Aurora Police Department
2007 Annual Public Safety Report

Daniel J. Oates
Chief of Police
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tribute to Officer Douglas Byrne ..................................................  1

Section 1: Introduction .................................................................  2
  1.1 Population ...............................................................................................................  2
  1.2 Aurora Police Department Demographics ........................................................  3

  1.3 Department Goals .................................................................................................  3

Section 2: Uniform Crime Reporting System ..............................  3
  2.1 Reporting Methodology ...........................................................................................  4

Section 3: Crime in Comparative Cities .................................  4
  3.1 38-City Population Comparison ............................................................................  5
  3.3 One Year View (2005) .........................................................................................  6
    3.3.1 Violent Crime Rate ..........................................................................................  6
    3.3.2 Property Crime Rate .......................................................................................  7
    3.3.3 Total Major (Index) Crime Rate .....................................................................  7
  3.4 Comparative Summary ...........................................................................................  8

Section 4: City of Aurora Summary 2006—2007 ....................  8
  4.1 Reporting Methodology .........................................................................................  8
  4.2 Calls for Service ...................................................................................................  8
  4.3 Assessment of Crime in Aurora ...........................................................................  9
    4.3.1 Violent Crime ...................................................................................................  9
    4.3.2 Property Crime ............................................................................................... 10
    4.3.3 Total ............................................................................................................... 10
TABLE OF CONTENTS

4.4 Assessment of Traffic Enforcement Efforts ................................................................. 10
  4.4.1 Top 5 Accident Locations .................................................................................... 11
  4.4.2 Traffic Accidents ..................................................................................................... 11
  4.4.3 On-Line Accident Reporting ................................................................................ 12
  4.4.4 Traffic Summons Productivity .............................................................................. 12

Section 5: Significant Department Accomplishments .................. 13

Section 6: Future Efforts ............................................................... 20

Section 7: Conclusion .................................................................... 22
  7.1 General Crime Trend Summary ......................................................................................... 22
  7.2 Two Year Crime Reduction ............................................................................................ 22

Section Eight: Honors ................................................................. 23
IN MEMORIUM

Officer Douglas D. Byrne

December 2, 1969 ~ March 26, 2007

During the early morning hours of March 26, 2007, our community lost a true hero. Officer Douglas D. Byrne perished in a traffic accident as he rushed in his police cruiser to the scene of a medical emergency. The victim of the medical emergency, 23 year old Sedrick Maurice Niblet, also died that tragic night.

Douglas Byrne grew up in Aurora and joined the Marine Corp after graduating from Gateway High School. He served in the first Persian Gulf War.

Officer Byrne is remembered fondly by members of both the Aurora Police Department and the Glendale Police Department. He joined the Glendale Police Department in 1998, serving as a Patrol Officer until 2004. In 2003, Officer Byrne was awarded the Medal of Valor, resulting from his heroic rescue efforts during a fire at the Spanish Gates Apartment building.

Douglas Byrne joined the Aurora Police Department in 2004, serving the community as a Patrol Officer and a Field Training Officer. His father, Donald Byrne, said, “If you were ever in a situation and had to dial 911, you would want Doug at your doorstep.”

Officer Byrne’s fellow officers remember him as a man who enjoyed a good practical joke, loved to golf, and who gave his all to his job. Fellow officer Robert Tanuz remembers Douglas Byrne as “…one of the most caring, generous individuals you’d ever meet.”

Deputy Chief Terry Jones summed up Officer Douglas Byrne’s life: “Doug was known as a ‘good kid,’ who went on to become a ‘good Marine,’ and always wanted to be a good cop. He was all of those things, but most importantly, he was a good friend, a good brother, a good uncle, and a good son.”

Officer Douglas D. Byrne will live forever in the hearts of beloved family, friends and colleagues at the Aurora Police Department.
Section 1: Introduction

IN BRIEF

Average City Growth
5,293 Residents per year

DISTRICT SIZE (square miles)
District 1 - 19
District 2 - 100
District 3 - 53
City: 155

The individual sums exceed the total due to GIS mapping that has the districts covering some areas outside the city of Aurora.

DISTRICT POPULATION
District 1 - 88,354
District 2 - 98,541
District 3 - 122,521
City: 309,416

The purpose of this report is to provide an accurate view of the City of Aurora's crime and traffic related issues during the reporting period. The report examines the state of crime relative to cities of similar size, as well as a review of the two year trend (2006 & 2007) in Aurora. The final sections of the report examine specific initiatives completed in 2007, initiatives projected for 2008 and honors bestowed on our Officers and the Department.

1.1 Population 309,416

Over the past 25 years the population of the city has nearly doubled, with an average growth rate of approximately 5,293 additional residents per year. This statistic is important when assessing the crime rate for the city. Additionally, the land mass of the city has also grown from 147 square miles in 2005 to 155 square miles in 2007, impacting the department's response times to citizen requests for service.

