38.66	57	OKLAHOMA	Oklahoma City	605,034	61.94
21	NEVADA	Las Vegas Metropolitan PD	1,500,455	39.55	58	CALIFORNIA	Stockton	299,796	62.38
22	PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh	307,632	40.00	59	NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque	558,165	62.45
23	INDIANA	Fort Wayne	254,820	42.21	60	OKLAHOMA	Tulsa	394,498	62.88
24	NORTH CAROLINA	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	837,638	42.57	61	TEXAS	San Antonio	1,399,725	63.46
25	COLORADO	Denver	648,981	42.83	62	MARYLAND	Baltimore	622,671	63.46
26	KENTUCKY	Lexington	308,712	43.38	63	INDIANA	Indianapolis	850,220	64.79
27	CALIFORNIA	Sacramento	478,182	44.16	64	MISSOURI	Kansas City	465,514	65.54
28	TEXAS	Arlington	378,765	44.45	65	CALIFORNIA	San Francisco	833,863	66.42
29	MINNESOTA	St. Paul	294,690	44.70	66	OHIO	Cincinnati	296,491	67.65
30	NEW JERSEY	Newark	278,246	44.86	67	ARIZONA	Tucson	525,486	72.23
31	FLORIDA	Jacksonville	845,745	45.23	68	GEORGIA	Atlanta	451,020	73.27
32	PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	1,553,153	45.41	69	FLORIDA	Orlando	253,238	74.26
33	COLORADO	Colorado Springs	436,108	46.02	70	OHIO	Cleveland	389,181	74.31
34	ARIZONA	Phoenix	1,502,139	46.32	71	TENNESSEE	Memphis	657,691	77.08
35	LOUISIANA	New Orleans	377,022	46.39	72	MICHIGAN	Detroit	699,889	79.07
36	NORTH CAROLINA	Greensboro	279,343	46.49	73	CALIFORNIA	Oakland	403,887	82.10
37	TEXAS	Dallas	1,255,015	48.29	74	MISSOURI	St. Louis	318,563	82.13

**Chicago/Toledo excluded due to missing crime data

This section of the report compares the compiled crime data reported to the FBI for 2014 to the finalized data for 2014 to the finalized data for 2013 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.

5.1 | Reporting Methodology

This section of the report focuses on the actual volume of UCR crime incidents that occurred in Aurora during 2014 as compared to 2013, rather than rates per population. Additionally, this section of the report reviews the police department's traffic enforcement efforts.

5.2 | Arrest and Summonses

Criminal Arrests	2013:	2014:	% Change:
Physical Arrests	11,069	11,655	5.3% ⬆
Criminal Summonses	7,758	6,763	12.8% ⬇
Total Arrests	18,827	18,418	2.2% ⬇

In 2014, Aurora Police Officers made a total of 18,418 criminal arrests. This is a 2.2% percent decrease from the previous year.

Officers from District 3 PAR contact two subjects during a joint district burglary reduction operation

5.4.1 | Violent Crime

In 2014, the City of Aurora had a decrease in two of the four violent crime categories. During 2014, the incidents of homicides dropped by 52.2%, sexual assaults increased by 23.5% percent and robberies decreased by 10.8% percent. Non-fatal shootings are not reported as an independent category under UCR but are included in the aggravated assault category. Non-fatal shootings are an indicator of crime and a high-priority focus for the department.

Violent Crimes	2013	2014	% Change	
Murder Victims	23	11	52.2%	↓
Sex Assault (Rape) Victims	243	300	23.5%	↑
Robbery Incidents	471	420	10.8%	↓
Aggravated Assault Victims	710	748	5.4%	↑
Violent Crime Totals:	1,447	1,479	2.2%	↑

Non-Fatal Shootings	2013	2014	% Change	
Shooting Incidents	34	39	14.7%	↑
Shooting Victims	40	41	2.5%	↑

Credit: Denver Post

Officers from District 1 guard the crime scene of an officer involved shooting in December of 2014

Credit: AuroraNews1.com

A detective from the Major Crimes Unit arrives at the scene of a shooting investigation

5.4.2 | Property Crime

In 2014, the City of Aurora saw a 6.9% decrease in property crimes. There was a 6.8% decrease in burglaries and an 8.8% decrease in larcenies (thefts).

