April 20, 2009

The 2008 Annual Public Safety Report summarizes the significant work accomplished by the men and women of the Aurora Police Department to reduce crime in our city. For the third straight year, the City of Aurora saw Major Index Crime percentages drop significantly. As you will see in this report, Aurora is one of the safest cities of its size in the United States.

On behalf of the more than 780 civilian and sworn members of the Aurora Police Department, I want to thank all the individuals, organizations and businesses who partnered with us and supported our efforts to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in the City of Aurora in 2008. We in the Aurora Police Department enjoy a very special partnership with the citizens we serve, and we are very grateful for the extraordinary support we receive every day.

On behalf of the Department, I also extend our appreciation and thanks to the City Manager, Mayor and City Council members, along with all the other city employees who work to ensure that we can provide the most reliable and professional service possible to our citizens. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Daniel J. Oates
Chief of Police
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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 2006, 2007 and 2008 crime trends in Aurora. The final sections of the report examine specific initiatives completed in 2008, initiatives projected for 2009 and honors bestowed upon our Officers and the Department.

### 1.1 Population 313,144

Over the past 25 years the population of the city has nearly doubled, with an average growth rate of approximately 5,233 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 151 square miles in 2008, impacting the department’s response times to citizen requests for service.

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 (636 Total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 Department Guiding Principles

The Department expects that every member will work to continuously improve the quality of life in Aurora and will strive:

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 principles are being followed. 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 put more eyes on the crime and policing challenges that affect the city. CQT meetings continually help units align their operations with the Department and City mission and goals.

Section Two: Uniform Crime Reporting System

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) annually 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. 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 2008 FBI report will not be available until mid 2009.

### 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 are 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 other 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. Some comparisons may not list all 39 Cities because some cities did not report all of their data to the FBI.

### 3.1 39 City Officer Staffing Comparison

![Graph showing 2007 Officers Per 1,000 Residents (Aurora1.98 / Average 2.11)]
3.2 39 City Population Comparison

2007 Population
(Aurora 307,621 / Average 348,842)

IN BRIEF
2007
38 COMPARABLE CITIES
Glendale, AZ ........ 250,444
Chandler, AZ ........ 250,868
Henderson, NV ....... 251,270
Mobile, AL .......... 253,842
Plano, TX .......... 259,771
St. Paul, MN ....... 271,662
Lexington, KY ....... 272,815
Buffalo, NY ..... 273,832
Newark, NJ ....... 280,158
Anchorage, AK .... 284,142
Corpus Christi, TX .. 286,428
Toledo, OH .......... 296,403
Stockton, CA ...... 297,170
Riverside, CA ....... 299,312
Aurora, CO ........ 307,621
Pittsburgh, PA ...... 312,179
Bakersfield, CA ... 318,743
Cincinnati, OH ... 332,388
Anaheim, CA ...... 335,133
Tampa, FL .......... 337,220
Santa Ana, CA ..... 340,223
St. Louis, MO ...... 348,197
Average ............ 348,842
Wichita, KS ....... 358,294
Raleigh, NC ...... 367,120
Minneapolis, MN .. 371,240
Arlington, TX .... 372,073
Colorado Springs, CO 374,112
Tulsa, OK ......... 381,469
Oakland, CA ...... 396,541
Miami, FL ......... 410,252
Omaha, NE ........ 431,810
Virginia Beach, VA 435,943
Cleveland, OH ..... 439,888
Kansas City, KS ... 447,725
Mesa, AZ .......... 454,576
Sacramento, CA ... 460,546
Fresno, CA .. 472,170
Long Beach, CA ... 473,959
Atlanta, GA ....... 497,290
3.3 One Year View (2007)

3.3.1 Violent Crime Rate

Kansas City, Missouri did not report their crime data in time for this report.