Aurora Population Growth over the Last 25 Years

These population estimates reflect numbers created by the City's Planning Department. Population Estimates reported by the FBI for Crime Statistics are developed by the U.S. Census Bureau and are not always in agreement with calculated estimates provided by the City.
1.2 Aurora Police Department Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commissioned Officer Demographics (640 Total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 Department Goals
The Department expects that every member will strive continuously to achieve the goals of the Department and thereby improve the quality of life in Aurora. These goals are:

1. To reduce crime and the fear of crime;

2. To partner with the community to identify and solve problems;

3. To operate the Department with maximum efficiency.

The monthly “Crime, Quality of Life and Traffic” (CQT) meeting continues to provide a valuable communication instrument for the entire department and an opportunity for the Chief of Police and Executive Staff to ensure that the Department’s Goals are being achieved. This strategy meeting also serves a dual purpose in that operational commanders are required to discuss areas where they are succeeding and those where they are not. It also provides a forum for all department units to offer assistance to solve problems and to put more eyes on the crime and policing challenges that affect the city. CQT meetings continually help units align their goals with those of the Department and City.

Section Two: Uniform Crime Reporting System
Annually, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) publishes the “Crime in the US” report. The report relies on data collected and reported by participating agencies. Additionally, the report adheres to the established Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards. The UCR aims to create consistency in reporting for all participating agencies, nationwide.
The Aurora Police Department voluntarily participates in the UCR system. For the purposes of this report, the focus will be on the seven major crimes reported in UCR. These are the only crimes reported nationally to the FBI and the only measures to compare one city’s crime trends to another’s. For reporting purposes, the seven major crimes are categorized into two groups: Violent Crime (including Murder, Forcible Sex Assault [Rape], Aggravated Assault and Robbery) and Property Crime (including Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft). The Total Major Crime or Index Crime is an aggregate of the total Violent Crime and Property Crime, providing an overall view of major crime in an area.

The UCR system counts each victim of murder, sex assault and aggravated assault as an individual crime occurrence, whereas only incidents of robbery, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft are counted. This means that a double murder occurring at the same time in the same location is treated as two murders but a robbery in which a store clerk and three customers are the victims is only counted as one robbery. The FBI collects data continuously but publishes its final report on crime for a given year in the fall of the succeeding year. The 2007 FBI report will not be available until late in 2008.

2.1 Reporting Methodology

Two reporting methods are utilized in this report: volume and rate. Volume represents the actual number of crime incidents reported in accordance with the UCR. While the volume of crime in a specific area is critical to strategic planning and identifying trends, this statistic does not provide a comparative measure.

The rate of crime interprets the volume in terms of population. A rate provides a method for comparison of data between different agencies. For the purposes of this report, rates will be stated as volume (or UCR incidents) per 1,000 citizens in the population.

Section Three: Crime in Comparative Cities

The City of Aurora compares to 38 similar sized municipalities that participate in the UCR system. The city is grouped with jurisdictions servicing a population between 250,000 and 499,999. Because city growth dictates who is included in the group, the composition of the group can change each year. As a result, our comparisons are restricted to a one year historical view. Within this section, the report analyzes rates of crime in accordance with UCR rules.
IN BRIEF

2006
38 COMPARABLE CITIES

Mobile, AL 250,152
St. Petersburg, FL 253,280
Plano, TX 257,183
Lexington, KY 270,179
St. Paul, MN 276,989
Anchorage, AK 277,692
Buffalo, NY 280,494
Newark, NJ 280,877
Stockton, CA 289,510
Corpus Christi, TX 291,507
Riverside, CA 292,698
Bakersfield, CA 298,198
Toledo, OH 301,652

Aurora, CO 302,855
Cincinnati, OH 309,104
Pittsburgh, PA 324,604
Tampa, FL 331,487
Anaheim, CA 334,792
Santa Ana, CA 343,433
St. Louis, MO 346,879
Raleigh, NC 348,345
Wichita, KS 357,372
Arlington, TX 373,086
Minneapolis, MN 375,302
Colo Springs, CO 376,807
Tulsa, OK 385,834
Miami, FL 392,934
Oakland, CA 398,834
Omaha, NE 416,770
New Orleans, LA 431,153
Virginia Beach, VA 442,784
Kansas City, MO 448,218
Cleveland, OH 452,759
Mesa, AZ 459,705
Sacramento, CA 460,552
Fresno, CA 465,269
Long Beach, CA 478,283
Atlanta, GA 485,804

38 CITIES
Average Crime Rates
Violent Crime: 9.89
Property Crime: 52.29
Total Major Crime: 62.18

CITY OF AURORA
Average Crime Rates
Violent Crime: 6.13
Property Crime: 42.28
Total Major Crime: 48.42

3.1 38-City Population Comparison

2006 Population
Aurora 302,855 / Average 354,299
3.2 38-City Officer Staffing Comparison

### 2006 Officers Per 1,000 Residents

- **Aurora 2.04 / Average 2.13**

Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Atlanta did not report their total sworn staffing.

