



# Your Aurora GOVERNMENT



# AURORA, COLORADO

The city of Aurora is governed by a council/manager form of government. This structure provides a balanced approach—combining the political leadership of elected officials with the managerial expertise of a professionally trained local government manager.

Council members are the policy makers, elected by popular vote. They focus their attention on Aurora's goals, major projects, setting policy, and long-term considerations such as land use development, capital financing and strategic planning.

The city manager ensures that the direction set by the city council is carried out by the city and that services are provided in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The manager is hired by, and accountable to, the city council to oversee the day-to-day operations of the city. The manager's duties include preparing a recommended budget for city council; recruiting, hiring and supervising city staff; enforcing ordinances; overseeing purchasing and contracting; supervising fiscal operations and providing the city council with complete and objective information to support the council in its decision-making process.

The city of Aurora touches your life every day by providing you with water, sewer and street services; fire and police protection; parks, recreation, cultural and library facilities; municipal court proceedings; business development assistance and neighborhood support. The city budget, which supports these services, is primarily funded through sales and use taxes.

There are a lot of wonderful things happening in Aurora, and you can play an important role. Be a volunteer, vote, serve on a board or commission, attend city events—participate! Your participation and opinions do matter, and you are what makes this city so remarkable.

# getting INVOLVED

The Aurora City Council is composed of the mayor and 10 city council members. Of those 10 members, six are ward council members, representing one of the six wards that section the city. The remaining four council members are elected at-large, like the mayor, to represent the entire city. The 10 members of Aurora's city council are part-time elected officials, meaning they may all have jobs in addition to their responsibilities as council members. The mayor's position is full time.

The city founders chartered an excellent opportunity for you to participate in city government and help shape the future of our city, such as running for public office or volunteering to serve on any of the 30 city boards and commissions that advise city council and city management. During the "public invited to be heard" section of city council meetings, you may share your ideas and opinions with the city council on any subject, or in particular, those before city council.

## City Council Meetings

Aurora City Council meetings take place on scheduled Mondays at the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway. Council meetings are divided into three distinct segments:

- The executive session, which occurs prior to study session on scheduled meeting dates, is closed to the press and the public to allow city council to discuss matters involving property transactions, legal advice, negotiations, personnel matters or confidential documents. State law limits the topics that can be addressed in this meeting.
- Study sessions occur prior to the formal city council meeting on scheduled meeting dates, and are open to the public. Special, stand-alone study sessions also occur about once a month. The city council discusses policy issues at these less-formal meetings. The public is invited to listen, but public comments may not be made unless solicited by the city council. No formal vote of city council on policy matters is taken at this meeting.
- The formal city council meeting occurs in the City Council Chamber on the first floor of the Aurora Municipal Center at 7:30 p.m. on scheduled meeting dates. The agenda follows a set routine that allows city council to consider and vote on the formal business of the city. The public may fill out a form at the meeting and give it to the city clerk in order to speak on an agenda item. The public also may speak on any topic at the beginning and the end of the regular council meeting during the "public invited to be heard" agenda item. Every formal council meeting is broadcast live on AuroraTV, Aurora's community television station broadcasting on Comcast Channel 8 and HD 880, as well as on AuroraTV.org. The city council meeting schedule is available at [AuroraGov.org/Council](http://AuroraGov.org/Council).

# getting INVOLVED

## City Council Policy Committees

The city council has established nine city council policy committees. Led by council members, each committee investigates and takes positions on matters that come before the full city council. Each year, the Mayor Pro Tem assigns three council members to each committee, meaning that each member of the city council will serve on three concurrent policy committees. Policy committees meet regularly and are open to the public. Agenda items discussed at policy committees are brought forward by council members from concerned citizens or city staff. These committees take the first step in addressing policy issues for the city.

The recommendations of a committee are taken to city council meetings, where action is taken on a matter by the full city council. The press and public are invited to listen, but public comments may not be made at these meetings. Visit [AuroraGov.org/Council](http://AuroraGov.org/Council) for a schedule of policy committee meetings.

The city of Aurora has 30 boards, commissions, committees and authorities composed of citizen volunteers appointed by the Aurora City Council. These groups—crucial to the success of Aurora’s representative government—review new and existing operations in specific areas and suggest an appropriate course of action to city management and council. By sharing their experience, expertise and time, citizens provide valuable insight to the operations of the city and the city council’s decision-making process.

For more about volunteering for a board, commission, committee or authority at the city of Aurora, call 303.739.7140 or visit the Boards and Commissions web page at [AuroraGov.org/Boards](http://AuroraGov.org/Boards).