3.3.2 Property Crime Rate
3.3.3 **Total Major (Index) Crime Rate**

### 2007 Major Index Crime Rates Per 1,000 Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Violent Crime (UCR)</th>
<th>Violent Crime Rate /1,000</th>
<th>Property Crime (UCR)</th>
<th>Property Crime Rate /1,000</th>
<th>Index (UCR)</th>
<th>Index Rate /1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henderson, NV</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Ana, CA</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaheim, CA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Beach, VA</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plano, TX</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach, CA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandler, AZ</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raleigh, NC</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside, CA</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora, CO</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4.47</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark, NJ</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4.97</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa, AZ</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5.20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5.43</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colo. Sprg, CO</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.67</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno, CA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.91</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6.15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6.38</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale, AZ</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.61</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakersfield, CA</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6.84</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5.48</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach, CA</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6.04</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland, CA</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6.37</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton, CA</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6.69</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo, OH</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.02</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Ana, CA</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7.35</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>7.68</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa, AZ</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8.01</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8.34</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colo. Sprg, CO</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8.67</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno, CA</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9.33</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakersfield, CA</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9.66</td>
<td>13,477 – 43.81/1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.4 Comparative Summary

In 2007 for the category of Violent Crime, the City of Aurora ranked 9th lowest of the 38 cities. This is an improvement over 2006 when Aurora was ranked 11th lowest. In 2007 Aurora had a Violent Crime rate of 5.48 UCR incidents per 1,000 in population which was below the 38 city average of 9.16. In 2006, the rates were 6.13 and 9.89 respectively.

In the category of Property Crime, the City of Aurora remained ranked 12th lowest of the 38 cities, with a rate of 38.33 UCR incidents per 1,000 in population as compared to the average of 48.87. In 2006, the rates were 42.28 for Aurora with a 52.29 average.
The overall view of crime in Aurora places the city 11th best with a UCR rate of 43.81 major crimes per 1,000 residents. This is well below the average of 57.25 incidents. In 2006, Aurora was 9th best with a rate of 48.42 UCR incidents compared to the 38 city average rate of 62.18.

Section Four: City of Aurora Summary 2007 – 2008

This section of the report compares the compiled crime data reported to the FBI for 2007 to the finalized data for 2008 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 2008 as compared to 2007, rather than rates per population.

4.2 Calls for Service

In 2008, the Public Safety Communications Department (PSCD) received 616,169 telephone calls from citizens requesting police assistance. From those calls, the PSCD dispatched calls for service to police officers 144,224 times (23.41% of citizen calls) which is a decrease of 6.2% from 2007. In addition, officers initiated action on 165,488 occasions (1.1% more than 2007). In total, the Department handled 309,712 service calls in 2008, a decrease of 2.4% in the number of calls from 2007. Although activity initiated by officers was up over 2007, calls from citizens went down and that reduced the total for 2008. The remaining calls were determined to be non-police related.

These figures only represent those incidents where street officers were either dispatched to a call or the officers notified the PSCD of activity. They do 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 of actual UCR crime incidents for 2006, 2007, and 2008 are compared. Additionally, this section of the report reviews the Police Department’s traffic enforcement efforts.
In 2008, the City of Aurora made progress in reducing crime in two of the four Violent Crime areas, showing an overall decrease of 4.5%.

During 2008, the incidents of aggravated assault attributed to non-fatal shootings increased 8.1%, representing an increase of 3 incidents from the previous year. The total number of shooting victims increased by five for a total percentage increase of 11.4%. 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>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Incidents</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Victims</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2008, the City of Aurora made significant progress in reducing crime in all Property Crime areas, showing an overall decrease of 10.3%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Crime</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary Incidents</td>
<td>2,220</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>(6.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny Incidents</td>
<td>7,201</td>
<td>7,890</td>
<td>(8.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVT Incidents</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>1,729</td>
<td>(23.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime Totals</td>
<td>10,749</td>
<td>11,981</td>
<td>(10.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3.3 Total Major Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Major Crime</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Index Crimes</td>
<td>12,374</td>
<td>13,682</td>
<td>(9.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The combined total part-one crime index for the City of Aurora was reduced by 9.6%. Overall, the total number of crimes dropped from 13,682 in 2007 to 12,374 in 2008. This continues the downward trend from 2006 which had 14,872 Total Major Crimes.