3.3 One Year View (2006)

3.3.1 Violent Crime Rate

### 2006 Violent Crime

- **Aurora 6.13 / Average 9.89**

Minneapolis and St Paul do not report Violent Crime Statistics to the FBI due to Differences in State Definitions for certain crimes. Numbers for these categories reported here are drawn from their own Police Department Web Sites.
3.3.2 Property Crime Rate

![Property Crime Chart]

Aurora 42.28 / Average 52.29

3.3.3 Total Major (Index) Crime Rate

![Total Major Crime Chart]

Aurora 48.42 / Average 62.18

IN BRIEF

38 Cities
2006 Average
Population
354,299
Violent Crime
3,539 – 9.89/1,000
Property Crime
18,475 – 52.29/1,000
Index
22,014 – 62.18/1,000

Aurora
2006 Results
Population
302,855
Violent Crime
1,858 – 6.13/1,000
Property Crime
12,805 – 42.28/1,000
Index
14,663 – 48.42/1,000
3.4 Comparative Summary

In 2006 for the category of Violent Crime, the City of Aurora ranked 11th lowest of the 38 cities. With a rate of 6.13 UCR incidents per 1,000 in population, Aurora was well below the 38 city average rate of 9.89.

In the category of Property Crime, the City of Aurora ranked 12th lowest of the 38 cities. With a rate of 42.28 UCR incidents per 1,000 in population, Aurora was below the 38 city average rate of 52.29.

The overall view of crime in Aurora places the city in the 9th lowest position of the 38 cities. With a rate of 48.42 UCR incidents for total major crime per 1,000 in population, Aurora was below the 38 city average rate of 62.18.

Section Four: City of Aurora Summary 2006 – 2007

This section of the report compares the compiled crime data reported to the FBI for 2006 to the finalized data for 2007 submitted to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The intent is to provide an overview of the crime reduction efforts of the Police Department during the last calendar year. In addition to the seven major crimes, statistical reporting of traffic enforcement is included.

4.1 Reporting Methodology

This section of the report focuses on the actual volume of UCR crime incidents that occurred in Aurora during 2007 as compared to 2006, rather than rates per population.

4.2 Calls for Service

In 2007, the Public Safety Communications Department (PSCD) received 596,810 telephone calls from citizens requesting police assistance. From those calls, the PSCD dispatched calls for service to police officers 153,718 times (25.7% of citizen calls) which is an increase of 2.2% from 2006. The remaining calls were determined to be non-police related.

In addition, officers implemented self-initiated action on 163,724 occasions (8.7% more than 2006). In total, the Department handled 317,442 service calls in 2007, an increase of 5.5% in the number of calls from 2006.

These figures only represent those incidents where street officers were either dispatched to a call or the officers notified the PSCD of observed activity and does not include incidents reported in other manners, such as desk reports.
4.3 Assessment of Crime in Aurora

In this section of the report the volume, or actual UCR crime incidents for 2006 and 2007, are compared. Additionally, this section of the report will review the Police Department’s traffic enforcement efforts.

4.3.1 Violent Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violent Crime</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>(17.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Assault (Rape)</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>(11.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery Incidents</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>(3.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>(11.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Violent Crime Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,701</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,862</strong></td>
<td><strong>(8.6%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2007, the City of Aurora made significant progress in reducing crime in all 4 Violent Crime areas, showing a decrease of **8.6%** overall.

During 2007, the incidents of aggravated assault attributed to non-fatal shootings increased **12.1%**, representing an increase of 4 incidents from the previous year. The total number of shooting victims increased by 8 for a total percentage increase of **22.2%**. Non-fatal shootings are not reported as an independent category under the UCR but are an indicator of crime and a high priority focus for the Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Fatal Shootings</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Incidents</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Victims</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3.2 Property Crime

### IN BRIEF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Crime</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary Incidents</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>2,492</td>
<td>(5.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny Incidents</td>
<td>7,890</td>
<td>8,448</td>
<td>(6.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVT Incidents</td>
<td>1,729</td>
<td>2,070</td>
<td>(16.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property Crime Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,981</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,010</strong></td>
<td><strong>(7.9%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2007, the City of Aurora also made significant progress in reducing crime in all Property Crime areas, showing a decrease of 7.9% overall.

4.3.3 Total Major Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major Index Crimes</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,682</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,872</strong></td>
<td><strong>(8.0%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The combined total part one crime index for the City of Aurora was reduced by 8% overall, reducing the total number of crimes from 14,872 in 2006 to 13,682 in 2007.

