



## Public Safety, Courts and Civil Service Committee

February 8, 2024

### Members Present

Danielle Jurinsky, Chair  
Steve Sundberg, Vice Chair  
Stephanie Hancock, Council Member

### Others Present

J. Batchelor, P. Schulte, M. Coffman, Y. Emeson, M. Brown, T. Buneta, S. Griffin, M. Crawford, J. Schneebeck, M. Nelson, M. Platt, J. Hill, M. Cain, M. Wasserburger, M. Hays, M. Chapman, S. Day, J. Heckman, E. Cadiz, H. Morris, C. Delena, C. Tassin, C. Cernich, C. Poppe, C. Juul, J. DeHerrera, J. Prosser, M. Levy, L. Callanen, R. Pena, C. Amsler, M. Hanifin, L. Rehwalt, S. Newman, T. Graham, M. Wells-Longshore, A. Robnett, D. Small, B. Sauder, A. Wood, A. Coombs, J. Smith, R. Depass.

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### 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:00.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

January 11, 2024 minutes were approved.

### 3. Consent Items

#### 3.a Police Attrition Update

#### 3.b Aurora Fire Rescue Attrition Update

#### 3.c Aurora911 Staffing Update for January 2024

#### 3.d Special Operations Crime Suppression Update

#### 3.e Motor Vehicle Theft Recovery Voucher Program Update

All five items to move forward.

### 4. General Business

#### 4.a Crisis Programs Data Analysis

Courtney Tassin, Crisis Intervention Program Manager, stated the council request had them looking at the Crisis Response Team and Aurora Mobile Response Teams on the impact of calls for service in the city. She said they collected information through different call types to get an understanding of how many calls for service come in that are mental health related. She said they also looked at different keywords, such as manic, bipolar, depression, psychosis and found 19,000 plus calls. C. Tassin commented they responded to 16% of all of those calls with the

current staffing levels and recourses. She explained that in 2022 they created an initial strategic plan and adapted a new strategic plan very dependent on the staffing levels they see. She explained what the traditional call for service looks like and said 21% of all calls resulted in jail and 8% resulted in emergency mental hold. She expressed that from all of their stats from 2023, they diverted 228 people from the emergency department and 28 people from jail.

CM Jurinsky asked if the 228 people in emergency ER services were still ticketed for something or if it was truly mental health.

C. Tassin said those were people that originally met criteria to go to the hospital, but they were able to provide care or diversion instead. She added only 1% of their calls end with arrest.

CM Sundberg asked how they tracked keywords.

C. Tassin said they were still learning and incorporating force metrics more and most keywords found were looking at what was going on and finding a common keyword that dispatchers put in.

CM Hancock asked if they were tracking frequent fliers. C. Tassin answered yes.

CM Hancock asked about the disposition of the frequent fliers. C. Tassin answered they had a case manager that managed the high utilizer population to prevent people from call 911. She added they have a strategic process for follow ups where they set boundaries, rules, and expectations, and correctly giving them resources that matched their needs.

CM Hancock asked how successful they were with the people who continually utilize the service and getting them to get more permanent stable treatment. C. Tassin answered it was varied depending on the person and problem.

CM Coombs asked if they had an idea of what happens with all of the calls they're not able to respond to. C. Tassin stated they were not able to track the outcomes as much but look at the referrals from patrol and did a lot of education on that. She added they were hoping to have a better way of handling that through force metrics and different software.

#### **4.b Retail Theft Repeat Offenders Ordinance**

Peter Schulte, Manager of Client Services, said they drafted an ordinance that drops the amount of value taken being over \$100 and added repeat offender provisions. He then explained all the different offender provisions.

CM Jurinsky stated she was in full support. She also said if they could not get the crime rate to go down with this, she was prepared to lower the threshold again.

CM Hancock and CM Sundberg agreed.

CM Coombs asked how many folks were currently serving 3-day sentences for the current offense sentences in Aurora Detention Center versus Adams County and Arapahoe County. She asked what the jail capacity for three-day sentences was.

P. Schulte commented they had a lot of capacity in the jail but cannot hold anyone more than three days by statute, so if anyone is sentenced to the three days, they would not be going to either one of the county jails. He said they were figuring out how many cases had come forward and will give the report on that at a later time.

CM Jurinsky added she visited the jail and spent time with the marshals, and they pointed out people in there serving the 3-day holds and there were several.

CM Coombs asked to check the data on the number of people serving and wanted to verify there were not any reason folks may be sent to the county jails for that.

CM Jurinsky noted if that were an issue, she believes Adams County would have reached out. She said she knew it was being tracked and how many were serving that sentence and could follow up on that.

CM Coombs asked about the caseload impact from the Public Defender's Office change.

E. Cadiz added several clients were not serving the three days in the Aurora Detention Center and makes an impact on someone's decision to take the plea. She mentioned at the budget workshop there was discussion about a capacity issue related to staffing.