# did you KNOW?

## **Aurora sits in three counties.**

Most of Aurora is located in Arapahoe and Adams counties, with a small portion of Aurora in Douglas County.

## **County governments provide many services.**

The counties provide Aurora citizens with many services, including social services programs like child support enforcement, aid to abused children, Medicaid and employment assistance. The counties also handle many court proceedings including divorce, child custody, name changes, small claims, and felony criminal and civil cases over \$10,000.

## **Sales taxes fund the bulk of city services.**

The majority of funding for city facilities and services comes from sales taxes collected on merchandise purchased in Aurora. Only a small percentage of funding comes from property taxes or other funding.

## **Aurora makes a big impact in Colorado.**

- Third largest city in the state
- Encompasses 154 square miles of land
- More than 80 square miles of undeveloped land
- More than 361,000 people call Aurora home
- 54th largest city in the United States

## **Five school districts serve Aurora.**

Most students in Aurora attend school in Aurora Public Schools or Cherry Creek Schools. Brighton Public Schools and Douglas County School District serve a small number of Aurora students. A portion of undeveloped land also falls within Bennett Public Schools.

## **School districts are self-governed.**

State laws govern all school districts serving Aurora students through an elected board of commissioners. The city of Aurora does not fund or govern the operation of schools.

## **Aurora sits high.**

Aurora's official elevation is 5,471 feet—higher than a mile high. The highest elevation of 6,229 feet is in the southeastern portion of Aurora in Douglas County near Inspiration and Gartrell roads. The lowest elevation of 5,285 feet is in northwestern Adams County near 30th and Moline.

- Aurora's healthcare is tops in the region, the state and even the nation.
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- HealthONE: The Medical Center of Aurora

**and so much MORE!**

# your MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL



## **Steve Hogan - MAYOR**

303.739.7015

Email: [shogan@auroragov.org](mailto:shogan@auroragov.org)

Term Expires: November 2019

### **Community/Intergovernmental Participation**

- Aurora Chamber of Commerce
- Aurora Economic Development Council
- Adams County Economic Development Council
- E-470 Public Highway Authority
- Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority
- National League of Cities' International Council
- Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC)
- Visit Aurora
- Adams County Airport Coordinating Committee



## **Marsha Berzins (Mayor Pro Tem) – WARD III**

303.739.7508 (council office)

720.838.3762 (cell)

Email: [mberzins@auroragov.org](mailto:mberzins@auroragov.org)

Term Expires: November 2021

### **Community/Intergovernmental**

- Board Member, Accelerate Colorado;
- Board Member, Aurora Economic Development Council;
- Member, Aurora@Home Education and Advocacy Committee;
- Board Member, Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority;
- Board Member, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
- Member, Lowry Denver/Aurora Coordinating Committee;
- Member, National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee;
- Member, Aurora Business Women;
- Member, Aurora Chamber of Commerce;
- Graduate, Leadership Aurora Class of 2008;



## **Crystal Murillo - WARD I**

303.739.7502 (council office)

Email: [cmurillo@auroragov.org](mailto:cmurillo@auroragov.org)

Term Expires: November 2021

### **Council Policy Committees**

Chair, Housing, Neighborhood Services and Redevelopment; Vice-Chair, Transportation, Airports, and Public Works; Member, Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations Policy Committees.

### **Community/Intergovernmental**

- Board Member, Aurora Economic Development Council
- Member, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council for the State of Colorado.

# your MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL



**Nicole Johnston - WARD II**  
303.739.7506 (council office)  
Email: [njohnsto@auroragov.org](mailto:njohnsto@auroragov.org)  
Term Expires: November 2021

**Council Policy Committees**

Chair, Parks, Foundations, Quality of Life; Vice-Chair, Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations; Member, Public Safety, Courts, and Civil Service Policy Committees.

**Community/Intergovernmental**

- Member, National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E.);
- Board Member, Spirit of Aurora.