4.4 Assessment of Traffic Enforcement Efforts

The police department continued a focused emphasis on traffic enforcement in an effort to increase safety on Aurora’s roadways. The department’s ten (10) Motorcycle Enforcement Officers (M.E.T.) concentrated on speed enforcement efforts in high violation areas. The department also took advantage of federal funding opportunities to conduct five DUI checkpoints and participated in two seat belt enforcement campaigns. During the course of 2007, traffic officers along with other members of the Department participated in one Vice Presidential escort as well as handled traffic control for the Colorado Colfax Marathon, Fourth of July city fireworks event and the annual Harley Toy Run.
4.4.1 Top 5 Accident Locations
The Department continues to focus efforts on reducing the number of injury causing accidents on Aurora’s roadways. Primary attention is given to those intersections with the highest volume of accidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 Total Accident Locations for 2007</th>
<th>2007 Total</th>
<th>2006 Total</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2007 Injury Accidents</th>
<th>2006 Injury Accidents</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 S I225 NB HWY AT S PARKER RD</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>(27%)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(78%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 E ARAPAHOE RD AT S PARKER RD</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>131%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 S I225 NB HWY AT E MISSISSIPPI AVE</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>(11%)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>(60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 S PARKER RD AT E QUINCY AVE</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>(6.5%)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 E MISSISSIPPI AVE AT S CHAMBERS RD</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(29%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 Injury Accident Locations for 2007</th>
<th>2007 Total</th>
<th>2006 Total</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2007 Injury Accidents</th>
<th>2006 Injury Accidents</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 E HAMPDEN AVE AT S BUCKLEY RD</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 E HAMPDEN AVE AT S TOWER RD</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 N I225 NB HWY AT E COLFAAX AVE</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>(31%)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>(53.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 E MISSISSIPPI AVE AT S CHAMBERS RD</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(28.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 S PARKER RD AT S PEORIA ST</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>(8%)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>(50.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2007 there were no fatal traffic accidents at any of the top five accident locations or the top five injury accident locations. In 2006 the one location in either of these groups to have a fatal accident was Northbound I225 at E Colfax Ave (Injury Accident Location #3).

4.4.2 Total Traffic Accidents
In 2007 there were 20 fatalities associated with traffic accidents, equal to the five-year city average of 20. Injury accidents were significantly down by 42% with an overall reduction in all accident categories of 0.5%.
In July 2006, the way accidents were coded as injury related or not was changed. Prior to the change in the law, if any involved person reported an injury, the accident was coded as an injury accident. After the change, the responding officer had to observe an injury for the accident to be coded as an injury. Non-coded accidents are those where the reporting party or officer failed to indicate whether the accident involved an injury.

4.4.3 On-Line Non-injury Accident Reporting
Citizen use of on-line (kiosk) reporting for non-injury accidents increased 2.3% in 2007.

4.4.4 Traffic Summons Productivity
Traffic summons productivity showed an increase in both moving and parking violation categories. The issuance of moving traffic citations rose 11.4%, and parking citations showed an increase of 23.3%. A new method of capturing summonses was introduced in 2007 to capture summonses written in conjunction with a General Offense Report. 2006 results were recalculated using this new method for a proper comparison.
Section Five: Department Significant Accomplishments

Organizational Study: Police Department and Detention Center

The Matrix Consulting Group was contracted to assess the overall effectiveness of the Police Department and the Detention Center. This was the first comprehensive study of the Department by an outside consultant in over 18 years. During its eight-month study, areas of the police department that were assessed by Matrix included: management & organizational structure, service delivery efficiencies (including technology solutions), staffing levels, calls for service, response times and deployment strategies. The consultant’s completed report was released in February 2008 and presented to the Public Safety Committee, the full Council at Study Session, and the Citizens’ Advisory Budget Committee. A central finding of the study was that the Department deploys its patrol officers extremely well across Districts One, Two and Three, in a manner that is consistent with and responsive to calls for service. The Police Department will be working on its many recommendations throughout the year. First among the recommendations to be implemented are the re-centralization of the Traffic function and the creation of a full-time background investigation unit.

Fugitive Apprehension and Surveillance Team (FAST)

Formed in mid-2006, the Department’s FAST was operational for its first full year in 2007. Made up of four Agents and four Officers under the direction of a Sergeant, this team directly apprehended 289 fugitives. The team took a lead role in the apprehension of at least 200 additional fugitives located in and around Aurora but wanted by other agencies and jurisdictions. Because FAST goes after the most hardened, dangerous and prolific criminals, the effectiveness of FAST is believed to be a significant factor in the 2007 decrease in violent crime in Aurora.

Gang Tracking Initiative

The Department undertook a first-ever gang tracking initiative in 2007. This is a comprehensive approach to quantifying gangs and gang activity in Aurora. Previously, no reliable method existed to capture this type of data. Beginning on January 1, 2007, every single contact or incident involving a known or suspected gang member was reported to the Special Investigations Unit, which carefully vetted this information using nationally established best practices on how to collect, analyze, store and distribute gang intelligence. Using this information, patrol officers and specialized units such as the Gang Intervention Unit were able to strategically deploy and target the most hardened and troublesome street gangs. Another important benefit of this initiative is that now that the Department has collected comprehensive baseline data for 2007, it can begin to assess and strategically react to gang incidents and trends in the years to come. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to better deploy police resources toward gang intervention. It is encouraging to note that one of the findings of this first year of data is that gang-related crime constitutes less than three percent of Aurora’s Major Index Crime.
Community Forums

Recognizing the importance of establishing and maintaining positive relationships with all of its citizens, the Police Department led an initiative in 2007 to engage a variety of key stakeholders (citizens, police staff, city officials) in four dialogue sessions about police-community relations. These sessions in May of 2007 were aimed at enhancing the Department’s relationships with the various communities it serves. Topics included education, better communication, and establishing a commitment to work collaboratively on agreed-upon solutions to identified challenges. More than 350 citizens and officers came together to work collaboratively to improve their relationship and build mutual trust.