Property Crimes	2013	2014	% Change	
Burglary Incidents	1,963	1,830	6.8%	↓
Larceny Incidents	7,850	7,162	8.8%	↓
MVT Incidents	1,025	1,099	7.2%	↑
Property Crime Totals:	10,838	10,091	6.9%	↓

5.4.3 | Total Major Crime

The total major index crimes (combined violent crimes and property crimes) for the City of Aurora, which indicates the direction overall crime is moving, saw an decrease of 5.3% percent from 2013 to 2014.

Total Major Crimes	2012	2013	% Change	
Major Index Crime	11,667	12,285	5.3%	↓

Credit: AuroraNews1.com

5.5 | Assessment of Traffic Enforcement Efforts

In 2014, the Traffic Section expanded 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 2014, 2,269 DUI/DUID arrests were made in the City of Aurora. This was consistent with the previous year. The three officer DUI Enforcement Team made 1,021 of those arrests. The Traffic Section performed 11 DUI High Visibility Enforcement operations and 5 DUI Checkpoints.

In 2014 there were 18 fatal crashes resulting in 19 deaths. Of those 18 crashes, nine of them involved subjects that were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Eight of them involved vehicle operators that were DUI or DUID, and two crashes involved pedestrians that were under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

The DUI Enforcement Team continued to be one of the leading teams in the state in DUI arrests and was honored by MADD with an award for Outstanding Team Dedication to DUI Enforcement.

Vehicle occupants in The City of Aurora exceeded the state average for seat belt use in 2014. An average of 82% of vehicle occupants involved in vehicle crashes were properly restrained. There were 13 deaths in non-pedestrian crashes in 2014. Unfortunately five of the 13 deceased were unrestrained or improperly restrained.

The Department placed second in the state's annual daytime Click It or Ticket campaign, and first in the nighttime campaign.

The Police Department continues to increase our dedication to traffic safety throughout the City of Aurora. Reducing the number of fatal and injury crashes continues to be a major focus for the Traffic Section. The Traffic Section continues to expand the number of public education events we conduct. By educating drivers on safe driving behaviors, we can all work together to make the roadways safer for all users
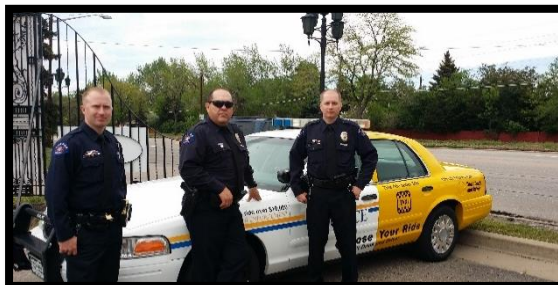
5.5.1 | Top Five Traffic Crash Locations:

The Police Department is dedicated to increasing traffic safety throughout the City of Aurora. The department strives to reduce the number of fatal and injury crashes. The number of accidents was up at most locations; however the majority of the crashes were non-injury.

Rank	Location	2013 Total Crashes	2014 Total Crashes	% Chg	2013 Injury Crashes	2014 Injury Crashes	% Chg
1	South Chambers Road @ East Mississippi Avenue	100	98	2.0% ↓	4	6	50.0% ↑
2	South Parker Road @ South Peoria Street	90	97	7.8% ↑	2	3	50.0% ↑
3	South Parker Road @ East Quincy Avenue	75	91	21.3% ↑	4	4	0%
4	South Chambers Road @ East Iliff Avenue	80	87	8.8% ↑	4	3	25% ↓
5	E. Mississippi Avenue @ South Havana Street	84	86	2.4% ↑	0	3	N/A
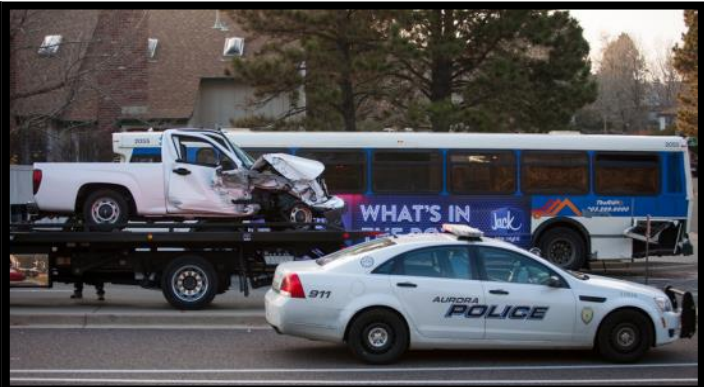
5.5.2 | Total Traffic Crashes

In 2014, Aurora saw an increase in non-injury crashes. Overall, crashes increased 7.3% percent. The number of fatal crashes remained the same from 2013 to 2014. Injury crashes decreased by 4.0%.

