Annual Awards, Complaints & Discipline Report

2017

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Introduction

In conjunction with our core values of integrity, honor and duty, the Aurora Police Department strives for professionalism in the performance of our duties. We encourage positive behavior in our employees by the use of awards and commendations. We also encourage our employees and citizens to report any perceived misconduct by our officers. We investigate every complaint and concern reported to the Department and take appropriate action, protecting the rights of the citizen and the Department member. This report reflects our commitment to openness and transparency to the community we serve.

The Department has two systems to award outstanding performance and three systems to manage complaints and discipline. The two award systems are Formal Department Awards and Informal Commander’s Commendations. The three systems used to manage complaints and disciplines are: the Automated Complaint and Commendation System; District / Bureau Discipline; and Formal Internal Investigations and Discipline.

Formal Department Awards

All employees of the Department who become aware of outstanding performance are encouraged to nominate employees and citizens for recognition through the Formal Department Awards program. Department Directive 10.7 describes the guidelines for these awards. See the Directive at the end of this report under the “Department Directives Cited in this Report” section. The Awards Board reviews and investigates all nominations for formal awards and then makes a recommendation to the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police makes the final decision on the appropriateness of each award. Awards available under the Formal Department Awards program are: Medal of Honor; Distinguished Service Cross; Purple Heart; Life Saving Award; Meritorious Service Ribbon; Chief’s Commendation Certificate; Chief’s Unit Citation; Community Commitment Certificate; and the Certificate of Appreciation – Citizen’s Award. These awards are described in the Formal Department Awards section of this report.

Automated Complaint and Commendation System

The Aurora Police Department created the Automated Complaint and Commendation System in 2006 to manage and record all allegations and investigations of complaints and commendations received on sworn officers of the Department. Regardless of how received, all complaints and commendations are entered into the automated system.

Citizens can enter their complaint or commendation directly online through the City’s website. If the Department receives a complaint or commendation in person, on the telephone or in writing, the receiving employee enters the information into the system. Once entered in the automated system, the complaint is forwarded to the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Commanding Officer. Once the Internal Affairs Commanding Officer or designee has reviewed the case, if he or she determines the case in an allegation that can be investigated at the Bureau/District level, he or she will send the case to the appropriate Commanding Officer. The Commanding Officer will assign the case to an appropriate supervisor in the Bureau/District and a preliminary investigation will be completed. If during the preliminary investigation, the investigator believes the allegation should not be handled at the Bureau/District level, a request for investigation by the IAB will be completed and forwarded, through the complaint management system to the subject member’s Division Chief.
Safeguards built into the system include the following: no one can delete the complaint or commendation; only one supervisor can work on the complaint at a time (following the chain of command); supervisors can add information but cannot remove it; all information inserted into the system is saved, documenting the date and time submitted and by whom; supervisors can search the system to determine if the officer has similar complaints and or commendations.

The system records all of the information and produces statistical information. Police managers use the information to determine future training needs as well as to decide an appropriate level of discipline

**District and Bureau Discipline**

The most severe result of incidents reported in this section are Written Reprimands, which are the lowest level of formal discipline. The Internal Affairs Bureau investigates cases that may require discipline greater than a Written Reprimand. Cases that result in corrective measures (training versus discipline) are recorded in the Automated Complaint and Commendation System. A Police Department Supervisor or Manager investigates all District / Bureau Discipline cases. He/she obtains all of the necessary information and reports his/her findings to his/her supervisor. The employee’s chain of command reviews the investigation. If any supervisor in the chain of command determines that the employee violated a Department Directive(s) and decides the appropriate level of discipline is a Written Reprimand, he/she makes that recommendation to the Chief of Police or his designee. If the Chief concurs with the findings, a Written Reprimand is prepared, reviewed, and approved by the Chief. The Chief of Police may personally issue and serve the Written Reprimand on the employee or delegate this duty to a command officer within the employee’s chain of command. The Written Reprimand is part of the employee’s permanent discipline file.

**Formal Internal Investigations and Discipline**

The Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Commanding Officer or designee receives allegations of misconduct. The IAB Commanding Officer determines whether the allegation of misconduct necessitates an IAB investigation. The IAB has the authority of the Chief of Police to conduct investigations. Additionally, critical incidents (i.e. police shootings, use of force resulting in serious injuries or death, serious traffic accidents involving officers, etc.) may result in a formal investigation regardless of whether there is any evidence or accusation of misconduct. The IAB completes the investigation and will notify the subject member/members’ Division Chief(s), and Bureau/District Commander Officer(s) that the case is available for review. Once the involved Chiefs and Commanding Officers have read the case, the Deputy Chief, on behalf of the Chief of Police, will convene a Chief’s Review Board (CRB). The CRB will review the case and discuss the recommendation of finding from the IAB Commander. If the CRB determines a finding of sustained for any allegation of misconduct, or noncompliance for any compliance review, the CRB will make a recommendation of discipline to the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police will inform the member of recommended discipline.
Perspective Statistics
The Department provides the following statistical information for the purpose of perspective. The Department currently employs 696 sworn officers and 142 civilian employees (total 838). During 2017, the Department handled 233,559 calls for service from the public, arrested 9,713 suspects, issued 6,769 criminal summonses (non-custodial arrests) and issued 26,440 traffic citations (this excludes parking tickets and General Offense related traffic summonses).

Formal Department Awards
During 2017, the Aurora Police Department presented 199 awards through the formal program. The Department presented one Medal of Honor award. The Department honored 21 officers with the Distinguished Service Cross. The Department did not present a Purple Heart Award. The Department presented ten officers with the Life Saving Award. The Department recognized 42 officers, civilians, and outside agency members with the Meritorious Service Ribbon. The Chief commended 101 officers and civilians with Chief’s Commendation Certificates. The Chief presented five Chief’s Unit Citations. The Department presented three citizens with the Certificate of Appreciation - Citizens Award. The Department presented one Community Commitment Certificate. The Department presented six Excellence Awards. The Department presented six Innovation Awards. The Department presented three Superior Awards.
Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor may be awarded by the Chief of Police to members who distinguish themselves by intentionally and knowingly placing themselves in a situation that involves an actual and imminent danger of death and whose actions demonstrate conspicuous bravery or heroism significantly above and beyond the call of duty. The member must perform an act so outstanding that it clearly demonstrates extraordinary courage beyond the requirements of the Distinguished Service Cross. The member must have been aware of the great personal danger to himself/herself prior to the performance of the act and the act must have involved an imminent, actual and substantial threat to the member’s life. This award will be a medal, pin and a certificate presented by the Chief of Police.

The department presented one Medal of Honor award in 2017.

Sergeant Tyler Riessland (2016 incident)
On May 10, 2016, at 11:55 P.M., a carjacking occurred at the Wendy’s Restaurant, 15400 East Colfax Avenue. The suspect, Stephen Shuster, was armed with a handgun and took a white Jeep Cherokee from the owner. Shuster fled south on Chambers Road, followed by associates in a red Dodge Challenger. Officers observed the Jeep and Dodge on East Mississippi Avenue. Officers attempted to stop both vehicles. Shuster made a turn and rammed one of the patrol vehicles. The Dodge was stopped, but Shuster continued to elude officers for approximately fifteen more minutes. Shuster continued south through the city, at times driving on the wrong side of roadways. In the area of Aurora Parkway and E-470, the roadway ended. Sergeant Riessland used this location to tactically PIT the Jeep. The Jeep spun and was quickly pinned by Sergeant Riessland and Officer Benda. Shuster raised his handgun and pointed it at the officers. He was immediately engaged by Sergeant Riessland and Officer Benda. Seeing the gun still in Shuster’s hand, Sergeant Riessland jumped onto the hood of the Jeep and positioned himself directly in front of Shuster. Sergeant Riessland maintained this tactical position until a female passenger was removed from the Jeep and Shuster was disarmed. Sergeant Riessland demonstrated extraordinary courage by engaging Shuster and placing himself between the threat and other officers. Officer Benda demonstrated exceptional bravery by engaging Shuster, despite an imminent risk of injury or death. Officer Jones and Officer Ortiz demonstrated a high level of professionalism during the confrontation with the armed carjacking suspect.
Distinguished Service Cross

The Distinguished Service Cross may be awarded by the Chief of Police to members who distinguish themselves by demonstrating exceptional bravery despite an imminent risk of serious bodily injury or death. A member may be aware or unaware of great personal peril to himself/herself prior to the performance of the act. This award will be a medal, pin and a certificate presented by the Chief of Police.