Today, four Task Forces comprised of citizens and officers meet regularly to advise and help the Police and Fire Departments improve diversity, recruitment, training, communication, and initiatives directed at fostering better relations with the youth of the community. The Department and community served believe the forums, while a first step, were a success. Dialogues will continue into the future. The four Task Forces are expected to release reports and make recommendations to the Police and Fire Departments and the City in 2008.

COPLINK

The Aurora Police Department, in partnership with the City of Aurora IT Department, successfully led a statewide campaign in 2007 to adopt Coplink as Colorado’s standard for law enforcement data sharing and crime-fighting analysis. As a result, beginning early in 2008, eight core-partner police agencies (Aurora, Denver, Grand Junction/Mesa County, Arapahoe County, Douglas County, Adams County, Jefferson County and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation) began to purchase and link up Coplink data “nodes.” Aurora’s node will likely be up and running by June of 2008, with our detectives and crime analysts the first to benefit. Eventually, our goal is to have Coplink available, via mobile computer, in every patrol car in the City.

By the end of 2008, most of the core partner agencies will also be on line and actively sharing data and analysis via Coplink. The vision of the eight core partners, who represent half the 12,000 police officers and deputies in the state, is that within three to five years, the remainder of Colorado’s officers and deputies and their agencies will be linked up and sharing police reports and analysis in a breakthrough statewide crime-fighting network. The combination of this state-of-the-art technology and law enforcement leadership will allow Colorado officers to generate leads and solve crimes more quickly and with more skill than ever before. The statewide consortium pricing that the Aurora IT Department took the lead in negotiating with Coplink will also achieve maximum value for taxpayers.

Sexually Violent Predator Notification Process

In order to comply with state statutes regarding persons known as sexually violent predators, the Police Department formalized its process for notifying communities when such persons move in or out of the area. Members of law enforcement, the courts, and social services make up the notification team. A formal meeting, to which the affected community residents are invited, is held to exchange specific information about the subject person. The process is intended to better protect the community through education and awareness.
Sex Offender Registration and Fees

On August 1st, the Department expanded its state mandated sex offender registration program to include fees paid by the registrant. By state statute, sex offenders living in Colorado are required to register with the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where they reside. This must be done at least annually. (Some offenders are required to register quarterly.) Statute permits agencies to recover costs for their registration program, if they desire. Aurora had not previously charged a fee. By direction of Council, now registrants must pay an initial fee of $140, then $40 for each subsequent registration. Over 500 registered sex offenders reside in Aurora.

TeleStaff

The TeleStaff project is a computerized solution for personnel scheduling, roster building, and timekeeping that will greatly increase efficiency and accuracy of tracking personnel work hours and simplifying payroll. It is a phased implementation project. The scheduling and roster building phase is in the late testing phase. The payroll phase is scheduled for 2008.

In-Car Video

The Police Department initiated its In-Car Video project with a pilot program involving the installation of eleven (11) camera systems in our traffic-enforcement vehicles. The In-Car Video project will enhance both officer safety and accountability to the public by recording video contacts with motorists during vehicle stops. As expected, the Department has seen early evidence of the value of the program in terms of better evidence collection and better accountability regarding police-citizen contacts. As the pilot program progresses, the Department will bring forth updates to the Public Safety Committee. It is anticipated that more camera units will be added as funding becomes available.

Nexus to Law Enforcement Program

In 2007, the city’s Aid to Agencies Program was replaced with an alternate funding program entitled Grants to Community Service Agencies with a Nexus to Law Enforcement. The program provides financial support for social service agencies that assist the Police Department and is funded with monies from a surcharge on municipal ordinance offenses. Those monies are awarded in the form of grants to agencies that demonstrate a strong service commitment to Aurora law enforcement. Currently, the six qualifying agencies are: Arapahoe House, Aurora Mental Health, Sungate, Comitis Crisis Center, Gateway Battered Women's Shelter, and Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN). Specifically, these agencies provide services that result in efficiencies by freeing up officers to handle other duties and/or helping them to resolve cases and render assistance to victims.
SWAT

In 2006 and 2007, the Special Weapons and Tactics team, or SWAT, conducted 747 successful high-risk operations. Oftentimes, SWAT calls involve significant risk factors such as immediate entry search warrants, barricaded suspects, undercover narcotics operations, dangerous felons and arrests involving armed fugitives. Despite the potential for danger, during the past two years, there were only 11 minor injuries to suspects, no injuries to SWAT personnel and one accidental discharge of a weapon by a SWAT officer during a violent struggle with a fugitive. Although the very nature of a SWAT callout implies a heightened danger to all involved, the data clearly shows that SWAT conducts business in a professional manner with the highest regard for the safety of the community.