**Charlie Richardson - WARD IV**  
303.739.7516 (council office)  
Email: [crichard@auroragov.org](mailto:crichard@auroragov.org)  
Term Expires: November 2019

**Council Policy Committees**

Chair, Public Safety, Courts and Civil Service  
Vice Chair, Management and Finance

**Community/Intergovernmental Participation**

- Adams County Airport Coordinating Committee
- National League of Cities' Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee
- National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E.)
- Member, Transportation, Airports and Public Works



**Bob Roth - WARD V**  
303.739.7510 (council office)  
303.739.7594 (fax)  
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Term Expires: November 2019

**Council Policy Committees**

Chair, Water Policy;  
Vice Chair, Public Relations, Communications

**Community/Intergovernmental Participation**

- Aurora Economic Development Council
- Aurora Sister Cities International
- Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Associated General Contractors of Colorado Board of Directors
- Colorado Municipal League District 6
- Associated Builders and Contractors Rocky Mountain
- Eagle Legacy Credit Union
- LEED Accredited Professional
- U.S. Green Building Council
- Member, Parks, Foundations and Quality of Life

# your MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL



## **Françoise Bergan - WARD VI**

303.739.7015 (council office)  
720.465.1830 (other)  
Email: fbergan@auroragov.org  
Term Expires: November 2019

### **Council Policy Committees**

Chair, Planning and Economic Development;  
Vice Chair, Water Policy  
Member, Management and Finance

### **Community/Intergovernmental Participation**

- Aurora Economic Development Council
- E-470 Public Highway Authority
- Spirit of Aurora
- Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority



## **Dave Gruber - AT LARGE**

303.739.7514 (council office)  
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Term Expires: November 2021

### **Council Policy Committees**

Chair, Management and Finance; Vice-Chair, Parks, Foundations, Quality of Life; Member, Planning and Economic Development Policy Committees.

### **Community/Intergovernmental**

- Board Member, Adams County Economic Development
- Board Member, Aurora Economic Development Council;
- Board Member, Aurora Sister Cities International.



## **Allison Hiltz - AT LARGE**

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Term Expires: November 2021

### **Council Policy Committees**

Chair, Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions and Citizens Groups; Vice-Chair, Public Safety, Courts, and Civil Service; Member, Housing, Neighborhood Services, and Redevelopment Policy Committees.

### **Community/Intergovernmental**

- Alternate Board Member, Denver Regional Council of Governments;
- Member, National Organization to Insure a Sound Controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E.);
- Member, I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership (REAP).





# your MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL



**Angela Lawson - AT LARGE**

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720.870.1948 (other)  
Email: [alawson@auroragov.org](mailto:alawson@auroragov.org)  
Term Expires: November 2019

**Council Policy Committees**

Chair, Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations; Vice-Chair, Housing, Neighborhood Services and Redevelopment; Member, Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions, and Citizens Groups Policy Committees.

**Community/Intergovernmental**

- Board Member, Aurora Economic Development Council;
- Member, Aurora at Home Education and Advocacy Committee;
- Member, Aurora's Gang Reduction Impact Program (A-Grip) Steering Committee;
- Member, Colorado Municipal League Policy Committee;
- Member, Lowry Community Advisory Committee;
- Member, Visit Aurora.



**Bob LeGare - AT LARGE**

303.366.0113 (residence)  
Email: [blegare@auroragov.org](mailto:blegare@auroragov.org)  
Term Expires: November 2019