The department presented 21 Distinguished Service Cross awards in 2017.

Sergeant Edward Lopez, Sergeant Sean Mitchell, Officer Roland Albert, Officer Paul Davis, Officer Steven Ficco, Officer Brad Graham, Officer Paul Jerothe, Officer David Krieger, Officer Jon Marek, Officer Nicholas Muldoon, Officer Scott Osgood, Officer Steve Ouilliber, Officer David Sutherland, Officer Scott Wicklund

On June 10, 2017, at 7:25 P.M., Officers were called to 11992 East Archer Place to check the welfare of a woman who had been assaulted. The suspect, Curtis Jackson, had assaulted his girlfriend, then barricaded the two third floor apartment doors with furniture and large appliances. His girlfriend had three young children in the apartment. Jackson refused to allow anyone to leave the apartment and he had access to a firearm. The S.W.A.T. team was notified. Negotiations with Jackson were unsuccessful and a hostage rescue plan was initiated. As part of this operation, Deputies with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office Bomb Squad were requested to assist. Once the teams were ready to make entry for the rescue, officers had to be placed on ladders outside the apartment windows to verify the locations of everyone inside. When the woman and her children were separated from Jackson, the doors were breached with explosives and entry was made. One team of officers rescued the woman and her children while the other team of officers swiftly arrested Jackson. All members of the entry operation distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional bravery, despite an imminent risk of injury or death.

Lieutenant John Tollakson, Sergeant Gregory Garcia, Officer Grant Peet

On July 9, 2017, at 2:50 A.M. Officers were dispatched to an apartment fire at 15790 East Alameda Parkway. Officers arrived to find the building engulfed in flames. Officer Grant Peet, Sergeant Greg Garcia, and Lieutenant John Tollakson began evacuating residents. The hallway and stairway were blocked by flames, so the officers broke windows and began helping residents out of the lower apartments. A woman emerged from a burning second floor apartment. Smoke made it difficult for her to climb down or jump. Sergeant Garcia climbed the balconies to reach her. Sergeant Garcia lowered the woman to Officer Peet and Lieutenant Tollakson. Officer Peet and Lieutenant Tollakson entered one of the lower apartments that had filled with smoke. They located a man and quickly evacuated him to safety. Additional officers arrived and checked the remaining apartments. No other residents were
located. The woman from the balcony was hospitalized for smoke inhalation. The man from the lower apartment was not injured. All three officers were treated for smoke inhalation. Officer Peet was treated for burns he received to his arms. Lieutenant John Tollakson, Sergeant Greg Garcia, and Officer Grant Peet worked as a team to locate and evacuate the residents of the burning building.

**Officer Mark Simmerman**  
On July 24, 2017, at 4:50 P.M., Officers Mark Simmerman and Christopher Sloan responded to the 1400 block of Lima Street. A hysterical female called 911, reporting that a man was trying to kill himself with a knife. As Officer Simmerman arrived, he heard glass breaking and observed the man by an apartment door. The man was holding a large knife and was bleeding heavily from a wound to his arm. Officer Simmerman, still alone, was confronted by the man who was trying to get Officer Simmerman to shoot him. Officer Simmerman noted several people had come out and were standing in close proximity to the man. Officer Simmerman kept the man's attention focused on him, trying to keep him from trying to harm innocent bystanders. The man slashed the air with his knife, at one point spattering blood on Officer Simmerman. Officer Simmerman maintained his composure and tactical position, continuing to reason with the man. Officer Simmerman's tactics seemed to keep the man occupied so he was not threatening anyone else and not attacking the officer. Officer Christopher Sloan arrived and positioned himself next to Officer Simmerman. Both officers continued to negotiate with the man and kept him from attacking them or innocent bystanders. Their actions also kept the man focused on them, preventing him from trying to harm himself. Officer Sloan successfully deployed his Taser and both officers quickly secured the man. Due to their actions, the man was transported to the hospital and got treatment for both his physical injuries and mental health issues. Officers Simmerman and Sloan displayed a high level of dedication to protecting others. Their actions ensured the safety of innocent bystanders, as well as the safety of the armed individual.

**Officer Virgil Majors**  
On November 12, 2017, at 3:40 P.M., Officers responded to the 17000 block of East Arkansas Avenue where a man was threatening to kill himself. It was reported that he had a gun in his bathrobe. As Officers arrived, the man walked out of his house, wearing a bath robe. The man told Officers that he wanted them to shoot him. Several Officers secured the perimeter and began negotiating with him. He was not listening and appeared to be intoxicated. He kept manipulating something in his pocket and it quickly became apparent that he had a handgun in his robe. He kept walking back and forth, turning away from the Officers, and not responding to them. At one point he had his back to the Officers and it appeared he was heading back into the house. Officer Virgil Majors rushed the man from behind and quickly secured his arms, preventing him from retrieving his gun. This allowed time for the other officers to react and grab the man. The man reacted violently and it took several officers to finally secure him. Officers safely arrested the man without anyone being seriously injured. Two fully loaded handguns were recovered from his robe. Due to their actions, the incident ended peacefully and the man was transported to the hospital where he received treatment for his mental health issues.

**Officer Jason Condrey**  
On December 1, 2017, at 11:30 A.M. Police Dispatch received a call that the house at 3678 South Zeno Way had exploded and was burning. Officer Jason Condrey was the first officer to arrive. Two family members had escaped. They told Officer Condrey that their father and brother were trapped in the basement. The basement was filled with dense smoke and Officer Condrey had no idea where the fire was located or what was burning. He heard the two men screaming for help and chose to immediately enter the house. He quickly located the son and rushed him to the back yard. Both he and the son were overcome by the smoke. Officer Condrey paused momentarily for some fresh air and returned to the basement in search of the father. He located the father and carried him up to the back yard. Both the father and his son were severely burned. Officer Condrey fought through the effects of the smoke to
direct assisting officers as they arrived. It took several minutes for fire and medical personnel to arrive and get to the back yard. The explosion and fire were linked to flammable liquids that the men were using to remove floor tile. The intense smoke and lack of oxygen in the basement would have quickly killed both men had they not been immediately evacuated by Officer Condreay. Officer Jason Condreay demonstrated exceptional bravery, despite the imminent risk of injury or death and was treated for smoke inhalation after this incident.

**Officer Patrick Benda** (2016 incident)
On May 10, 2016, at 11:55 P.M., a carjacking occurred at the Wendy’s Restaurant, 15400 East Colfax Avenue. The suspect, Stephen Shuster, was armed with a handgun and took a white Jeep Cherokee from the owner. Shuster fled south on Chambers Road, followed by associates in a red Dodge Challenger. Officers observed the Jeep and Dodge on East Mississippi Avenue. Officers attempted to stop both vehicles. Shuster made a turn and rammed one of the patrol vehicles. The Dodge was stopped, but Shuster continued to elude officers for approximately fifteen more minutes. Shuster continued south through the city, at times driving on the wrong side of roadways. In the area of Aurora Parkway and E-470, the roadway ended. Sergeant Riessland used this location to tactically PIT the Jeep. The Jeep spun and was quickly pinned by Sergeant Riessland and Officer Benda. Shuster raised his handgun and pointed it at the officers. He was immediately engaged with gunfire by Sergeant Riessland and Officer Benda. Seeing the gun still in Shuster's hand, Sergeant Riessland jumped onto the hood of the Jeep and positioned himself directly in front of Shuster. Sergeant Riessland maintained this tactical position until a female passenger was removed from the Jeep and Shuster was disarmed. Sergeant Riessland demonstrated extraordinary courage by engaging Shuster and placing himself between the threat and other officers. Officer Benda demonstrated exceptional bravery by engaging Shuster, despite an imminent risk of injury or death. Officer Jones and Officer Ortiz demonstrated a high level of professionalism during the confrontation with the armed carjacking suspect.
Purple Heart

The Purple Heart may be awarded by the Chief of Police to any member who sustains a gunshot wound, stab wound, or serious injury, under aggravated and hostile circumstances, which could have resulted in death or could potentially result in a permanent disability, which may force the member to retire. This award will be a medal, pin, and a certificate presented by the Chief of Police.