Traffic Crashes	2013	2014	% Change
Fatal	18	18	0.0%
Injury	833	800	4.0% ↓
Non-Injury	10,161	11,002	8.3% ↑
Total Crashes	11,012	11,820	7.3% ↑

5.5.4 | Traffic Summons Productivity and DUI Arrests

In 2014, the total number of traffic summonses issued was down 0.9% compared to 2013. DUI and DUID arrests remained constant from 2013 to 2014. The department continues to remain proactive in its fight against drunk and impaired drivers.

Traffic Tickets	2013	2014	% Change
Parking Tickets	5,789	6,015	3.9% ↑
Traffic Tickets	48,122	47,693	0.9% ↓
Total Tickets	50,362	53,708	6.6% ↑

DUI Arrests	2013	2014	% Change
DUI & DUID	2,270	2,269	0.0% ↓

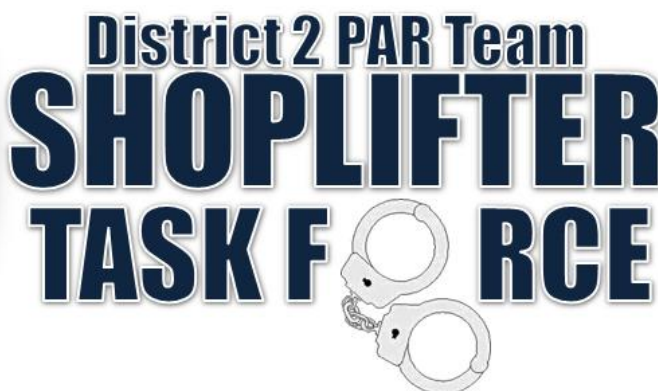## 6.1 | District 2 PAR Shoplifter Task Force

In early 2014, the Town Center of Aurora retail shopping district faced sharply rising shoplifting occurrences. Pattern offenders targeted these businesses due to what was perceived as a revolving door, and an ineffective justice system facing pattern criminals.

Members of the District Two PAR Team met to address and solve this problem. Through an open-ended series of brainstorming sessions a model program was developed. Stake holders from affected retailers were obtained, judicial buy in was secured from the City Attorney's Office, and then from the Chief Magistrate of the Municipal Court. System were developed to track repeat and chronic shoplifting offenders.

Innovative approaches included mandatory arrests for second time offenders, and mandatory overnight jailing of offenders with next day court arraignments. Items used in furthering criminal activity were seized as potential nuisance items. Chronic shoplifters were issued trespass notices by impacted businesses. Mugshots of convicted shoplifter were posted on the department's Facebook page to send the message to potential violators that shoplifting will not be tolerated in Aurora.

The additional workload would have overwhelmed patrol officers so the District Two PAR Officers altered their work schedules to support this pilot program.

As a result shoplifting fell 33% in six months. Equally important, overall crime fell 60% in the pilot area. Feedback from offenders' is that they are avoiding that area and participating businesses due to this policing approach to pattern crimes. Due to the demonstrated effectiveness the program is now being adopted citywide and has received acclaim and emulation from several law enforcement agencies in Colorado which have also adopted the program.

6.2 | Improvements to the Property and Evidence Unit

Since June of 2013 when the Aurora Police Department's Property and Evidence Unit learned that DNA evidence had been inadvertently destroyed, Property Technicians went to work towards providing a more effective and accountable process for the members of the Aurora Police Department.

During 2014 the unit worked towards making the Property and Evidence Unit more productive by helping to reorganize the Property and Evidence Unit at all four storage locations. The unit has saved the City of Aurora several thousands of dollars by providing the manual labor to tear down and assemble new shelves and pallet racking system at the storage locations.

The unit is completing an audit of over 400,000 items that are stored in the Property and Evidence Unit. Staff members were training on new computer programs, they suggested and helped institute new efficient processes in the way the unit intakes, stores and destroys evidence and property.

The unit has tested a new program on the continuity of evidence so the locations of items are known from the time it is retrieved from the evidence locker until it is disposed of. They are currently implementing the direct evidence program in Versadex to work out the bugs prior to the officers using the program. Once this direct entry program is instituted it will allow officers to cease completing duplicate work, allow them to itemize the property and evidence more quickly, and get them back on the road faster.

