



The Executive Summary should be interpreted within the context of the complete engagement report.

April 2021

## BACKGROUND

Aurora Police requested a review of the K9 unit's operations during the development of the Police Audit Plan.

The review of K9 is a two-part engagement. This report (Part 1) focuses on reviewing policies and procedures. Part 2 is scheduled for the third quarter in 2021 and will assess deployments for compliance and determine if leading practices are followed in training, deployment, and reporting.

The canine unit includes one Sergeant and six teams of handlers/canines.

## APD K9 Operations Part 1

### SCOPE

Current operations.

### OBJECTIVES

- Determine if current K9 policies comply with laws, standards, and best practices.
- Review critical K9 operational processes for effectiveness and compliance with existing policies.

### CONCLUSIONS

Some but not all K9 policies comply with leading practices and several K9 processes need improvement.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSE

We recommend APD update its policies to reflect leading practices as identified in the audit.

We recommend APD ensure the standard operating procedure (SOP) addresses the frequency of Chemist inspections for narcotics aids, utilizes the inventory system for check-in/out and inventory of aids, and adds additional security to the narcotics aid storage area.

We recommend APD develop a formal training curriculum, update its policy related to address trainer responsibilities, and comply with its procedures including quarterly trainer evaluations.

We recommend APD develop guidance on using the Kanine software.

### Management Response

APD K9 will develop written SOPs in accordance with the recommendations. APD K9 agrees with the recommendations in the training section.

APD will either complete the analysis by the crime lab chemist and verify the training aid weights or destroy current narcotics and obtain new narcotics to be issued, properly documented, and maintained. APD K9 agrees with the training aid recommendations listed.

APD K9 agrees with the recommendation in the data section. APD K9 is currently researching a solution to better train the handlers and the supervisors on the intricacies of this tracking software and how current and new members can be efficiently trained.

View complete audit report: [Link](#)