The department did not present a Purple Heart award in 2017.
Life Saving Award

The Life Saving Award may be awarded by the Chief of Police to members who personally save a life. The life-saving effort will normally involve one of the learned life supporting processes: mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, the Heimlich maneuver for choking victims, or the control of severe bleeding. To merit this award, the member’s actions must be significant. Additionally, the award is only bestowed to the member if the victim survives the incident. The request for a life-saving award will be accompanied by a document from witnesses or an attending physician stating the methods applied contributed significantly to the victim’s survival. This award will only apply when victims are at imminent risk of death. This will normally not include deliberate actions taken by the victim or victims, unless the victim or victims have inflicted injury upon themselves that is actually life threatening. This award will be a pin and certificate presented by the Chief of Police.

The department presented 10 Life Saving awards in 2017.

Officer Francine Martinez
On April 9, 2017, at about 10:30 P.M., 911 call-takers received calls from citizens at the King Soopers store located at 3190 South Parker Road. The callers reported that a man had either overdosed on drugs or was attempting suicide in the restroom of the store. The callers reported that the man was unconscious and having difficulty breathing. Officer Francine Martinez was the first officer to arrive at the store. Officer Martinez quickly located the man and assessed his condition. Officer Martinez noticed a ligature tied around one of his arms, which lead her to believe the man was experiencing a drug overdose. Officer Martinez repositioned the man where she could administer first aid. She again assessed the man and realized his condition was quickly deteriorating. Officer Martinez administered an emergency dose of NARCAN to the man and began Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). By the time paramedics arrived to transport the man to the hospital, he was showing signs of improvement. Once at the hospital, the man recovered to the point where he could speak. It was learned that he was a drug user and had overdosed on a mixture of Heroin and Xanax. The mixture would have proved to be fatal if Officer Martinez had not intervened.

Officer Jose Ortiz
On April 30, 2017, at 11:48 P.M., Officer Jose Ortiz responded to an emergency call in the 11000 block of East Harvard Avenue. The caller was a woman who reported that her husband was unconscious and not breathing. She was unable to locate his pulse. Officer Ortiz was the first officer to arrive. He quickly located the man in the bedroom and assessed his condition. The man was indeed unconscious, not breathing, and had no pulse. Sergeant Reginald DePass assisted Officer Ortiz in getting the man from the bed to the floor. Officer Ortiz began Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). After several minutes, paramedics arrived and again assessed the man’s condition. The man had regained a faint pulse and electrical activity was detected. He was transported to the Medical Center of Aurora in very critical condition. The thirty-eight year old man remained hospitalized for five days. He recovered and returned to his family.
Officer Ethan Snow
On May 17, 2017, at 11:20 P.M., officers were dispatched to the 2600 block of South Xanadu Way. A female caller reported that someone had cut her grandson with a knife. Officer Ethan Snow was the first officer to arrive. Officer Snow found the 35 year old victim in the bathroom. Officer Snow noted the victim had a cut which went from his throat to the middle of his left ear. The victim was holding his neck, but he could not stop the bleeding. It became obvious to Officer Snow the victim had sustained a potentially life-threatening injury. Officer Snow realized that without immediate action, the victim would quickly bleed to death. Officer Snow used a washcloth to apply pressure to the man's neck. The washcloth quickly became saturated and was not slowing the loss of blood. The victim began to lose consciousness. When medical personnel arrived, Officer Snow obtained gauze from them and packed the open wound in the victim's neck. Officer Snow maintained pressure on the wound and remained with the victim the entire time while the victim was moved to an ambulance and transported to the hospital. Officer Snow did not leave the victim until he was relieved by the surgeon at the hospital. The victim was rushed into surgery and repairs were made to his left carotid artery. The victim was stabilized and recovered. The surgeons involved stated that without Officer Snow’s actions, the victim would have bled to death before he could be taken to the hospital.

Officer Steven Spanos
On July 12, 2017, at 10:40 P.M. Officers responded to an emergency call in the 1100 block of North Chester Street. The caller reported that their fifty year old father was possibly having a stroke. The man collapsed and was having difficulty breathing. Officer Steven Spanos was one of the first officers to arrive. The family members were all standing outside the residence when officers arrived. Officer Spanos quickly entered the home and found the man on the floor in the bedroom. The man was unconscious and not breathing. It became apparent to Officer Spanos that the man had suffered a stroke or heart attack. Officer Spanos began providing the man with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Officer Spanos continued doing CPR for several minutes until medical personnel arrived. When medical personnel arrived, the man had regained a heartbeat. He was transported to University Hospital. Doctors determined the man had experienced a severe heart attack. Doctors stated that the man would not have survived had Officer Spanos not performed CPR. The man recovered and was able to return to his home and family.

Officer Christopher Ozaluk
On August 30, 2017, at 10:30 P.M., Officers were dispatched to the apartments at 17300 East Warren Place on a reported stabbing. The caller was a young man, reporting that his father had been stabbed in the arm and was losing consciousness. Officers arrived and contacted the boy and his mother. With no details or suspect information, the officers removed the woman and boy from the apartment. Officers then conducted a sweep of the apartment for victims and/or suspects. Officer Christopher Ozaluk was one of the officers to find the injured man. He was on the kitchen floor and had a severe cut to his right forearm. The man was losing a large amount of blood. Officer Ozaluk quickly placed a tourniquet on the man’s upper right arm, stopping the bleeding. Officer Ozaluk remained with the man until medical personnel arrived and transported him. It was later learned that the 43 year old man had attempted suicide by cutting his arm. Doctors at University Hospital believed that the wound inflicted by the man would have been fatal had Officer Ozaluk not applied a tourniquet to his arm.

Officer Dustin Petersen
On September 9, 2017, at 2:10 A.M., Officer Dustin Petersen responded to 1601 Alton Street, where callers reported seeing a woman on the floor of the building lobby. The callers thought the woman was deceased. Officer Petersen quickly located the woman and evaluated her condition. The woman was unconscious and having difficulty breathing. Officer Petersen detected a very faint pulse. Officer Petersen recognized the signs of a drug overdose and quickly administered Naloxone (NARCAN) to the
woman. By the time medical personnel arrived, the woman was responding to the NARCAN and her condition was improving. She was responsive to officers and her breathing stabilized. The woman was transported to the hospital and treated. Officer Petersen responded to the hospital and was able to talk with the woman. He learned that she had accidentally overdosed on a dangerous combination of Methamphetamine and Heroin. She had no memory of anything after she injected the drugs. Officer Petersen also learned that the other individuals who were with the woman earlier had left her alone in the building lobby. Doctors at the hospital advised that the use of the NARCAN by Officer Petersen saved the woman’s life.

Officer Kenneth Rickelman
On October 15, 2017, at 9:25 P.M., Officer Kenneth Rickelman responded to a serious accident at East Colfax Avenue and Alton Street. The accident involved a vehicle striking a pedestrian. Officer Rickelman arrived to find a group of people yelling at the driver of the car. The injured pedestrian was lying face down on the street. Officer Rickelman quickly assessed the pedestrian and noted the man was unconscious and not breathing. Officer Rickelman rolled the man over and began Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). After a while, the man began breathing and Officer Rickelman enlisted the help of a citizen to monitor the man’s pulse. Officer Rickelman maintained contact with the injured man, assessing his injuries. Suddenly the man ceased breathing. Officer Rickelman began CPR for a second time. He continued CPR until medical personnel arrived and relieved him. The man was transported to the University Hospital and rushed into surgery. At 11:00 P.M. the man’s condition was still listed as serious. Medical treatment was successful and the man went into recovery. His condition continued to improve and he has since recovered from his injuries. Medical professionals at the University of Colorado Hospital credit Officer Rickelman with saving the man’s life. Had Officer Rickelman not performed CPR, the man would not have survived long enough to be transported and treated for his serious injuries.