The unit has tested and improved the property intake module allowing for a more efficient way to intake, store and locate property

SECTION 6: Significant Accomplishments & Highlights

6.3 | APD Hosts First Teen Citizen Police Academy

In June of 2014, the Aurora Police Department hosted its very first "Teen Citizen Police Academy" which was attended by over 50 area youths between the ages of 15 and 18 years old.

This program was modeled after the effective and popular Citizen's and Senior Citizen's Police Academies which have been sponsored and taught by APD personnel for approximately 25 years.

Organizationally there are many people "behind the scenes" who are to be commended for their efforts involving this program: Officer Tim Jeffrey for conceptualizing and bringing this program to fruition, Sgt. Shelly Owens for her help and involvement in promoting the concept, Mrs. Ruth Brassell for her organization skills and efforts and invaluable assistance in the implementation process, and the following officers for their spirit and desire to work with the youth of our community and to serve as a volunteer.

Teen Citizen Police Academy staff members included: Officer Aaron "Jake" Bunch, Officer Jackie Campbell, Officer Melissa Shipley, Officer Bridget Johnson, Officer C. J. Renaud, Officer Danno Singleton and Officer Rebecca Yockey. Everyone's actions and efforts combined for a very successful and popular youth program which not only was enjoyed by all who attended, but which has also brought positive national recognition to the Aurora Police Department as well as the City of Aurora, Colorado.

6.4 | "DUI Taxi"

In May of 2014 at the Colorado Department of Transportation Safety Awards Banquet the DUI Enforcement Team unveiled it's newest tool in DUI prevention and education, the Aurora Police DUI Taxi.

The DUI Taxi, which is a retired police car has the back half painted taxi-cab yellow and the front half has its original "Aurora Police" markings.

The DUI Taxi is a mobile billboard that is used to warn people about the consequences of driving while under the influence of alcohol, marijuana and drugs. The messaging on the taxi reminds everyone that it is much cheaper to take a cab home than to get arrested for DUI.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving helped pay for the marking on the vehicle and Denver Yellow Cab painted the rear of the vehicle.

6.5 | Officers Who Helped 86-Year Old Purse Snatch Victims Receive International Praise

On October 27th, 2014 Officer Robert Little and Officer Craig Hess (District 2 Patrol) responded to a report of a theft at a local grocery store. When Officer Little arrived at the store he discovered that the victim in the case was a 86 year old women who had her purse snatched out of her shopping cart by a young male. The suspect was able to get away with her money, credit cards, keys to her vehicle and home.

Officer Little and Hess helped the victim cancel her credit cards. They helped her finish her shopping. They then drove her and her groceries home. Once at home they obtained her spare set of car keys and gave her a ride back to the store so she could drive her car home. After doing all of that the officers then purchased a new lock for her door with their own money and installed the lock that night.

The Media Relations Unit posted the story of Officer Little and Hess' compassionate act on the department's Facebook page and it quickly went viral. The department received numerous messages of thanks and support from all over the world. The story quickly caught the attention of the local media and made headlines both nationally and internationally.
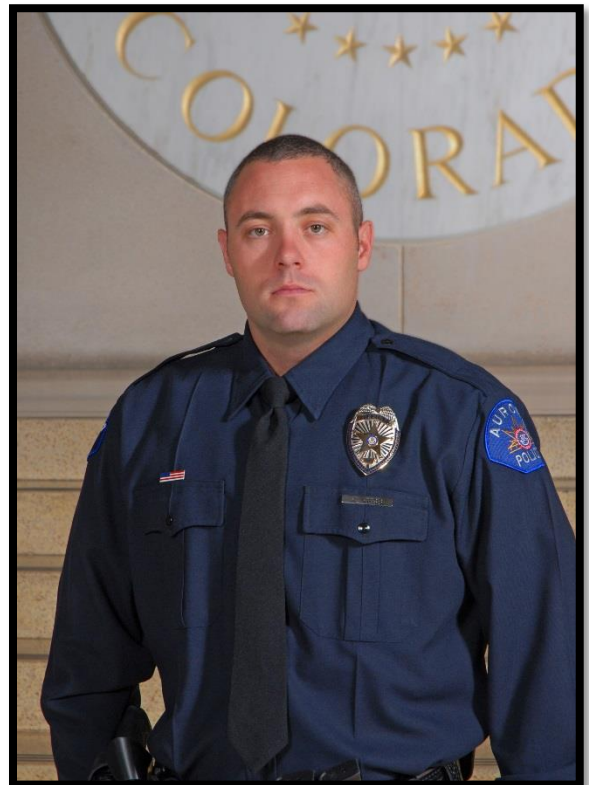
6.6 | Chief of Police Daniel Oates Retires from the APD

On May 30th, 2014 Chief Daniel Oates retired from the Aurora Police Department after serving as the Chief of Police for 9 years.

