


AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES MANUAL

05.10	Title: OFFICER RELIEF PROCESS	
	Approved By: Vanessa Wilson, Interim Chief of Police	
	Effective: 06/09/2020	Revised:
	Associated Policy: DM 05.03, DM 05.08	
	References:	
Review:		Duty Honor Integrity
		Page 1 of 1

5.10 Officer Relief

This directive covers the “Officer Relief” process. “Officer Relief” refers to the replacement of officers who have been involved in a physical struggle/fight/violent event with a subject by other arriving officers who should be less emotionally involved and may help keep the situation from escalating to unnecessary physical levels. This would also apply to any situation where an officer appears unable to control their emotions or de-escalate the situation on their own.

5.10.1 Officer Relief Process

In cases involving a significant physical altercation with a subject there exists the possibility that the incident will be emotionally elevated by both the officers and the subject. The first arriving officers who are not immediately necessary to go “hands-on” to control the subject shall relieve the officers who were involved in the altercation. This “Officer Relief” should only occur after the subject is in custody and under the appropriate restraint (i.e. handcuffed). Officers are required to accept, without question (regardless of rank or tenure), the intervention of another officer unless it is not safe or practical to do so. Officers should understand that it is in their own interest to step back if another officer believes they are crossing a line.

This should help in de-escalating the situation, preventing the potential for unnecessary force, allow time for decompression, time to access any injuries to officers or the subject and the ability to provide information to supervisor/s. This will mean that the officer/s that are making the physical arrest may be advised to step aside (Officer Relief) and allow other officer/s to take over the hands-on portion of the arrest. This may be all that is needed to calm the situation down and keep it from escalating to a level higher than is truly necessary. If safe and practical to do so, the Officer Relief needs to immediately disengage from the situation.

Once the situation is under control an on-scene supervisor can determine who should continue with the arrest process of the subject. Officer Relief does not remove the obligation for the officer to complete any appropriate reports.