Officer Joseph Sullivan
On October 16, 2017, at 10:20 P.M., Officers responded to a house in the 11000 block of East Ford Avenue on a welfare check. The caller stated that a man they knew at that address was attempting to hang himself. They were not with the man, but were watching a broadcast on his Facebook page. They reported seeing the man hanging himself from a light fixture, then the broadcast ended. Officers Joseph Sullivan and Delbert Tisdale arrived and entered the residence. They located a woman, who stated she was in the home with her father. She said the father was in another room and she had no idea why the officers were called. Officers Sullivan and Tisdale checked the residence and found her father in his bedroom. He was hanging from a light fixture by a belt placed tightly around his neck. He was unconscious and not breathing. Officer Sullivan quickly cut the belt and lowered the man to the floor. He began giving the man Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Officer Sullivan continued CPR for several minutes until he was relieved by paramedics. When the man was transported, he had regained a heartbeat and was breathing. The forty-six year old man was taken to the Medical Center of Aurora, where he recovered and returned to his family. Medical personnel credited Officer Sullivan with the man’s survival and recovery.

Officer Douglas Wilkinson
On November 21, 2017, at 8:45 P.M., Officer Douglas Wilkinson responded to the 10700 block of East Exposition Avenue on an emergency medical call. The caller stated that a woman had collapsed and was not breathing. Officer Wilkinson arrived and was directed to the apartment where the woman had collapsed. There was a language barrier, which added to the confusion and difficulty of the call. Officer Wilkinson entered an apartment filled with upset people and crying children. The woman, identified as the mother, was on a couch. Officer Wilkinson assessed her condition and immediately positioned her on the floor, where he began Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Officer Wilkinson remained calm
and enlisted the help of family members to guide paramedics to his location. Officer Wilkinson continued CPR until the woman regained a heartbeat. Medical personnel transported her to the Medical Center of Aurora. She was in critical condition, but later recovered and returned to her family. The emergency physician credited Officer Wilkinson with saving the woman’s life.

**Videographer Jon Billingsley**

On November 27, 2017, at 1:40 P.M., a City of Aurora employee suddenly collapsed on the exterior deck of the City Café. Police Videographer Jon Billingsley and Water employee Melissa Toering were outside near the man and quickly went to his aid. The man was unconscious and not breathing. His complexion began to turn blue. Melissa tried to check his mouth for obstructions, but his jaw was clenched tight. It became apparent to Jon and Melissa that the man was experiencing some type of seizure. Jon began chest compressions and Melissa began giving the man mouth-to-mouth breaths. The two continued this application of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) until the man began to breathe on his own. He regained consciousness and Jon and Melissa remained with him until medical personnel arrived. Both Jon and Melissa worked to keep him calm and continued to provide him aid until he could be moved to the hospital. It was later learned that the man had experienced a severe epileptic seizure. He recovered and returned to work. The immediate actions taken by Jon Billingsley and Melissa Toering contributed greatly to the man’s survival and recovery.
Meritorious Service Ribbon

The Meritorious Service Ribbon may be awarded by the Chief of Police for service rendered in the line of duty when a member, because of diligence and perseverance, performs difficult tasks under unusual circumstances and goes far beyond that which is normally expected of members. This award will be a pin and certificate presented by the Chief of Police.

The department presented 42 Meritorious Services Ribbons in 2017.

Sergeant Michael Gaskill, Sergeant Mark Hildebrand, Agent Nathan Meier, Agent Peter Page, Agent Pete Szuch, Officer Douglas Pearson, Officer Michael Tilton, Officer Jonathan Dennis, Officer Brent Maksyn, Officer Eugene VanDyk, Officer Wilbur Hinton, Officer Jeremy McElroy, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Deputy Charles Butterfield, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Deputy Eric Smith, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Deputy Matt Davis, Denver Police Officer Eric Shurley, 18th Judicial District Deputy District Attorney Clinton McKenzie, 18th Judicial District Deputy District Attorney Darcy Kofol, 18th Judicial District Deputy District Attorney Tom Byrnes, 18th Judicial District Deputy District Attorney Dan Siedel, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Analyst Kevin Wong, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Analyst Steve Boatwright

In the spring of 2016 through the summer of 2017, members of the Gang Intervention Unit (GIU) led a major complex investigation involving a violent criminal street gang. Early in 2016, GIU began investigating the “Rich Boy Gang” (RBG) which is an Aurora-born gang comprised of juveniles and young adults. GIU began by gathering intelligence information on the gang. The development of membership rosters, understanding of the gang’s origins, and garnering individual information such as monikers and Facebook accounts proved vital early on. These proactive steps along with street enforcement, electronic surveillance and the cultivation of confidential informants resulted in GIU finding an immediate investigatory resolution to several shootings involving RBG in the spring of 2016. RBG Criminal Street Gang members and associates were arrested and charged in several jurisdictions, including Denver, Arapahoe, Adams, and Douglas Counties, with numerous crimes to include Murder, Attempted Murder, First Degree Assault, Aggravated Robbery, and Motor Vehicle Theft, as well as other crimes. With the help of social media, RBG grew and developed into a sizable violent gang with approximately 200 members. GIU provided investigative oversight, took a lead role in investigating gang-motivated, and gang-related crimes involving RBG. The gang continued to grow and spread across the metro Denver area quickly. In the fall of 2016, GIU teamed up with the Metro Gang Task Force (MGTF), the Denver Police Department and the Arapahoe County District Attorney’s Office, to form an RBG Task Force, to complete a complex metro-wide investigation. The established goal was to disrupt and dismantle the gang by indicting several of the most influential and violent members with the Colorado Organized Crime and Control Act (COCCA). Numerous members of RBG were arrested and charged with COCCA charges. Members of the RBG Task Force authored and served over 30 search warrants, to include cell phones, residences, vehicles, and Facebook accounts. It was through hard work and perseverance, this team of Law Enforcement professionals disrupted and dismantled the organization of the Rich Boy Gang. This team of investigators and prosecutors are commended for the significant impact they have made on the RBG, reducing violence caused by RBG and increased the safety of the citizens in Aurora and in the Denver Metro Area.
Aurahoe County Sheriff’s Sergeant John Vaala, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Investigator Craig Clark, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Deputy Duane Fox, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Deputy Bryan Shay, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Deputy Brad Zbrowski
On June 10, 2017, at 7:25 P.M., Officers were called to 11992 East Archer Place to check the welfare of a woman who had been assaulted. The suspect, Curtis Jackson, had assaulted his girlfriend, then barricaded the two third floor apartment doors with furniture and large appliances. His girlfriend had three young children in the apartment. Jackson refused to allow anyone to leave the apartment and he had access to a firearm. The S.W.A.T. team was notified. Negotiations with Jackson were unsuccessful and a hostage rescue plan was initiated. As part of this operation, Deputies with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad were requested to assist. Once the teams were ready to make entry for the rescue, officers ascended ladders outside the apartment windows to verify the locations of everyone inside. When the woman and her children were separated from Jackson, the doors were breached with explosives and entry was made. One team of officers rescued the woman and her children while the other team of officers swiftly arrested Jackson. All members of the entry operation distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional bravery, despite an imminent risk of injury or death.