Chief Oates was appointed the Chief of Police for the City of Aurora on November 28th, 2005. Prior to his appointment in Aurora, Chief Oates served for four years as Chief of Police and Safety Services Administrator for the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was responsible for all police, fire and emergency management services that included the University of Michigan.

Prior to coming to Ann Arbor, Chief Oates served for 21 years in the New York Police Department. He finished his NYPD career as a Deputy Chief and the Executive Officer and second-in-command of the Patrol Borough Brooklyn South.

Chief Oates is credited with implementing new innovative approaches for reducing crime, leading the department during the worst mass shooting in the history of the United States, improving police community relations, and reducing major index crimes in Aurora by 30 percent.

During his tenure with the APD he was a member and Vice-Chair of the Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board, a Past President of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, and chairperson of the Colorado Information Sharing Consortium (CISC), the statewide law enforcement cooperative that manages a state-of-the-art data and records exchange to fight crime

6.7 | Season of Non-Violence Event

Azim Khamisa is a renowned international speaker who delivers his inspirational message to a world in desperate need of forgiveness, peace and hope. Following the murder of his only son Tariq in 1995 through a senseless, gang-related incident., Azim chose the path of forgiveness and compassion rather than revenge, and this amazing choice led to the establishment of the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF) and the subsequent forgiveness movement which has reached millions.

In celebration of the Season for Nonviolence Tibetan monk and world renowned flutist Nawang Khechog addressed the freshman class at Hinkley High School on February 14th, 2014 with his inspirational presentation, "Awakening Kindness". Khechog studied Buddhist philosophy under the Dali Lama for several years. Following the presentation, students broke off into small groups with facilitators (included Aurora Police Officers) to deepen the learning of non-violence, compassion, and kindness.

This was the fourth year that the Season for Nonviolence program has been offered in the Aurora community. The event was sponsored by the Aurora Police Department, Aurora Public Schools, and the New Dawn Center for Spiritual Learning

Photo Credit: APS

Photo Credit: APS

7.1 | Fugitive Apprehension and Surveillance Team (F.A.S.T)

The Fugitive Apprehension and Surveillance Team (FAST) is no exception. The FAST Team consists one Sergeant, two Agents and eight officers. Three of the team members are assigned to the Rocky Mountain Safe Streets Task Force, Innocence Lost Project and the Fugitive Location and Apprehension Group (FLAG). One officer is assigned to the City Attorney's Office; and six officers are tasked with locating and apprehending fugitives.

The FAST team is a selfless group of police officers who are undeniably dedicated to working with one another in different capacities but with the same goal in mind; getting the worst of the worst off of the streets of Aurora. FAST members, besides working their regularly scheduled shifts often work countless hours of overtime; take midnight phone calls from confidential sources; and get called in on the weekend and holidays to apprehend dangerous fugitives.

Since the teams implementation it has had great success tracking down and arresting some of the most dangerous wanted parties from Aurora and across the United States. This could not have been accomplished without the positive working relationships that the team has established with other department units and outside agencies

In 2014, the team made 104 misdemeanor arrests and 545 felony arrests.

7.2 | DUI Team

On March 31, 2012, the Aurora Police Department Traffic Section DUI Team was formed. The team, composed of its original members, Officer Jason Chilson, Officer Rolando Gomez, and Officer Ryan Marker, have been relentless in their efforts, arresting to date a total of **3,649** DUI/DUI-D impaired and dangerous drivers.

They have been recognized with multiple awards from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Mothers' Against Drunk Drivers' (MADD), along with praise from Arapahoe, Douglas, and Adams County District Attorney's Offices' for their passion and dedication in removing impaired drivers off Aurora's roadways. Since the inception of the team, the DUI teams' hard work has made a significant impact in the reduction of alcohol & drug related serious bodily injury and fatal crashes.

