

**AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT
DIRECTIVES MANUAL**

08.48	Title: SUSPICIOUS CALLS		Duty Honor Integrity
	Approved By: Vanessa Wilson, Interim Chief of Police		
	Effective: 06/09/2020	Revised:	
	Associated Policy: DM 08.32		
	References:		
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8.48 Suspicious Calls

This directive outlines the approach that APD members, to include Public Safety Communications call takers and dispatchers should take with any suspicious person calls that they respond to. The goal is to utilize member’s own observations and training to overcome or eliminate any bias against the subject by the reporting party that may have generated the call.

8.48.1 Public Safety Communications

When the Public Safety Communications Department (PSCD) receives a report of suspicious person/activity, the reporting party will be asked to describe the suspicious behavior with as much specific detail as possible. All provided information will be included into the CAD event during the initial report. See SOP PSC 60 – Suspicious for details of the information to be requested of the caller.

8.48.2 APD Member Response to Suspicious Calls

Upon arrival and locating the suspicious person, the responding members should take some time to observe the suspicious person unless there is something going on that requires immediate contact. Members should not rely solely on the reporting party’s description to justify a contact. Members should use their training and observation skills to determine if the person is acting suspiciously in that the person was, is, or seems to be about to engage in criminal activity.

Additional contact with the reporting party may be necessary to clarify details. If the observed person is not acting suspiciously, the members should add notes to the call on their observations, to include the lack of any indication of past, current, or prospective criminal activity. The officer may end the call. The officer may also contact that person to offer help, assistance, or other resources appropriate for the situation, but the contact must be consensual, and the individual does not need to engage with the officer and should be free to leave at all times unless new information not available to the officer during the first observation becomes apparent.

During consensual contacts, the subject being contacted must feel that they are: (1) free to leave at any time, and (2) free not to cooperate with the member. In a consensual contact a member may ask for consent to search the subject for weapons. The manner in which the consent is sought – giving orders, demanding answers, displaying a weapon, using a harsh tone, telling the subject to stop doing X or to move to some other location – might indeed turn the encounter into a de facto detention or arrest. Absent consent, a pat down search for weapons is not legal without specific facts or information making it reasonable for the member to suspect that the person may be armed and dangerous.