Officer Christopher Sloan
On July 24, 2017, at 4:50 P.M., Officers Mark Simmerman and Christopher Sloan responded to the 1400 block of Lima Street. A hysterical female called 911, reporting that a man was trying to kill himself with a knife. As Officer Simmerman arrived, he heard glass breaking and observed the man by an apartment door. The man was holding a large knife and was bleeding heavily from a wound to his arm. Officer Simmerman, still alone, was confronted by the man who was trying to get Officer Simmerman to shoot him. Officer Simmerman noted several people had come out and were standing in close proximity to the man. Officer Simmerman kept the man's attention focused on him, trying to keep him from harming innocent bystanders. The man slashed the air with his knife, at one point spattering blood on Officer Simmerman. Officer Simmerman maintained his composure and tactical position, continuing to reason with the man. Officer Sloan successfully deployed his Taser and both officers quickly secured the man. Due to their actions, the man was transported to the hospital and got treatment for both his physical injuries and mental health issues. Officers Simmerman and Sloan displayed a high level of dedication to protecting others. Their actions ensured the safety of innocent bystanders, as well as the safety of the armed individual.

Officer Edward Clements, Officer Nicholas Steele
On September 18, 2017, at 2:00 A.M., Aurora Police officers were dispatched to a structure fire at 1208 Dallas Street. Officers arrived to find flames and heavy smoke coming from the upper floors of the apartment building. Officers were confronted with citizens hanging out of windows, pleading for help. Officers Edward Clements, Josiah Coe, Nicholas Steele, and Sammie Wicks were the first officers on scene. The Officers located a pickup truck that had several ladders on it. The officers got the ladders off the truck and began placing them against the building. Some residents were able to use the ladders, while others were too high and out of reach. One resident was prepared to drop a child to the officers until the officers convinced them to wait for help. Prior to the arrival of fire personnel, Officer Steele climbed a ladder and removed three residents from the second floor. Officer Clements climbed a ladder and removed another resident from the second floor. The four Officers continued to assist both the residents and the fire personnel until everyone was accounted for and the fire was under control. These Officers are recognized for their actions in rescuing the tenants from the burning apartment building.
**Officer Todd Arntson, Officer Joseph Duran**
On September 27, 2017, at 10:35 P.M., Officer Todd Arntson and Officer Joseph Duran responded to a single vehicle accident in the 15500 block of East Mississippi Avenue. Citizens reported that a vehicle had gone off the bridge and was upside down in the creek. Callers reported that the driver was trapped in the vehicle, which was filling with water. It was raining and the creek water level had increased. The front end of the vehicle was submerged in a deep portion of the creek. Officer Arntson waded into the creek and got to the vehicle. Seeing a man inside, he quickly broke out a window so he could communicate with the man and assess his injuries. Officer Duran arrived quickly and waded in to assist. The officers removed the man from the car and carried him up from the creek. Medical personnel arrived a few minutes later, as the officers were evaluating the man and checking his injuries. The man was injured and disoriented. It was apparent that he would not have been able to get out of his vehicle before the vehicle filled with water. The officers learned that another vehicle had turned in front of the man, causing him to swerve and lose control, flipping his car and landing in the creek. The quick actions of Officer Arntson and Officer Duran prevented him from being overcome by the creek water and enabled medical personnel to treat the injured man with very little delay.

**Officer Ethan Snow, Officer Paulmichael Trenery**
On September 29, 2017, at 5:00 P.M. Officers Ethan Snow and Paulmichael Trenery noticed a bank robbery call about to be aired on their computer. The robbery was occurring at the Chase Bank on South Havana Street. Prior to the call being broadcast, the officers responded to the bank. The officers arrived and positioned themselves where they could observe the interior of the bank without alerting the suspect or frightening the existing customers. The officers were able to identify the suspect and coordinated an arrest plan with arriving assist officers. As the suspect exited the bank Officers Snow and Trenery attempted to detain him. The suspect fled on foot, with both officers in pursuit. Perimeter officers attempted to stop the suspect with a Taser, but it was not successful. The suspect ran into the side of a patrol car, but he quickly recovered and continued to flee. Officer Snow fired his Taser while running after the suspect. The Taser was effective and Officers Snow and Trenery quickly secured the suspect. A handgun was taken from the suspect’s pocket. In an interview with FBI Agents the suspect confessed to committing three bank robberies. These officers quickly responded to the bank, identified the suspect, coordinated an arrest plan with assisting officers, and captured the bank robbery suspect after a lengthy foot chase. The suspect was armed with a firearm, but due to the officer’s actions none of the responders was harmed and the suspect was quickly arrested.

**Sergeant Jason Moore, Sergeant Justin Shipley, Officer Michael Bender, Officer Andres Cardenas, Officer Brooke Mourey, Officer Chad Warner**
On November 12, 2017, at 3:40 P.M., Officers responded to the 17000 block of East Arkansas Avenue where a man was threatening to kill himself. It was reported that he had a gun in his bathrobe. As Officers arrived, the man walked out of his house, wearing a bathrobe. The man told Officers that he wanted them to shoot him. Several Officers secured the perimeter and began negotiating with him. He was not listening and appeared to be intoxicated. He kept manipulating something in his pocket, and it quickly became apparent that he had a handgun in his robe. He kept walking back and forth, turning away from the Officers, and not responding to them. At one point he had his back to the Officers and it appeared he was heading back into the house. Officer Virgil Majors rushed the man from behind and quickly secured his arms, preventing him from retrieving his gun. This allowed time for the other officers to react and grab the man. The man reacted violently and it took several officers to finally secure him. Officers safely arrested the man without anyone being seriously injured. Two fully loaded handguns were recovered from his robe. Due to their actions, the incident ended peacefully and the man was transported to the hospital where he received treatment for his mental health issues.
Officer Cody Jones and Officer Jose Ortiz (2016 incident)

On May 10, 2016, at 11:55 P.M., a carjacking occurred at the Wendy’s Restaurant, 15400 East Colfax Avenue. The suspect, Stephen Shuster, was armed with a handgun and took a white Jeep Cherokee from the owner. Shuster fled south on Chambers Road, followed by associates in a red Dodge Challenger. Officers observed the Jeep and Dodge on East Mississippi Avenue. Officers attempted to stop both vehicles. Shuster made a turn and rammed one of the patrol vehicles. The Dodge was stopped, but Shuster continued to elude officers for approximately fifteen more minutes. Shuster continued south through the city, at times driving on the wrong side of roadways. In the area of Aurora Parkway and E-470, the roadway ended. Sergeant Riessland used this location to tactically PIT the Jeep. The Jeep spun and was quickly pinned by Sergeant Riessland and Officer Benda. Shuster raised his handgun and pointed it at the officers. He was immediately engaged by Sergeant Riessland and Officer Benda. Seeing the gun still in Shuster’s hand, Sergeant Riessland jumped onto the hood of the Jeep and positioned himself directly in front of Shuster. Sergeant Riessland maintained this tactical position until a female passenger was removed from the Jeep and Shuster was disarmed. Sergeant Riessland demonstrated extraordinary courage by engaging Shuster and placing himself between the threat and other officers. Officer Benda demonstrated exceptional bravery by engaging Shuster, despite an imminent risk of injury or death. Officer Jones and Officer Ortiz demonstrated a high level of professionalism during the confrontation with the armed carjacking suspect.
Chief’s Commendation Certificate

The Chief’s Commendation Certificate may be awarded by the Chief of Police to a member for exceptional contribution to the progress of the Department, or to individuals who perform their duties in an unusually effective manner. The contribution must be adopted by the Department and increase the administrative or operational efficiency of the Department. The Chief of Police may recognize individual members of other law enforcement organizations, or multi-jurisdictional task forces, for this award.

The department presented 101 Chief’s Commendation Certificates in 2017.