Their presence on the road also motivates other patrol officers to actively seek out and stop impaired driver's as they all know the DUI team will be there to assist and take over the time consuming investigation when requested, so they can attend to other priorities and calls for service.

8.1 | Rollin 60's Investigation and Indictments

In 2012, City of Aurora experienced an escalation in violent gang on gang crimes. The crimes were tied to two different gangs, the Rollin 60's and the 83 Gangster Crips. Sergeant Mike Gaskill, Agent Mike Thrapp and Officer Kevin Rossi partnered with the Arapahoe County District Attorney's office, Mike Angel and Daniel Seidel to begin a grand jury case against the Rollin 60's in order to reduce this escalation of violence.

The Rollin 60's were first documented in Los Angeles, California in the 1970's and became notorious for their violence. They spread to Aurora in the 1980's and continue their presence today.

The subsequent two year investigation by the Aurora Police Department's Gang Intervention Unit, the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigations Rocky Mountain Safe Street Task Force, resulted in a 73 count indictment and the arrest of 25 members and associates of the Rollin 60's street gang in October of 2014. The primary indictments consisted of shootings, assaults and robberies. The Rollin 60's focus was on stranger robberies with a show of force through weapons and/or numbers, and or drug related robberies. In addition many members of the gang committed burglaries with the goal of obtaining guns to sell back to the gang. The Rollin 60's also engaged in violent and assaultive conduct to increase their reputation within the greater community.

The hard work and dedication of everyone involved in this case resulted in a substantial impact on the Rollin 60's and their ability to negatively impact the community. This cooperative, complex investigation against a violent street gang benefited the entire community and can be used as a model for future investigations and prosecutions.
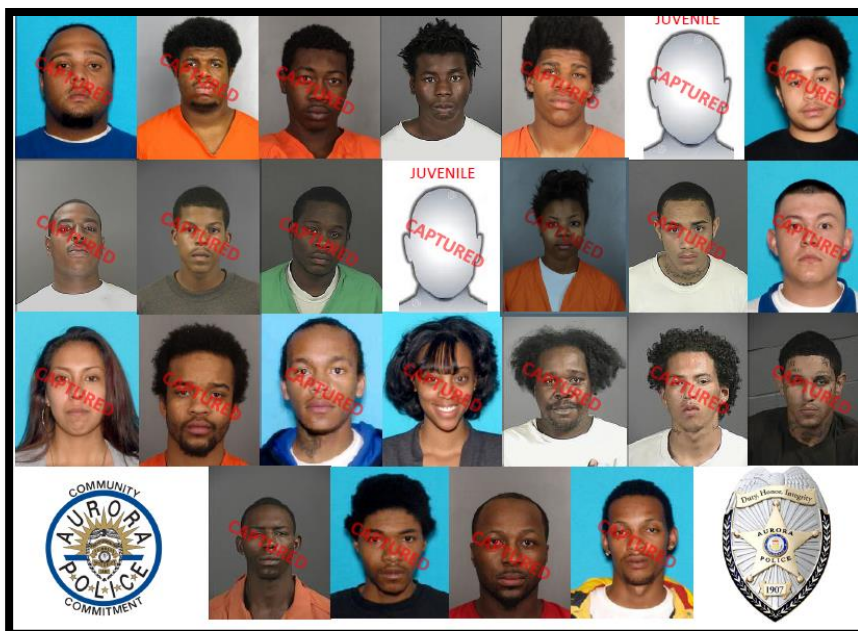
8.2 | Major Spice Arrests and Seizure

In March of 2014 Aurora Police arrested two parties suspected of distributing large quantities of the illegal narcotic known as "spice." Investigators also recovered an estimated 12,000 packets of the drug during the investigation.

Members of the Aurora Police Narcotics Sections began this investigation on March 19, 2014. As the investigation unfolded, they observed a known male and female meet and engage in a suspected drug transaction. The female was later contacted and arrested for her role in the transaction. When she was arrested, officers recovered several hundred packets of suspected spice. Shortly after the female was arrested, investigators went to the male's house, and he was arrested as well.

The investigation continued that night and well into the next day. Investigators were able to obtain and execute at least three search warrants for storage facilities that were associated with the parties arrested. During these searches, police seized the remaining packets of suspected spice.