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 10 member Motorcycle Enforcement Team (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 seatbelt enforcement campaigns. During the course of 2008, traffic officers, along with other members of the Department, participated in one Presidential and one Vice Presidential escort, as well as handling traffic control for the Colorado Colfax Marathon, Fourth of July City fireworks event, the annual Harley Toy Run, the Household Chemical roundup and DNC support.

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 2008</th>
<th>2008 Total</th>
<th>2007 Total</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
<th>2008 Injury Accidents</th>
<th>2007 Injury Accidents</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 E. Arapahoe Rd. @ S. Parker Rd.</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 E. Quincy Ave. @ S. Parker Rd.</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 S. I-225 NB Hwy. At S. Parker Rd.</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>(26.9%)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 E. Colfax Ave. @ I-225 NB Hwy.</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 E. Iliff Ave @ S. Chambers Rd.</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(75%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2008, there were two fatal traffic accidents at two of the top-five accident locations and none at the top-five injury accident locations. The two intersections that had fatalities were #2, E. Quincy Ave. @ S. Parker Rd and #4, E. Colfax Ave. @ I-225 NB Hwy. In 2007, there were no fatal accidents at any of the top accident locations or top injury accident locations.

4.4.2 Total Traffic Accidents

In 2008, there were 18 fatalities associated with traffic accidents, which is below the five-year city average of 21.2. Injury accidents were up by 0.8% with an overall reduction in all accident categories of 7.7%.

### Top 5 Injury Accident Locations for 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2008 Injury Accidents</th>
<th>2007 Injury Accidents</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
<th>2008 Total</th>
<th>2007 Total</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-225 HB Hwy. @ E. 6th Ave.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>125%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Iliff Ave @ S. Chambers Rd.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>300%</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Iliff Ave @ S. Buckley Rd.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>(25.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Colfax Ave. @ Chambers Rd.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>500%</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Quincy Ave. @ S. Chambers Rd.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>(5.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4.3 On-Line Non-injury Accident Reporting

Citizen use of on-line (kiosk) reporting for non-injury accidents decreased 5.8% in 2008.
4.4.4 Traffic Summons Productivity

Traffic summons productivity showed a decrease in both moving and parking violation categories. The issuance of moving traffic citations dropped 18.0% for Municipal summonses and 11.5% for State summonses. Parking citations showed a decrease of 1.5%. Other related summonses are traffic summonses written in conjunction with another report or crime. This category decreased 10.7%.

Section Five: Victim Services Unit

During 2008, the Aurora Police Department’s Victim Services Unit made approximately 12,000 victim contacts, to include mailing of victim rights brochures, and letters, phone contacts, and in-person crisis intervention contacts and interviews. In 2008, the Unit focused on reaching out to the faith-based advocate community. The effort resulted in three new advocate volunteers signing up to attend the 2009 APD/VSU volunteer training.

The Victim Services Unit is now reaching out to victims of identity theft based on a best practices initiative. The Unit created a recovery checklist and put together a resource packet outlining everything an identity theft victim should do to avoid re-victimization. The program serves approximately 50 victims per month.

Unit staff recently received training in working with undocumented immigrants who are victims of crime through a program known as “U-VISA.” Victim Advocate volunteers are also being trained to recognize signs of human trafficking and its victims.

Two full time Victim Advocates and one Unit volunteer received training from the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) in a nationally-recognized Crisis Intervention model. The Unit is subsequently partnering with Aurora Public Schools to train their teachers and staff based on that same Crisis Intervention model. Also during 2008, the Victim Services Unit instituted a Victim Services Evaluation Process. Results of the survey are currently being compiled.

There are five full-time employees who comprise the Victim Services Unit. During 2008, 28 citizens served the community as volunteer Victim Advocates. The combined efforts of the full time Advocates and the volunteers have assisted in easing the pain and confusion of many victims of crime.
Section Six: Department Significant Accomplishments

On-line Crime Reporting
The Department went live with On-line crime reporting in 2008. This new system allows citizens to report minor crimes via the internet. This reduces the wait for the citizens, reduces the number of phone reports at the front desk and has the potential to reduce the number of times officers must respond to a citizen's home to take a minor report.