Captain Christopher Juul, Captain Christian Lertch, Lieutenant John Tollakson, Sergeant Claude Burns, Sergeant Colleen Delena, Sergeant Michael Pitsus, Sergeant Brandon Samuels, Officer Joshua Bebee, Officer James Benedict, Officer Cody Brown, Officer Aaron Bunch, Officer Jason Condreay, Officer Michael Dieck, Officer David Exstrom, Officer Kenneth Forrest, Officer Judy Gurley-Lutkin, Officer Darryl Huntsman, Officer Jeffrey Jacobs, Officer Christopher Johnson, Officer Jared Krieger, Officer Caleb Luallin, Officer W B Martin, Officer William Miller, Officer Travis Moody, Officer Matthew Neely, Officer Keith Neumann, Officer Jordan Odneal, Officer Jose Ortiz, Officer Daniel Pell, Officer Benjamin Petering, Officer Troy Raines, Officer Amber Roberts, Officer Tracy Rogers, Officer Joshua Schol, Officer Jeremy Wilson, Officer Christopher Yarborough, ACSO Deputy Robert Hovarth, ACSO Deputy Brian Starbuck

On June 10, 2017, at 7:25 P.M., Officers were called to 11992 East Archer Place to check the welfare of a woman who had been assaulted. The suspect, Curtis Jackson, had assaulted his girlfriend, then barricaded the two third floor apartment doors with furniture and large appliances. His girlfriend had three young children in the apartment. Jackson refused to allow anyone to leave the apartment and he had access to a firearm. The S.W.A.T. team was notified. Negotiations with Jackson were unsuccessful and a hostage rescue plan was initiated. As part of this operation, Deputies with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office Bomb Squad were requested to assist. Once the teams were ready to make entry for the rescue, officers ascended ladders outside the apartment windows to verify the locations of everyone inside. When the woman and her children were separated from Jackson, the doors were breached with explosives and entry was made. One team of officers rescued the woman and her children while the other team of officers swiftly arrested Jackson. All members of the entry operation distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional bravery, despite an imminent risk of injury or death.

Sergeant Graham Dunne, Sergeant Edward Lopez, Sergeant Patrick Shaker, Agent Michael Thrapp, Officer Roland Albert, Officer Travis Beasley, Officer Tomas Campagna, Officer Steven Ficco, Officer Brad Graham, Officer Darwin Hanley, Officer Brett Iske, Officer Tim King, Officer Nicholas Muldoon, Officer Brian O’Halloran, Officer Scott Osgood, Officer Daniel Pell, Officer Benjamin Petering, Officer Robert Thompson, Officer Edward Vance, Officer Ryan Wenke, Officer David Zimmerman, Forensic Specialist Darvin Harrell

On September 29, 2017, at 5:00 P.M. Officers Ethan Snow and Paulmichael Trenery noticed a bank robbery call about to be aired on their computer. The robbery was occurring at the Chase Bank on South Havana Street. Prior to the call being broadcast, the officers responded to the bank. The officers arrived and positioned themselves where they could observe the interior of the bank without alerting the suspect or frightening the existing customers. The officers were able to identify the suspect and coordinated an arrest plan with arriving assist officers. As the suspect exited the bank Officers Snow and Trenery attempted to detain him. The suspect fled on foot, with both officers in pursuit. Perimeter officers attempted to stop the suspect with a Taser, but it was not successful. The suspect ran into the side of a patrol car, but he quickly recovered and continued to flee. Officer Snow fired his Taser while running after the suspect. The Taser was effective and Officers Snow and Trenery quickly secured the
suspect. A handgun was taken from the suspect’s pocket. In an interview with FBI Agents the suspect confessed to committing three bank robberies. These officers quickly responded to the bank, identified the suspect, coordinated an arrest plan with assisting officers, and captured the bank robbery suspect after a lengthy foot chase. The suspect was armed with a firearm, but due to the officer’s actions none of the responders was harmed and the suspect was quickly arrested.

**Agent Todd Gill**

On September 5, 2017, a trailer was stolen from the lot of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 15500 E. 40th Avenue. The trailer contained a collection of prehistoric Megalodon teeth, fossils, and valuable gems. The collection was valued at $785,000.00. Detective Todd Gill was assigned the case. Detective Gill learned that some of the items were being advertised for sale on EBay. Detective Gill authored, obtained and served court orders for electronic records on several entities, to include EBay, PayPal, and Comcast.

Through his actions, Detective Gill identified possible suspects and their locations. Detective Gill personally conducted surveillance and attempted to arrange purchases of the stolen items. Detective Gill’s investigation culminated with the execution of a search warrant at a residence on October 24, 2017. Approximately $700,000.00 of the stolen collection was recovered. Detective Gill coordinated the recovery, which was in another jurisdiction. Detective Gill displayed determination, persistence, patience, and a willingness to serve this victim and our community. His professionalism and dedication resulted in the recovery of prehistoric artifacts and fossils that would be impossible to replace.

Detective Gill continues to search for the items which were not recovered.

**Officer David McNamee, Officer Timothy Meehan, and Officer James Salazar**

On December 1, 2017, at 11:30 A.M. Police Dispatch received a call that the house at 3678 South Zeno Way had exploded and was burning. Officer Jason Condrey was the first officer to arrive. Two family members had escaped. They told Officer Condrey that their father and brother were trapped in the basement. The basement was filled with dense smoke and Officer Condrey had no idea where the fire was located or what was burning. He heard the two men screaming for help and chose to immediately enter the house. He quickly located the son and rushed him to the back yard. Both he and the son were overcome by the smoke. Officer Condrey paused momentarily for some fresh air and returned to the basement in search of the father. He located the father and carried him up to the back yard. Both the father and his son were severely burned. Officer Condrey fought through the effects of the smoke to direct assisting officers as they arrived. It took several minutes for fire and medical personnel to arrive and get to the back yard. The explosion and fire were linked to flammable liquids that the men were using to remove floor tile. The intense smoke and lack of oxygen in the basement would have quickly killed both men had they not been immediately evacuated by Officer Condrey. Officers McNamee, Meehan and Salazar arrived a short time later and assisted with calming the victims and guiding the fire department to the backyard of the house.

**Fallen Deputies Memorial Service Planning Team Members – Colorado Fallen Heroes Foundation**

On December 31st, 2017 Deputy Zack Parrish of the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office was killed in the line of duty. Four other Officers were shot in the same incident. This line of duty death began one of the worst months law enforcement in Colorado has seen in recent history. On January 24th, 2018 Adams County Sheriff’s Deputy Heath Gumm was also killed in the line of duty. In both cases members of the Aurora Police Department stepped up to assist the affected agencies. APD Members of the Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation took a lead role in many of the aspects of the memorial planning for both Deputies. These members spent a minimum of 16 days in January involved in memorial planning and their work was clearly evident in the beautiful memorial services for both deputies. Both the Adams and Douglas County Sheriffs expressed immense gratitude to all the APD members who assisted. For representing the Aurora Police Department in an exemplary fashion and showing incredible support and compassion to their fellow law enforcement agencies these members should be commended for their actions.

Christopher Meschuk
Mr. Christopher Meschuk has volunteered his services and equipment to the Aurora Police Department Awards Board and the Annual Awards Ceremony since May of 2010. He DJs the dinner prior to each ceremony and then provides audio support, computer equipment and specialized lighting for the ceremony. During years where the ceremony was held in the City Council Chambers, Mr. Meschuk had to arrive extra early to set up lights and controllers in the Council Chambers and then into the lobby of the Aurora Municipal Center to set up speakers and other DJ equipment. Mr. Meschuk provided lighting and sound support during the Department’s special recognition ceremony for the July 20, 2012 shooting response. One year, the projectors and screens were not working in Council Chambers and Mr. Meschuk provided his own projector and cloth screens to project the ceremony presentation.

Chief’s Unit Citation

The Chief’s Unit Citation may be awarded by the Chief of Police to an entire unit whose members perform their assigned duties in an unusually effective manner. The Chief of Police may recognize units comprised of officers from the Aurora Police Department as well as other organizations, or multi-jurisdictional task forces, for this award.

The department presented five Chief’s Unit Citations in 2017.

Major Crime/Homicide Unit
In 2017 the members of the Major Crimes/Homicide Unit had an unusually busy year. With 30 homicide cases and several Officer Involved Shootings in the City the team, led by Sergeants Matt Fyles and Stephen Jokerst, was often pushed to its limits. In a 2 week period in May the team responded to 9 homicides, a highly abnormal amount in such a short time. Despite the high number of call-outs, to include responses to Denver on several Officer Involved Shooting cases the team continued to perform at exceptional levels, closing nearly all of the 30 cases. Some of the cases the team handled in 2017 were extremely complex and difficult from the start, with little to no suspect information. The skilled Detectives were able to develop leads, track down witnesses, and make numerous arrests.