Spice is a synthetic cannabinoid designed to mimic the affects of marijuana. It is a psychoactive designer drug derived from natural herbs and sprayed with synthetic chemicals. It can be up to 800 times stronger than marijuana. It is an extremely dangerous drug, and an overdose with this drug is the official cause of death of at least one 15-year-old male in Aurora in 2013.
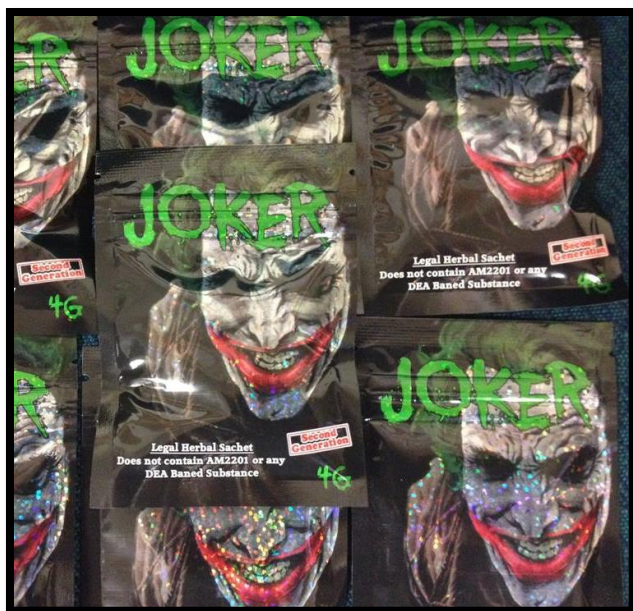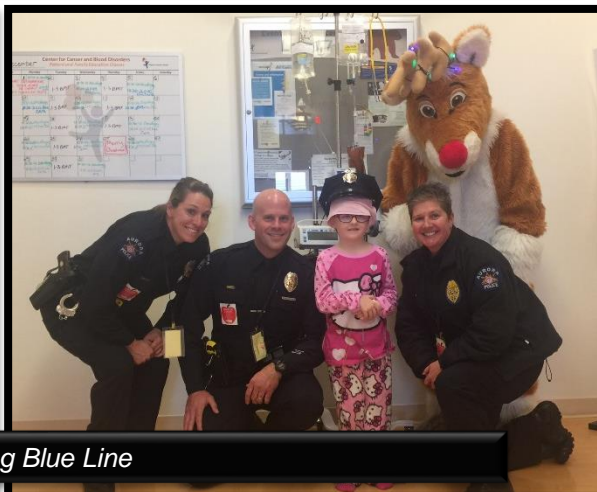
The Aurora Police Department is proud of our commitment to our community. In 2014 our officers participated in numerous events giving back to the community they serve.

Cops, Coats & Kids

Cops Fighting Cancer Long Blue Line

Pumpkin Patch at Children's Hospital

The Aurora Police Department is proud of our commitment to our community. In 2014 our officers participated in numerous events giving back to the community they serve.

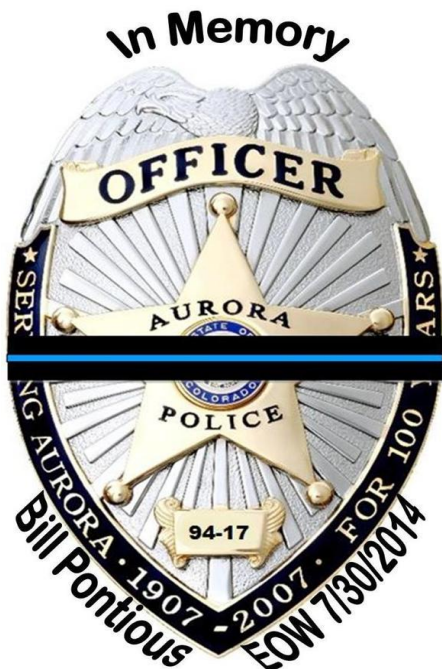*Special Olympics Polar Plunge*

Tour De Force

KYGO Christmas Crusade

ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

This Annual Public Safety Report is dedicated to the memory of Officer Bill Pontious who unexpectedly passed away of natural causes on July 30th, 2014.

Bill protected and served the citizen of Aurora since 1994. Prior to joining the Aurora Police Department he was a Police Officer with the Los Angeles Police Department in California.

Bill was actively involved with the Tour De Force organization. He served as the Western Coordinator for the ride and raised thousands of dollars for the families of fallen law enforcement officers.

Our friend and colleague will always be missed by those who knew him.

An electronic version of this report can be found at
www.aurorapolice.com

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