Accreditation
In 2008, the three-year process of re-accreditation by the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) culminated with an on-site inspection in October. Three CALEA Assessors spent three days examining documentation on over 390 required standards. The assessors' report showed that the Department was in compliance with all reviewed CALEA standards. The Department was re-accredited in March, 2009.

Southlands Mall Substation
On March 12, 2008, a new police substation opened at the Southlands Mall. The Aurora Police Department partnered with Southlands Mall and Alberta Development Partners to open the facility. The Police substation will handle matters specific to the mall and its visitors.

Southlands Mall donated the space and much of the office equipment for the substation. It is staffed by two Aurora Police officers who are assigned to patrol the mall and meet law enforcement related needs of retailers and customers.

K-9 Unit
The K-9 Unit planned to have a new dog operational by August of 2008. That dog, Rocco was obtained via a 2007 grant. Unfortunately, Rocco died in the summer of 2008 of K-9 Influenza. We obtained a new K-9 in late 2008 through our K-9 fund. “Blicksem” should gain his certification as a bomb detection dog in early 2009.

APD Firearms Examiner
In 2008, the Crime Lab added a full-time Firearms Examiner to its staff. The examiner works at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and uses CBI's lab equipment, but works only Aurora Police Department cases. The turnaround time on firearms forensic investigations has been greatly reduced, resulting in getting criminals off the streets faster.

Annual Reports
Two new annual reports were released in 2008. The first was the Gang Report, and the second was the Awards, Commendations and Discipline Report. Both reports can be found on the new website. We encourage the public to examine the reports to become better informed about their local police department.
Democratic National Convention

The Aurora Police Department made a substantial contribution to safety efforts surrounding the Democratic National Convention (DNC). Aurora sent 312 commissioned officers and a civilian analyst to support the law enforcement activities during the DNC. Uniformed Aurora Officers were present throughout downtown Denver for the week of the DNC, and their contributions were positively covered in National and Colorado newspapers and in the electronic media.

The Officers and career service employees that remained in Aurora continued to provide quality Law Enforcement services to the citizens. The Aurora Police Department was also instrumental in thwarting a potential threat. During routine patrol, Sergeant Tim Holt made a traffic stop on a suspected drunk driver. After further investigation, Sgt Holt found information that led him to believe there was a threat against the life of the Democratic Nominee for President, Senator Barack Obama. The information led to two additional arrests in two other cities.

Police Department Website

During 2008, work began in earnest to build a new Police Department Website. The goal was to make the site more user-friendly and easier to navigate than the existing site. One temporary position and one full-time position were filled by tech-savvy police officers, who worked with the
City’s Information Technology group to build the website. On-line crime reporting went live in October of 2008. The entire website was up and running in early 2009.

ECU C.O.C.C.A. Case
In early 2008, the Aurora Police Department Economic Crimes Unit joined with the Denver District Attorney’s Office Economic Crimes Unit and the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office in a complex investigation into an identity theft ring operating primarily in the southeast metro area. Cases from twenty jurisdictions in the metro area dating back to 2006 were solved. During the investigation, detectives identified 472 victims and estimated dollar losses in excess of $400,000.00. A total of 20 suspects were arrested, including 8 individuals charged with violating the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (C.O.C.C.A.).

Metro Gang Task Force
Two major investigations by the Metro Gang Task Force (M.G.T.F.) culminated in numerous indictments and arrests in 2008. An investigation into the “Asian Pride” gang started in November of 2005, and ended with 28 local and federal indictments. Eleven thousand MDMA, or “Ecstasy” pills were seized by law enforcement, with 25,000 more pills charged in the indictment.