**Council Policy Committees**

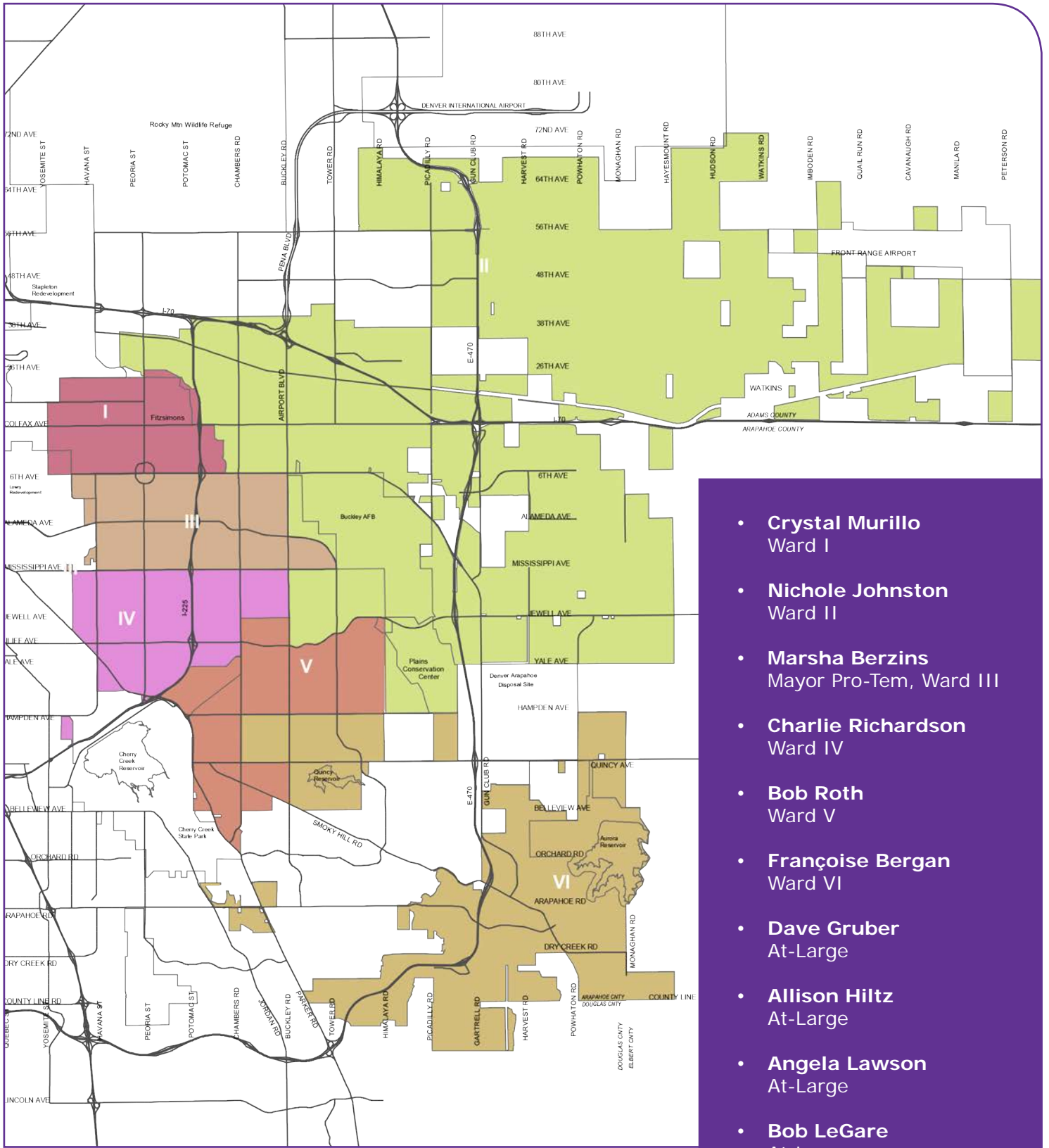
Chair, Transportation, Airports and Public Works;  
Vice Chair, Planning and Economic Development  
Member, Water

**Community/Intergovernmental Participation**

- Mile High Behavioral Healthcare/Comitis Crisis Center/ Mile High Council
- High Line Working Group
- Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority (FRA)
- Sand Creek Regional Greenway