The “BEAR”

In September of 2007, officers of the Aurora Police Department SWAT traveled to Maine to take custody of a custom-built, 30,000-pound rescue vehicle, affectionately known as “The Bear,” (Ballistic Engineered Armored Response vehicle.) The Bear was purchased with $315,000 secured in the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Process. The Aurora Police Department maintains and houses the Bear, but shares it with and makes it available to the regional partners in the North Central Region and Urban Area Security Initiative (including all the law enforcement agencies in the Denver Metro Area).

The Bear offers significant capabilities for tactical support in critical incidents. It has, among others, the following features: an explosive gas detection package; a radiation detection package; and run-flat tires, allowing it to continue to roll on flat tires.
Operation Weed & Seed impacts crime in the Original Aurora area

Operation Weed & Seed is a multi-agency strategy led by the Neighborhood Services Department and designed to “weed out” crime in the area of Original Aurora and then “seed” the targeted areas through social and economic revitalization efforts. The geographic boundaries of the Weed and Seed area include a heavily traveled stretch of the East Colfax corridor that begins at western edge of the City at Yosemite Street and runs several miles east to the I225 highway. The crime reduction element of the Weed and Seed strategy is primarily the responsibility of the Aurora Police Department.

Since 2003, the Department has played a significant role in the operation’s success. For example, in 2007, the Narcotics Unit conducted 26 Weed and Seed Operations resulting in 419 arrests and the removal of 75 guns from the street by Police. Additionally, the Narcotics Unit made 268 prostitution arrests, seized more than 256,665 grams of illegal narcotics and executed 133 search warrants related to narcotics and narcotics related crimes. According to Narcotics Lieutenant Terry Brown, “It’s more difficult than ever to find illicit drugs along the Colfax corridor.”

Persistent efforts by the Narcotics Unit, other special units and District 1 officers have translated into a significant and sustained drop in overall crime along the East Colfax corridor. Crime for a 5-year period, from 2003 through 2007, has fallen by 24%. The impact of this reduction in crime has been reported on by the local news media and felt by visitors, business owners and residents who live and work in Original Aurora.

Of particular significance was not what was discovered by Police, but what was missing from the picture for almost 2 years. Starting in April 2006 and continuing until January 2008, the Department did not record a single homicide in the Weed and Seed area.

In September 2007, the Narcotics Unit conducted a successful prostitution sting netting 16 arrests and thereafter, 16 convictions. This type of operation, more commonly referred to as an “Op John,” had not been conducted in nearly four years, however, the Department believed strongly that the time was right to address this quality of life issue that was slowly creeping back into the corridor.

Since the implementation of the Weed and Seed strategy, the City of Aurora has seen a significant reduction in crime and the fear of crime along the Colfax corridor. Prolonged efforts at crime reduction has yielded success by any definition and given revitalization a chance to take shape.

Commemorative Badge

In 2007, the Department authorized a Commemorative badge representing the 100th year since the city incorporated as the city of Aurora. This badge represented the original 5 point star from the early Aurora Marshall’s Office and the shield shape of the badge worn for the previous 30 or more years. Around the edge of the badge was inscribe “SERVING AURORA 1907 ~ 2007 FOR 100 YEARS”. 

17
The badge was such a success that the Executive Staff decided to adopt the badge, minus the centennial inscription, as the official badge of the Aurora Police Department. All personnel commissioned or promoted after January 1st, 2008 will be issued the new design. The previous badge was a stock badge used by many police and security organizations throughout the country. Now the Aurora Police Department has a badge of its own.

**Aurora Police Department Reward Fund**

In 2007, the Aurora Police Department Reward Fund was established in partnership with the Aurora Rotary and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The Fund is designed to help solve Aurora crimes by offering reward monies for information leading to the identification and arrest of suspects. In 2007, approximately $27,000 was raised locally to fund the program. Rewards were offered in eight cases, and monies were paid to citizens in two cases. The first was $750 for information on a serial robber, and the second was a $500 reward paid for the recovery of a murder weapon.
Aurora Police Athletic League Boxing Program

In May of 2007, the Aurora Police Department, in partnership with L.A. Boxing, kicked off an amateur boxing program for boys and girls aged 8 – 18. The program was co-founded by Aurora Police Sergeant Graham Dunne, who also founded an Aurora chapter of the Police Athletic League to support the program. The purpose of the P.A.L. program is to improve relations between the police and local youth, and is also a proactive approach to juvenile crime prevention through physical fitness and sports alternatives.

Since the inception of the program, 40 to 50 youths have participated in the after hours and weekend training sessions. Youths from the program have participated in 4 local tournaments. Sgt. Dunne has been assisted in training the youths by 6 Aurora Police Officers, all of whom volunteer their time. Much of the funding for the program is provided by donations from police officers and members of the local community.