In October of 2008, 13 members of the local “Mongols” motorcycle gang were indicted on drug, weapons and conspiracy charges. The M.G.T.F. partnered with the Denver office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (A.T.F.) to work local members of the gang while the A.T.F. worked other locales across the nation.
Emergency Preparedness Exercise
On April 2, 2008, the city engaged in an Emergency Preparedness Exercise that included the Aurora Police and Fire Departments and city employees who work in the Aurora Municipal Center. The goal of the exercise was to test evacuation procedures and use of safety zones by employees in an active shooter situation. It also tested the procedures of the Police and Fire Departments in handling a large scale emergency. Several citizens volunteered to play the role of injured victims. A post-exercise evaluation critiqued the actions of employees and the agencies involved.

Addition of District 3 DART Team
The District 3 Direct Action Response Team (DART) was formed in March of 2008. It consists of six officers and one Sergeant. The primary mission of DART is crime suppression in the district. They work to combat crime and narcotics activity, conduct surveillance, and investigations with pattern crime operations. You will often see these officers on “dirt bikes” that provide them mobility options that are not available with a patrol car.

Honor Guard Award/National Fallen Officer Memorial
Eight members of the Aurora Police Department Honor Guard went to Washington D.C. for National Law Enforcement Week in May, where they participated in an Honor Guard competition. Twenty-five Honor Guard teams from the United States, Canada, and England completed three events: an inspection, posting of the colors, and a rifle drill. The APD Honor Guard placed 7th out of 25 teams. We consider that quite an accomplishment, considering many of the teams we competed against are full-time teams.

The Honor Guard also presented flags at the front of the National Police Officers’ Memorial for the Candlelight Vigil, and posted with other Honor Guard teams at the U.S. Capital during President Bush’s speech.

In 2008, Aurora Police Officer Doug Byrne’s name was added to the National Memorial Wall.
**Recentralization of Traffic**
The Traffic Bureau was decentralized in 2002, with each District having its own Traffic Unit. Based on a recommendation of the MATRIX report in 2007, the Department began to recentralize Traffic in the interest of greater efficiency. In March of 2008, Traffic was reunited under one Commander. Traffic personnel are still housed at each District, but plans have been laid to bring them all under one roof.

**New Police Badge**
In 2007, the Department authorized a Commemorative badge representing the 100th year since the city incorporated as the City of Aurora. 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 were issued the new design. All officers were allowed to purchase the new badge, continue wearing the Commemorative badge or continue to wear the old badge if they were not promoted.

**Volunteers in Policing**
The Department enjoyed the support of many volunteers in 2008. Citizens’ volunteered an amazing 24,890 hours of service to the department providing the City with $485,604.00 in services. Volunteers work in almost all areas of the Department to include the Records Section, Property Unit, Academy, Pawn Detail, and as Law Enforcement Explorers, Neighborhood Watch, and as interpreters.

**Section Seven: Future Efforts**

**E-ticketing**
The Department is pursuing options and funding to automate the ticketing process. Early estimates are that this system will cost approximately $900,000.00. The system will allow integration of the ticketing process from the officer in the field to the courtroom. This is a green initiative since there may be no need to print any copies of the summons except for the copy given to the citizen. This initiative will require coordination with the Municipal Court, the City Attorney and the IT Department.

**Customer Service Initiative**
The 2009 Customer Service Initiative was presented to the Public Safety Committee in the fall of 2008. The initiative is intended to better serve the needs of the public and to reduce the number of citizen complaints. New initiatives to be implemented in 2009, include 12-hour patrol shifts, sector-based policing, increased patrol staffing, expanded District front desk operations, centralized Watch Commanders, report cars, supervisory audits, a mediation program and an improved citizen interactive website. These initiatives are intended to provide more efficient service, reduce response times and reduce the number of citizen complaints about officers and/or police service.
**Full-Time Interpreter**

The Department currently has a contract interpreter who also serves as the coordinator of a robust volunteer program with 6 members. The increase in non-English speaking persons in the city has generated a need for this position to become regular full-time. The Department will research funding sources to increase the hours of this position.