P. Schulte noted yesterday the ACLU sent a letter to the Council, Judge, and City Manager referencing 4.b. but did not tell them. He said the court case they cited had nothing to do with what they were doing here. He stated if the city council passed the ordinance, then they would do what they needed to do.

CM Jurinsky said she was going to listen to what the city attorney had to say about the letter from ACLU. She commented she needed to find out what was going on in the county jails to find out what was going on there. She said property owners refused to renew their lease because of shoplifting and that was an embarrassment.

CM Hancock said she learned in the Havanna Bid meeting that Goodwill was not going to renew their lease due to retail theft. She asked if people are stealing from Goodwill, what did that say about the protection of the businesses in their communities. She stated they needed to let people know that they are open for business and closed to crime.

CM Sundberg said on a national level they were seeing an ability to steal in some states, so businesses were pulling out and they did not want to be like that.

Mayor Coffman asked if it was 72 hours for \$100 and below, and then asked what happens over \$100.

CM Jurinsky stated yes on the 72 hours for \$100 and below, and she clarified that anything from \$100-\$999 stayed in their municipal courts.

Mayor Coffman asked about sentences for repeat offenders. CM Jurinsky expressed a second conviction was 90 days and 180 days for the third.

Mayor Coffman asked how that worked with the county courts. P. Schulte said the county courts had jurisdiction over \$1000 or more. He said municipal courts could sentence up to 364 days in jail and up to \$2,650 fines.

Mayor Coffman asked about the prospect of the county sheriffs allowing the sentence to go forward. P. Schulte answered they talked to Sheriff Brown, and he was willing to work with them on it.

#### **4.c Police Audit Update Q4 2023**

Michelle Crawford, City Auditor, gave the 4th quarter update for the police auditor. She said the hiring for the next police auditor was underway and going through

interviews. She stated the 2024 planned audits for the police department was firearms inventory, body worn camera compliance, special assignment selection, and investigation caseload management. She noted the risk observations from the 2023 risk assessment around staffing, disciplinary process, technology, and training. M. Crawford expressed they completed the property evidence compliance review and went over the results. She said the conclusion was the control was observed and functioning as intended, inventory records reviewed were complete and accurate, and the intake process was efficient and effective, but controls around access were not functioning as intended. She said the first finding was security vulnerability related to access, and they recommended Public Works immediately prioritize and address the vulnerability specifically impacting property and evidence. M. Crawford explained the access controls were network badge readers and not working as intended, and 62% of people with access should not have had it and facilities were responsible for access control. She said it was a citywide issue and likely impacting other departments. She mentioned there should be semiannual property reviews for access and recommended Public Works work with property to remove access for unauthorized individuals. She stated they also recommended Public Works cease adding themselves to access readers in restricted areas and develop procedures preventing their employees from granting access to restricted areas without proper approvals and the property and evidence unit request and review the access report for each badge reader quarterly or when an employee leaves the unit. She explained standard operating procedures in property and evidence have specific requirements for reviewing different types of inspections and the last reviews were in 2022. She said they recommend property and evidence conduct periodic inspections as defined within their policies.

CM Jurinsky said she hoped it was tightened up quickly.

J. Batchelor stated they appreciate the auditor bringing that to attention, were taking it very seriously, and it was a priority to get addressed.

#### **4.d Ordinance to Adopt the 2020 Model Traffic Code**

Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney, explained the ordinance was to get them in line with the state regarding the Model Traffic Code and traffic laws. She said the ordinance pointed out the things that would be different in their city ordinance versus the Model Traffic Code, including 134.1 to adopt 2020 rather than 2010, the decision that Section 118, Establishment of Wildlife Crossing Zones, was not necessary for the city, excluding 5.5 from Subsection H, 14-10.5, and Section 14-16, and take out a section of 134.2, and amend 134.8 to include new parts. She asked the ordinance move forward to the study session.

CM Jurinsky, CM Hancock, and CM Sundberg were all in support.

#### **4.e Ordinance Theft of Services General Penalty Amendment**

Pete Schulte, Manager of Client Services, stated the ordinance added a section under the general penalty for dine and dash, \$15 or more, would have a mandatory minimum jail sentence of three days.

CM Jurinsky stated this was born from the Havana Bid and she looked forward to hearing from them. She said she knew it had become an issue and thankful it was brought forward.

CM Jurinsky, CM Hancock, and CM Sundberg all supported the ordinance.

CM Coombs asked to get some data on how many citations were written.

CM Jurinsky said were not going to call the cops. She noted they were watching them just walk out of their places. She added her hope was they start to get data because of this, and the message was made clear to at least call and report it.

CM Coombs said she would still like to see the existing data.

P. Schulte said it was the same thing they dealt with in the retail theft side where they have to dive in with the court administrator to figure out which were dine and dash versus other activities but should get the numbers on how many are frauding a public establishment.

CM Sundberg noted that restaurants were typically so busy they shake their head and eat the cost and effects the servers too.

Mayor Coffman asked how it would be enforced. CM Jurinsky stated they would have to be caught. P. Schulte said he hoped the business owners will start calling the police again.

