



Mayor Mike Coffman Community Roundup



Week of Aug. 10, 2020

City Undertakes Comprehensive Review of Police

City Manager Jim Twombly and Chief of Police Vanessa Wilson announced Aug. 11 that they will be undertaking a comprehensive review of the Aurora Police Department. 21CP Solutions, a global firm of experts in the areas of civil rights and public safety, will join the city in pursuit of the common goal of a new vision of public safety that works for everyone.

The scope of this work will include the department's leadership structure; elevating the role of community policing and engagement; assessing current policies and practices with respect to use of force, discriminatory policing and bias-free policing practices; officer misconduct and accountability; stops, searches and arrests; recruitment, hiring and retention; interaction with vulnerable populations; and crisis intervention and interactions with individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges.

Other review efforts underway are:

- An external, independent investigation of the Elijah McClain case examining the actions of police, firefighters and paramedics. This team-based review is being led by Jonathan Smith, who is executive director of the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs.
- The Community Police Task Force, which is tasked with reviewing current police operations and procedures and making recommendations about community engagement and potential community input on critical incidents, such as civilian oversight. The task force includes leaders and advocates from the community of faith, NAACP, criminal justice reform organizations, educators and Aurora Key Community Response Team, as well as other individuals from the community.

Drive-up COVID-19 Testing Site Now Open at Aurora Sports Park

I was pleased to join Gov. Jared Polis, Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko, Littleton Mayor Jerry Valdes, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Johnston and Council Member Marsha Berzins Aug. 10 to mark the opening of a new community-based COVID-19 testing site at the 250-acre Aurora Sports Park, 19300 E. Colfax Ave.

Drive-up testing is available for free to any individual who wants to be tested, especially for those who have symptoms. The site will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week. Pre-registration at [TCHD.org/AuroraTesting](https://www.tchd.org/AuroraTesting) is suggested to expedite the testing process but is not required. A link to the test results website will be available at [TCHD.org/AuroraTesting](https://www.tchd.org/AuroraTesting).

The city of Aurora—in coordination with Gov. Polis and support from me and the Aurora City Council—is providing the host location for this testing site as well as logistical, communications and funding support via the state of





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Colorado, Arapahoe County CARES dollars, and the city.

I am happy that we can provide the Aurora Sports Park for the site to support the state's efforts to make testing widely available to everyone, and I appreciate our partner jurisdictions coming together with us to support the site and make a difference in this fight against the pandemic.

One More Chance to Weigh in on the City's Restricted Breed Ordinance

Ahead of the vote next week by the Aurora City Council this Monday, Aug. 17, there is another opportunity to provide public input on the city's Restricted Breed Ordinance, Section 14-75 of the Aurora Municipal Code.

The City Council and I are considering whether to retain or repeal the ordinance and whether a repeal should occur via council ordinance or public vote. We want to make sure you have a say in it.

Given COVID-19 limitations for public gatherings, the meeting will take place virtually, with two ways for the public to participate: by submitting comments via email and/or by providing live comments via telephone during the Aug. 17 meeting. To find out the details on how to participate and learn more about the ordinance, visit AuroraGov.org/AnimalOrdinance.

Rental Assistance Program Offers Help to Residents Facing Financial Hardship from COVID-19

This week, the city started accepting applications for the next round of our Rental Assistance Program, offering help with lease payments to Aurorans who are facing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 crisis, such as experiencing a job loss. Through funding from the House Aurora Partnership as well as Arapahoe County CARES and Adams County CARES, we are able to make up to \$2 million available in assistance, which I know will help many Aurora residents get up to date on their lease and avoid the threat of eviction in the future. I encourage residents who have been hurt financially by the current crisis to go to AuroraGov.org/RentAssist to learn more about eligibility and to apply.

Join Me for Global Fest at 11 a.m. This Saturday on the City's Facebook Page

Global Fest, the city's annual celebration of international cultures and traditions, is always a highlight of my summer calendar, and even though we can't meet in person this year because of COVID-19, I'm excited that the city is continuing to hold this event in a virtual format. You can join me on the city's Facebook page at Facebook.com/AuroraGov at 11 a.m. this Saturday, Aug. 15, for performances, a virtual Parade of Nations, and an International Fashion Show.

Global Fest is a great reminder of the diversity of Aurora, where one in five residents was born outside the United States, and how our differences can be beautiful and inspire our curiosity, our knowledge and our desire to engage with our neighbors and grow together. I hope you'll take part online in this year's Global Fest, and then head out to enjoy one of Aurora's great independent, ethnic eateries. Try something new, support our local businesses, and enjoy everything that Global Fest embodies.



Update on Face Covering Mandate

Gov. Jared Polis' [executive order](#) regarding face coverings is scheduled to expire later this week. The city's COVID-19 webpage will be updated with information if that order is extended. In the meantime, the public health order from [Tri-County Health Department](#) that requires people ages 11 and older to wear a covering over their noses and mouths in public indoor spaces and in other situations will continue through mid-October. Residents who have concerns about the mandate not being followed may reach out to Tri-County Health Department's call center at 303.220.9200. Concerns about business non-compliance may be sent to businesslic@auroragov.org or 303.739.7057.

Mobile Food Pantry Continues at Town Center at Aurora

The Aurora Mobile Food Pantry, in partnership with Aurora Interfaith Community Services, continues to serve our community each week. In August, the mobile pantry is at Town Center at Aurora, 14200 E. Alameda Ave., every Wednesday, starting at 10 a.m., ending when food runs out. About 50 volunteers support the food pantry each week, and we still need help for the August dates. More information is available at AuroraGov.org/MobileFoodPantry

Mayor Mike Live – 3 p.m. Fridays on Facebook and AuroraTV.org

Join me on Facebook Live or AuroraTV.org at 3 p.m. Fridays for updates on the city's COVID-19 response, as well as information on various topics affecting our city. This week (Aug. 14) on the show will be Council Member Crystal Murillo to discuss youth programs and her role as co-chair of the RTD Accountability Committee, and Minsoo Song with the city's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs will talk about Global Fest.

Aurora News

- [Free COVID-19 Testing Site Opens in Aurora](#)
- [Subaru Hits the Gas on Deal for 550,000-square-foot Office and Warehouse Facility in Aurora](#)
- [Firefighters Keep Aurora Apartment Fire from Spreading Beyond 1 Unit](#)

City Updates on COVID-19

Stay connected with the city during this pandemic about local efforts, city response and other updates. Visit AuroraGov.org/COVID-19 and on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) at [@AuroraGov](#). You can also follow me on Twitter and Facebook at [@AuroraMayorMike](#).