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**Section Eight: Conclusion**

**8.1 General Crime Trend Summary**

Overall, the city had an exceptional year of crime reduction. Decreases that began in 2006 continued into 2007 and 2008 in all Major Crime Totals even as the population of the city continued to grow. When compared to the other 38 comparable cities, Aurora's statistics continue to remain well below the averages established by those cities.

**8.2 Three-Year Crime Reduction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>% Chng 05-06</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>% Chng 06-07</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% Chng 07-08</th>
<th>% Chng 05-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population*</td>
<td>303,835</td>
<td>306,908</td>
<td>1.01%</td>
<td>309,416</td>
<td>0.82%</td>
<td>313,144</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
<td>3.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder Victims</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>(39.3%)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>(17.6%)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>(35.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Assault Victims</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>(3.5%)</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>(11.5%)</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>(14.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery Incidents</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>(6.5%)</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>(3.3%)</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>(5.3%)</td>
<td>(14.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agg. Assault Victims</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>(11.1%)</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>(5.4%)</td>
<td>(9.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime Totals</td>
<td>1,851</td>
<td>1,862</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1,701</td>
<td>(8.6%)</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>(4.5%)</td>
<td>(12.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary Incidents</td>
<td>2,495</td>
<td>2,492</td>
<td>(0.1%)</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>(5.2%)</td>
<td>2,220</td>
<td>(6.0%)</td>
<td>(11.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny Incidents</td>
<td>9,655</td>
<td>8,448</td>
<td>(12.5%)</td>
<td>7,890</td>
<td>(6.6%)</td>
<td>7,201</td>
<td>(8.7%)</td>
<td>(25.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVT Incidents</td>
<td>2,775</td>
<td>2,070</td>
<td>(25.4%)</td>
<td>1,729</td>
<td>(16.5%)</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>(23.2%)</td>
<td>(52.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime Totals</td>
<td>14,925</td>
<td>13,010</td>
<td>(12.8%)</td>
<td>11,981</td>
<td>(7.9%)</td>
<td>10,749</td>
<td>(10.3%)</td>
<td>(28.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Index Crime</td>
<td>16,776</td>
<td>14,872</td>
<td>(11.3%)</td>
<td>13,682</td>
<td>(8.0%)</td>
<td>12,374</td>
<td>(9.6%)</td>
<td>(26.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The population estimates are from the City Planning Department and may not be the same as the estimate reported by the FBI.
Section Nine: Honors

During 2008, the Aurora Police Department presented 17 awards through the formal program. The Department honored four officers with the Distinguished Service Cross, presented two officers with the Life Saving Award and recognized 11 officers with the Meritorious Service Ribbon. The Chief commended six officers with Chief’s Commendations. The Chief presented the Chief’s Unit Citation to 10 units. Commander’s Commendations were presented to 117 officers, career service employees and a K-9 dog. The Department honored 12 officers with the Community Commitment Award and presented four citizens with the Certificate of Appreciation - Citizens Award. The Department had 5 officers honored by the Rotary Club of Aurora for Outstanding Service in the Aurora Community.

Distinguished Service Cross

Officer Claude Burns  
Officer Brandt Harrold  
Officer Barry Martin  
Officer Bryan Knox

Life Saving Award

Officer Raymond Dominguez  
Sergeant James Lesnansky

Meritorious Service Ribbon

Officer Eric Bond  
Officer Adam Neumeyer  
Agent Randy Hansen  
Sergeant Joe Young  
Officer Christopher Sloan  
Officer Luke Mossburgh  
Agent Todd Frederiksen  
Agent Shannon Youngquist-Lucy  
Officer Craig Morgan  
Officer Matthew Novak

2008 CHIEF’S UNIT CITATIONS

For the Aarone Thompson Investigation

Crimes Against Children Unit  
Major Crime/Homicide Unit  
Narcotics Section  
Full-time SWAT Unit  
Crime Scene Investigation Unit

For the Weed and Seed Operations

Narcotics Section  
District One DART  
District Two DART  
Full-time SWAT Team

Chief’s Unit Citation

Front Desk Technicians