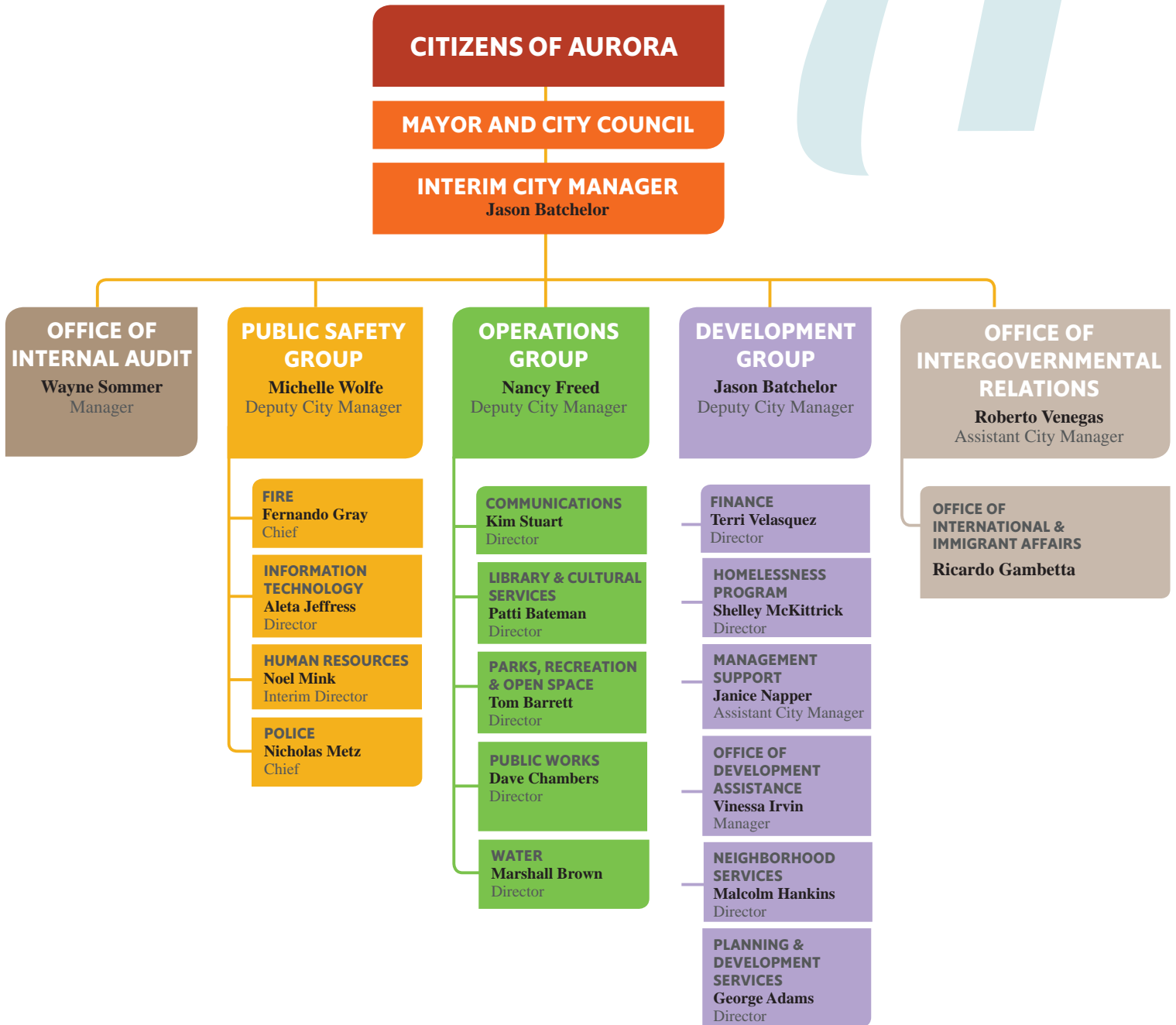
# city of AURORA WARD MAP



# AURORA CITY MANAGER

## Organizational Structure

November 2017



# frequently requested NUMBERS

Note: Unless indicated, area code is 303

Access Aurora Information . . . . .	739.7000	Neighborhood Services . . . . .	739.7280
Animal Care (Dispatch) . . . . .	326.8288	Parks, Recreation & Open Space	739.7160
Aurora Center for Active Adults .	739.7950	Police Administration . . . . .	739.6000
Aurora Chamber of Commerce	344.1500	Police Records . . . . .	739.6308
Aurora Economic Development .	755.2223	Recreation Registration . . . . .	326.8650
Aurora Fox Arts Center . . . . .	739.1970	Recycling Information . . . . .	739.7173
Aurora Housing Authority . .	720.251.2100	Sports Office . . . . .	326.8700
Aurora Sports Office . . . . .	326.8700	Streets Division . . . . .	326.8200
Aurora TV . . . . .	739.6611	Street Light Outages . . . . .	800.895.4999
Billing: Water and Sewer . . . . .	739.7388	Taxes/Sales & Use . . . . .	739.7800
Building Permits/Inspections . .	739.7420	Trees/Forestry . . . . .	739.7177
Business Development Center .	326.8690	Volunteer Office/Snow Busters .	739.7759
Business/Liquor Licenses . . . . .	739.7057	Water Conservation/Rebates . . .	739.7195
City Attorney's Office . . . . .	739.7030	Water Main Breaks . . . . .	326.8645
City Clerk . . . . .	739.7094	Water Wasting:	
City Manager's Office . . . . .	739.7010	Report Violations . . . . .	739.7195
Code Violations/Graffiti . . . . .	739.7000	Water/Sewer Bills . . . . .	739.7388
Communications . . . . .	739.7046	Watering & Lawn Permits . . . .	739.7195
Community Development . . . . .	739.7900		
Community Relations . . . . .	739.7580		
Court, Municipal . . . . .	739.6444		
Cultural Services . . . . .	739.6670		
Development Assistance . . . . .	739.7345		
Finance/Budget . . . . .	739.7800		
Fire Administration . . . . .	326.8999		
Forestry . . . . .	739.7177		
Golf . . . . .	739.7888		
History Museum . . . . .	739.6660		
Jail/Detention Center . . . . .	739.6194		
Jobs/Employment, HR . . . . .	739.7225		
Library, Aurora Central . . . . .	739.6600		
Library & Cultural Services . . . .	739.6640		
Mayor/City Council . . . . .	739.7015		
Municipal Records . . . . .	739.7074		

Download the Access Aurora application for your cell phone or visit:

[AuroraGov.org/ContactUs](https://AuroraGov.org/ContactUs)



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auroragov.org