Sgt. Dunne established a tax deductible account for the program, and has raised thousands of dollars in donations to help fund the program. For his efforts on behalf of Aurora youth through the P.A.L. Program, Sgt. Graham Dunne was awarded the City Service Light award in March of 2008.

Methamphetamine Grant

In 2007, the Aurora Police Department in partnership with South Metro Drug Task Force (SMDTF), received a $450,000 federally funded grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

The Aurora Police Department and over a dozen other law enforcement agencies that combined to form the South Metro Drug Task Force, received the money to combat a growing problem involving the manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine throughout the South Metro Drug Task Force Service area and Aurora.

Since the grant was received 6 clandestine meth labs and dumpsites have been discovered and closed down, over a pound of methamphetamine has been recovered and 25 guns have been taken out of the hands of criminals. To add to the success, over one pound of cocaine, 10 vehicles and more than $22,000 in cash has been recovered since the distribution of grant funds.
The funds from this grant will be used for purchase of equipment/supplies ($159,794) which includes a new decontamination trailer and vehicle for towing the trailer, travel and training ($70,000) for investigators and cover expenses involving overtime ($197,706) and the program evaluation ($22,500). Armed with this grant, the SMDTF and APD will coordinate with other local, state and federal agencies to help reduce the availability of methamphetamine on a state, multi-state and national level.

School “Mini-tabletop” Exercises
In an effort to make students and staff safer in Aurora's schools, the Police Department coordinated and conducted a series of “mini-tabletop” emergency exercises. The sessions were designed to concentrate on the first 10-15 minutes of a crisis (e.g. individual armed with a firearm in the school). School staff was familiarized with what the best course of action should be, as well as educated on the response to expect from the police. An exercise was conducted at each of the Aurora Public School's thirty-two (32) elementary schools, three (3) middle schools, and two (2) high schools. Efforts continue to conduct exercises at the remaining schools.

Section Six: Future Efforts

Regional Academy
Working closely with the Fire Department, the Court Administrator and the Detention Center, the Police Department took major steps forward in the cooperative effort to create a Regional Public Safety Training Academy. Members of the Training Section worked with their counterparts from the Denver Police Department, Denver Sheriff’s Department, Broomfield Police Department and many other agencies to develop initial plans for a facility that can support the training needs of the metro area for the next 50 years or more. The goal for 2008 is to identify the final group of core partners that will build and staff this facility and to present funding options to elected decision makers in each participating city.

Temporary Academy
With road construction planned along Montview Boulevard on the new Fitzsimmons campus, the Police Department's existing Training Academy will most likely have to be torn down within the next three years. If a Regional Academy is constructed before the Montview Boulevard expansion, the move will be seamless. However, because there is a strong possibility that the road construction will occur prior to the construction of the Regional Academy, a temporary Police Academy facility must be identified. The Police Department has begun work with other City Departments to identify a proper location for this temporary facility.
K-9 Program

The K-9 Unit is currently looking to identify and purchase an additional dog that will be crossed trained for both bomb detection and apprehension. The additional dog was made possible because of a grant awarded in 2007. The new dog will be handled by the K-9 Sergeant and will increase the number of working police dogs to seven and add a second explosives-detection dog to the Department. The new dog will be operational by August of 2008.

The Pattern Crimes Unit

PCU, a plainclothes unit that invests significant efforts in combating motor vehicle theft and has been a major factor in the two-year, 37.69%-percent reduction in auto theft in Aurora. PCU was awarded grant funding for the design and implementation of a high-tech bait vehicle. The vehicle will be equipped with audio and video that will assist in the investigation and conviction of would-be car thieves. The vehicle is expected to be operational in 2008.

Accreditation

In 2008, the three-year process of re-accreditation by the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) culminates with an on-site assessment by CALEA staff. This is the most significant and labor-intensive year in the re-accreditation process, with the Department's Professional Standards Section spending the year driving the organization to produce the proofs necessary to meet the 450-plus national standards for best practices in policing that CALEA requires. The Department's re-accreditation on-site visit and inspection by CALEA staff is expected to occur at the end of October.
Section Seven: Conclusion

7.1 General Crime Trend Summary

Overall, the city had an exceptional year of crime reduction. Decreases that began in 2006 continued into 2007 in all Major Crime Totals even as the population of the city continued to grow. When compared to the other 37 comparable cities, Aurora's statistics continue to remain well below the averages established by those cities.