Chief Morris added they would make sure to give direction to the officers on how to respond to it if it passes.

Mayor Coffman said he attended the retail theft conference for the metro area, and they shared information and photos of offenders so everyone would know who the repeat offenders were, but he did not know if it was possible in this situation.

CM Jurinsky said in Aurora they take it upon themselves and try to do as much as they can on their own amongst restaurant owners.

E. Cadiz asked if it would qualify as a prior offense for the repeated offenses for theft.

CM Jurinsky answered she did not think that was in place right now but could in the future. P. Schulte added under the ordinance proposed no, it had to be theft of items.

CM Sundberg added it was them responding to the pleas of the public.

#### **4.f Public Safety Action Plan Update**

##### **Current Staffing**

J. Batchelor stated they were getting ready to graduate next month at the academy and were excited for that. He said they had the January class underway and were working to have a very large class to start in the summer.

##### **Crime Data**

J. Batchelor discussed the crime stats, including upticks in murders with two last week, nonfatal shootings, robbery, and violent thefts.

Chief Morris said they had uptick in people being shot but the number of people being shot at had done down.

J. Bachelor noted motor vehicle thefts and robberies continued to trend down.

Mayor Coffman asked if they had any age data on the nonfatal shootings. Chief Morris said she did not have a specific age breakdown, but they could get that.

## **Youth Violence**

J. DeHerrera provided high level data for the NOFO agencies through December. He said 3700 youth had been served through the NOFO agencies and expended about \$301,000 of the total \$577,000 that council approved. He stated they have opened community engagement for the youth empowerment center. He announced they have their first youth summit on March 21st to bring anyone that works with youth together to talk through where they missing the mark or had gaps in the community and wanted to have a job fair attached to that. J. DeHerrera expressed they wanted council members to come to hear and engage with youth. He said they completed 38 custom notifications for Aurora Save with 13 people in contact with case managers.

CM Jurinsky said it was great to start hiring kids at 16, but wondered why 14- and 15-year-old could not be considered for the lifeguard and other programs with a working permit. She suggested talking to school districts about it.

J. DeHerrera agreed and said he was also working with a recruiter to help support PROS for the summer part-time employment and would circle back with her on that. He added he would look at the school districts too.

CM Coombs stated the judges during the last luncheon said there was an issue for the 14 and under kids that they're seeing and suggested work prep type programs.

J. DeHerrera said they were trying to work more closely with middle schools too.

Mayor Coffman commented on the call-in part of the Save program that he was really impressed with the structure of how it works but they only had one person show up. He asked what they were able to work out.

J. DeHerrera said they talked with consultants earlier in the week to see how to follow up to get consistent messaging to all groups.

M. Hanifin added the issue was probation and parole, where parole seemed to be more of a policy versus probation being in their conditions. He said they would be having a meeting in the next week or two with partners to find out what exactly to address to have more leverage on that. He stated they would be shifting in the next couple weeks to give the call-in message to the messengers that were not able to be there.

CM Sundberg commented he once worked at a problem-solving truancy court and encountered kids at 14 and 15 that did not want to go to school but wanted to work. He suggested an apprenticeship aspect to look into. He added the success stories in their packet were good to see and suggested letting the public know about them too.

## **Crisis Response Team Prusinowski**

C. Tassin announced their second AMRT unit was up and running and received a lot of kudos from all of their public safety partners and community, and numbers of calls for service have more than doubled. She said they were currently hiring for the third unit and additional vacancy in the CRT program. She expressed they had their first community trainings series called Together We Can Prevent Mass Violence, with three more scheduled.

## **Homeless Encampments**

J. Prosser said they are waiting on the final January numbers, but had 175

complaints, 60 abatements completed with 21 related to CDOT, 88 people were touch pointed through the abatement process with 37 placed into pallets (ph).

Mayor Coffman asked how many pallets they had. J. Prosser said just under 100.

Mayor Coffman asked how many were full. J. Prosser explained they kept them very full and every Monday they determine if there are any available. She said they had some that were 30 days only and were renewing every two weeks with people.

**5. Miscellaneous Matters for Consideration**

CM Jurinsky expressed she had been told that some folks sent to the county jail were on a three-day mandatory minimum, but some had been sentenced to longer than three days. She said she was also told they pay for a certain number of beds whether they use them or not. She explained that if judges were sentencing for 10 days they automatically go to the county jail.

E. Cadiz explained her concern was not so much about the first three days of motor vehicle theft, it was on retail theft. She said the incidents she had examples of were just three days and not more.

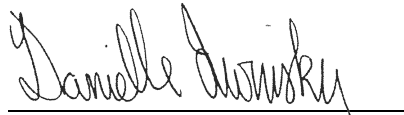
CM Jurinsky said they would look further into it.

**6. Confirm Next Meeting**

CM Jurinsky stated the next meeting is March 14th, at 9 a.m.

**7. Adjournment**

APPROVED:

  
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Danielle Jurinsky, Chair