Crimes Against Children Unit and Internet Crimes Against Children Unit
In 2017 the Crimes Against Children (CAC) and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) units experienced an extremely busy year. The units worked their normal heavy caseloads but also experienced several high-profile cases, one involving school employees. These cases required extensive manpower, sensitivity and discretion, and exemplary Detective work. The units also handled 2 homicides with juvenile victims, both of which saw charges brought against the suspects. The teams worked tirelessly to
ensure that the most innocent of victims saw justice and continued to develop relationships with external partners, many of whom shared accolades for the exceptional work of these two teams.

K-9 Unit
This unit is extremely proactive and has put up tremendous productivity numbers throughout the past few years, but especially in 2017. The unit had over 1700 K9 specific calls for service and assists, taking part in hundreds of safe arrests. The unit also had a very low bite ratio, showing professionalism, very good tactics, strong decision making and excellent training. The unit assists many local and outside agencies on top of APD responsibilities, assists in training and enjoys a very strong reputation among many inside and outside department groups. The unit also enjoys a phenomenal social media and community presence, being involved in over 55 community events with audiences ranging from small children to community groups. The unit has exceptional backing and respect from the community and is one the most popular units in the city. Through professionalism, dedication and a superior work ethic, the unit has enjoyed tremendous success and is an extremely important part of the department and our city. The unit continues to prove themselves as second to none while handling an increased call load. Great job to each and every one of the K9 members.

District 3 PAR Team
An apartment in the 18300 block of East Flora Drive appeared on the District 3 PAR radar in June 2017 due to a nuisance reports from neighbors of loud noise, possible drug use and firearms. From June to December 2017, officers responded to over 85 calls for service at this location. The calls included trespassing, narcotics violation, disturbances and other various issues. It turns out this location was known via social media as "Dave's Garage", owned by Mr. David Boyle. The location became a "flop house" for many friends and associates. Throughout this investigation numerous arrests were made at this location which included possession of heroin, fraud, possession of financial devices, motor vehicle theft, larceny, burglary, and several warrants.

In July 2017, PAR officers started conducting enforcement/impact operations on this address several times a week making numerous contacts and several arrests. Activity at this location started to pick up during evenings and weekends. Officer Salazar and Sgt. Swart began giving regular updates on criminal activity at swing shift patrol briefings as well and sending numerous email updates directly to the area patrol officers. As activity at this address increased, Sgt. Swart contacted SRT advising them of the situation and requesting enforcement and surveillance assistance. Sgt. Swart met with Agt. Fanning of the "Safe Streets Task Force". From this conversation it was determined that "Safe Streets" was working active investigations regarding female sex trafficking and sexual activity with minors. Officer Salazar worked with Crime Analyst Dawn Tollakson to make an activity flowchart consisting of names of people involved, arrests, reports, and crimes associated with this location. This chart was then distributed to other units for their information. It was determined the scope of this investigation was growing larger and many different enforcement entities were now getting involved. Sgt. Swart organized an informational planning meeting with members from Safe Streets, SRT, PAR, Narcotics, Crime Analyst, Code Enforcement, and CMATT. From this meeting several new items of intel were brought up and shared. Extended enforcement and surveillance was conducted at this address. Impact enforcement investigation at this location lasted for a 6 month period, during which time in excess of 40 arrests were made of over 15 different suspects, to include Mr. Boyle being arrested 4 times for drugs, fraud and warrants. Officer Salazar put in countless hours of follow up interviews and conversations with neighbors who live around this address. He spoke with SRT and patrol members to give updates and coordinate enforcement efforts. Through research efforts Officer Salazar was able to track down Ms. Stephanie Boyle, David’s ex-wife and co-owner of the residence. Ms. Boyle is in the military, and was not aware of this activity, stating she has not been in contact with David for approximately 2 years. Ms. Boyle was very concerned about the criminal activity and immediately started legal proceedings to get
the residence placed solely in her name. During the eviction, drugs and drug paraphernalia were removed from the garage and several bank and financial transaction devices (checkbooks and credit cards) were recovered.

Every member of PAR 3 was active in bringing this issue to a successful resolution by conducting hundreds of hours of surveillance, over the 6 months, making several contacts and documenting activity, and making numerous arrests.

**Certificate of Appreciation – Citizen’s Award**

The Certificate of Appreciation, Citizen’s Award may be awarded by the Chief of Police to any citizen who renders valuable, courageous, or heroic assistance to members of the Aurora Police Department.

The department presented three **Certificates of Appreciation** in 2017.

**Evan Kust**

During the early afternoon hours of October 4, 2016, a 26-year-old female was home alone with her one-year-old son when she heard a knock at her apartment door. She answered and met an unknown male asking if she wanted her car washed. When she told the male that she wasn’t interested, he asked for water. When she refused that request, the male forced entry into her home, brutally attacked her, and sexually assaulted her at knifepoint.

Just nine days later, on October 13th, an 18-year-old female, living in the same apartment complex as the October 4th victim, called 911 after an unknown male of similar description attempted to force entry into her apartment door after asking for water. Moments after the 911 call was placed, Evan Kust, a commercial property maintenance employee working in the King Soopers parking lot at 1555 S Havana St, observed a male, wearing a hat and sunglasses, sprinting across the parking lot. At the same time, Mr. Kust heard police sirens coming into the area. Assuming these events might be connected, Mr. Kust called APD Dispatch and provided a description of the suspect. He then advised that he observed the male run behind a privacy wall at a nearby Key Bank, come out without the hat and sunglasses, and then casually walk into the nearby Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant. Officers responded to the area and subsequently arrested Ricardo Corral-Venegas, a former Mexican police officer who was wanted out of Mexico for numerous sexual assaults.

Evidence later confirmed that Corral-Venegas was connected to the armed sexual assault and kidnapping of the 26-year-old female on October 4th, as well as the attempted sexual assault of the 18-year-old female from whose apartment he was running when Mr. Kust observed him. Mr. Kust later testified in Corral-Venegas’s Arapahoe County trial, which resulted in a conviction for both crimes. Without Mr. Kust’s quick thinking when he observed Corral-Venegas running through the King Soopers parking lot, the outcome of this case may have been tragically different.

**Terri Calvillo, RN**

On March 6, 2017, the Aurora Police Department received a call on an assault in progress at Shalom Park, 14800 E. Belleview Drive, involving two residents at the facility. Nursing staff advised dispatch that a male resident was using a cane and wheelchair pedal to assault a female. Staff advised dispatch that when they attempted to enter the room where the assault was occurring the male would threaten staff. A new employee to Shalom Park, RN Terri Calvillo, entered the room and positioned herself between the victim and the suspect preventing further injury to the female. Terri was able to speak to the suspect in a calm voice and console the victim while officers were on their way. As additional staff tried to enter the room, the suspect would threaten them, but Terri was able to get the suspects attention focused
back on her and keep other staff members safe. The suspect raised his arms holding the weapons and went towards Terri several times during the incident, yet Terri was still able to protect the victim and keep calm. Due to Terri’s actions she prevented further injury to the victim and additional staff members. By building a rapport with the suspect Terri exhibited courage, bravery and compassion all while risking her own safety and was able to prevent more serious injuries to the victim and staff.

Vincent Juarez
On September 20, 2017 at approximately 2:14AM the Music Go Round located at 18541 E. Hampden Avenue, was burglarized by an unknown subject. The subject had broken out one of the front windows of the store and grabbed a guitar that was on display. Concerned Movie Tavern employee Vincent Juarez, who was out back by the trash bins, heard the glass break and went to the front of the store. Mr. Juarez discovered the subject in subdued clothing trying to climb out of the window with a black and white guitar in his hands. Mr. Juarez was able to grab the guitar from the subject’s hand at which time the subject ran off. Mr. Juarez then notified police and was able to give them a description of the subject. Mr. Juarez’s quick action led to the recovery of the stolen merchandise as well as trying to get the suspect in this case arrested via coordination with the police department.