7.2 Two Year Crime Reduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>309,416*</td>
<td>295,888</td>
<td>4.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder Victims</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>(50.00%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Assault Victims</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>(14.60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery Incidents</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>(9.58%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault Victims</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>(4.32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime Totals</td>
<td>1,701</td>
<td>1851</td>
<td>(8.10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary Incidents</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>2495</td>
<td>(5.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny Incidents</td>
<td>7,890</td>
<td>9,655</td>
<td>(18.28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVT Incidents</td>
<td>1,729</td>
<td>2775</td>
<td>(37.69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime Totals</td>
<td>11,981</td>
<td>14,925</td>
<td>(19.73%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Index Crime</td>
<td>13,682</td>
<td>16,776</td>
<td>(18.44%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This population estimate is from the City Planning Department and may not be the same as the estimate reported by the FBI.
### Section Eight: Honors

During 2007, the Aurora Police Department presented 46 awards through the formal program. The Department presented one officer the **Medal of Honor**. The Department honored six officers with the **Distinguished Service Cross** and two officers, who had died in the line of duty, were posthumously honored with the **Purple Heart**. The Department presented thirteen officers with the **Life Saving Award** and recognized five officers with the **Meritorious Service Ribbon**. The Chief commended seven officers and one outside agency with **Chief's Commendations**. The Chief presented the **Chief's Unit Citation** to five units within the Department and 116 officers were recognized with **Commander's Commendations**. The Department honored one citizen with the **Community Commitment Award** and presented five citizens with the **Certificate of Appreciation - Citizens Award**. An Aurora detective was honored with the first ever “**Officer of the Year Award**” presented by the Colorado Chief’s of Police. We had one Officer named **Officer of the Year** by an American Legion Post and another by the Colorado Police Protective Association and The Metro Gang Task Force of which Aurora is a substantial part was named **Rocky Mountain HIDTA Task Force of the Year**.

#### Distinguished Service Cross
- Officer Eric Bond
- Officer Barry Cape
- Officer Christopher Carleton
- Officer Brant Harrold
- Officer Scott Osgood
- Officer David Sandoval

#### Purple Heart
- Agent Michael D. Thomas
- Officer Douglas D. Byrne

#### Life Saving Award
- Officer Craig Baumfalk
- Sergeant Dan Courtenay
- Officer Joseph Duran
- Sergeant Michael McClelland
- Officer John Sangi
- Officer Daryll Huntsman
- Lieutenant Mark Walters
- Officer Colleen Quinn
- Officer Justin Shipley
- Officer Joshua Stuteville

#### Meritorious Service Ribbon
- Agent David Dyroff
- Agent Michael Holm
- Agent Doug Knox
- Agent Alan Shank
- Agent John Tollakson
- Agent John Tollakson
The night of May 17, 2005, Officer Eric Cherry found himself engaged in a gunfight with an armed bandit and thanks to his training and well-honed skills, emerged unscathed. Officer Cherry stopped a stolen car near 12th and Kenton Street. As the officer crouched behind his car door, the front seat passenger released a barrage of gunfire at the officer. Officer Cherry returned fire. The suspect vehicle sped away, with Ofc. Cherry in pursuit. Aurora officers quickly found the suspect vehicle, and one suspect, later determined to be the shooter, suffering from a fatal gunshot wound. The other two suspects were quickly arrested.

Officer Eric Cherry’s ability to keep a cool head, return fire, and keep officers updated via police radio led to the successful conclusion of a dangerous situation. In 2007, he was awarded the highest award given by the department, The Medal of Honor.
Colorado Chiefs of Police
2007 Officer of the Year
Detective Gretchen Fronapfel

On the night of June 20, 2005, Detective Gretchen Fronapfel found herself the lead investigator in the brutal shooting of Javad Marshall-Fields and his fiancée, Vivian Wolfe. Marshall-Fields was days away from testifying in a murder trial against Robert Ray, accused of gunning down Gregory Vann on July 4, 2004 in a park in Aurora. The shooters hoped that Marshall-Fields and Vivian Wolfe would be forever silenced.

After literally thousands of hours of investigation and hundreds of interviews, Detective Fronapfel is currently preparing for trial against Robert Ray, Sir Mario Owens, and Dwayne Parish for the murders of Marshall-Fields and Wolfe. Ray and Owens are facing the death penalty.

Det. Fronapfel tirelessly pursued every lead in the case, and coordinated several peripheral investigations that led to more leads in the murder case. Her dedication, tenacity, and perseverance have ensured that Javad Marshall-Fields and Vivian Wolfe will have their voices heard again.

For her extraordinary efforts in this case, Detective Gretchen Fronapfel was selected as the 2007 recipient of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police Officer of the Year Award.
Officer Scott Osgood received an Officer of the Year Award from the Colorado Police Protective Association and the Distinguished Service Cross from the Aurora Police Department. Both awards were in recognition of Ofc. Osgood's actions on September 20, 2006, when Aurora Police Detective Mike Thomas was shot and killed while sitting in his car at a traffic light.

Officer Osgood came upon Detective Thomas immediately after the shooting. As Osgood was attempting to understand why Thomas was unresponsive, he came face to face with Thomas' killer, who was still armed with the same handgun used to shoot Thomas. Ofc. Osgood became involved in a violent struggle with the suspect, and was able to disarm him. The officer gained control of the suspect until help arrived.

Ofc. Scott Osgood's actions brought to an end a deadly situation and prevented others from potentially falling victim to the same fate that sadly befall Det. Thomas.