Community Commitment Certificate
This may be awarded to members who, through their own efforts, display an unusually effective manner of employing the Aurora Police Department’s community commitment philosophy.

The department presented one Community Commitment Certificate in 2017.

Officer Andrew Crowley
On January 18th, 2018, Officer Andrew Crowley took a call for service at Mrachek Middle School, 1995 S. Telluride St. The reporting party wanted to report that her special needs daughter was being threatened and bullied at school by another student. Officer Crowley met with this RP and learned that her daughter was the target of severe verbal abuse. The RP was extremely frustrated with the school and was to the point of pulling her daughter out of Mrachek to be placed into a different school. Officer Crowley was able to locate the suspect child and her family. While in contact with this family, Officer Crowley learned that the suspect was also a special needs child and her mother was aware of her bullying issues. This child had endured brain surgery at the age of 18 months old, which left this child severely disabled.

Officer Crowley realized that this call for service was bigger than just lecturing somebody or giving a child a summons. Officer Crowley took it upon himself to arrange a meeting between these two families so that they could be educated on each other’s complicated issues. Both families agreed to meet and this meeting took place on January 19th, 2018 at District 3. Both families expressed sincere gratitude to have been able to handle this dilemma in this way. In fact, both families were surprised that it took an Aurora Police Officer to coordinate this meeting which turned out to be a success. Both families took away a thorough understanding of each other’s children and the issues they have to deal with.

Excellence Award
This award is presented to a career service member who continuously seeks excellence in practice and often “takes it to the next level.”
The department presented six Excellence Awards in 2017.

**Records Technician Nikolle Bunting**
Nikolle Bunting is an exemplary employee and leads the way for the future of records. She has learned a core function (PPW) within records in a short amount of time, and is beginning to learn NIBRS transcription as well. Nikolle strives to do her best every single day for her team and records. She embodies all of the Core4 principles and guides her team to follow her example. Nikolle is counted on by her supervisors to help train new employees in the advanced task of warrant entry, and remains their go to person when they have questions. Nikolle completes all of these tasks while working our front positions, as the graveyard shift has had minimal staffing for multiple years.

**Crime Analyst Robbin Hemphill and Administrative Specialist Mary Johnson**
In addition to their positions as Crime Analyst and Administrative Specialist, Robbin Hemphill and Mary Johnson each took on responsibility for coordinating the move of Police District Two operations to its new facility. The move involved relocating 118 members consisting of uniformed personnel, detectives, and administrative staff along with their equipment. This included designing a moving plan and schedule, coordinating logistics such as shred bin delivery and pick up, identifying computers and equipment for relocation, establishing decorative design within the building interior, and making arrangements with movers, I.T., Xerox, and Facilities.

Robbin and Mary worked tirelessly, not only ensuring a seamless move was accomplished, but then continued their efforts by organizing a "Grand Opening" event that hosted elected officials, city leaders, and public invitees. They are remarkably exceptional performers, who have proven to be invaluable in getting such a large project successfully completed.

They understand the value of working as a team to improve productivity and ensure successful outcomes within the district, regardless of the task at hand. They are self-motivated and do not have to be reminded about completing projects. Each is skilled at recognizing opportunities for high success by addressing complex situations, and taking steps towards solutions. Personnel assigned to the district have appreciated their ability to anticipate the needs of members, and their willingness to go above and beyond to provide support.

**Senior Crime Analyst Dawn Tollakson**
On September 08, 2017 FBI Rocky Mountain Safe Streets Task Force (RMSSTF) was assigned a burglary of the First Bank at 2300 S. Havana Street. Crime Analyst Dawn Tollakson contacted RMSSTF to advise she believed she had found two additional bank burglaries on South Havana Street and believed they were related. Ms. Tollakson analyzed the burglary pattern and found the crimes were committed within a one mile area on S. Havana Street, in the evening hours. Officer Bridget Johnson believed the suspect looked similar to Miftah Bule, who was wanted for another business burglary. Ms. Tollakson was able to complete a work up of the suspect, showing he lived close to the burglaries and put together a BOLO which was submitted to APD Patrol. Based on the BOLO being shared in the community, Bule was contacted and arrested at an Aurora Homeless Shelter.

During this time, between February 13, 2017 and October 4, 2017, a series of bank robberies occurred in the metro area to include five in Aurora by persons dubbed the “5 O’Clock Bandits”. Ms. Tollakson was aware the first robbery in the pattern that began at the Chase Bank at 5800 S Parker Road, and once possible suspects were identified via a citizen, Ms. Tollakson was instrumental in locating photographic evidence through the Photo Red Light and BOSS camera systems to place the suspects in the area of some of the robberies, as well as using photos she obtained to compare to surveillance photos of the suspect vehicles. The information Ms. Tollakson provided was used in conjunction with other
information gathered and led to the arrest of Gerry Sevall and Drayse Ballard, a father and son team, who were the “5 O’Clock Bandit” bank robbers.

In both of the above pattern crimes, Ms. Tollakson used an array of law enforcement data bases, her knowledge of the city of Aurora Traffic camera system, BOSS camera system and her unique ability to identify patterns to assist both Aurora PD and FBI RMSSTF in solving crimes across the city of Aurora and metro area.

**Crime Analyst Ruth Eisner**
Ruth Eisner is the very definition of “continuously seeks excellence in practice”. As the Crime Analyst assigned to help the Special Operations Bureau, Ruth is constantly having to demonstrate an exceptional level of competence in the realm of analytics. However, Ruth’s responsibilities do not end there. Ruth is also tasked with training new crime analysts joining the department, and providing or arranging ongoing training for all of the crime analysts. Ruth is always on a never-ending hunt for ways to do her work better, and ensuring that the information that the agency publishes is as accurate as it can possibly be. Finally, Ruth is the unofficial crime analyst to the Office of the Chief of Police. This means when one of the Chiefs needs the services of a crime analyst, Ruth is often the first person called. She will invariably drop whatever she is working on (or at least wrap it up quickly) and get right on the request presented by the Chief’s office.

Ruth always meets these never-ending requests for her services with aplomb and good humor, even when the requested analysis is needed “YESTERDAY!”, as is often the case. Her exceptional work and great attitude truly makes Ruth an Excellent employee and one of a kind.

**Senior Business Systems Analyst Dolores Schaeffer**
Dolores Schaeffer performs duties way beyond what is expected of her and is doing the job of three people. Dolores’ number one goal has always been, and continues to be, the security and integrity of every database and system used by police. She strives to keep the Police Department’s best interest at hand, as this is her baseline for decisions. Dolores follows policy and rules and has a reason for every decision she makes. Her extensive knowledge of the various applications is beyond comprehension for most employees. Last year, the department began working on the forced upgrade of Telestaff, and Dolores already knew what major changes would take place that would affect payroll processing. She is two steps ahead, recognizing a web based version is not compatible with Crystal Reports, currently used for processing payroll. Dolores rewrote every single report used to process payroll so in the event changes needed to be made immediately, we did not need to rely on I.T. to make corrections in a timely manner. This in itself was a huge undertaking, utilizing many hours all the while working on other applications and upgrades in the police department.

**Innovation Award**
The innovation award recognizes a member who has demonstrated or accomplished a core component of the Aurora Police Department. Criteria include: suggesting or developing new work methods that increase productivity; developing an effective solution to an existing difficult problem; developing and implementing a plan for the good of the community; or, generating novel and valuable ideas and using these ideas to improve processes, methods, systems, programs or services for his or her team or department.

The department presented six Innovation Awards in 2017.
Property Technician Sherrie Knodel
Sherrie Knodel has been working for the Aurora Police Department since 1988 and joined the Property & Evidence (P&E) Unit as a Property Technician in 2012. Technician Knodel has been instrumental in the creation, testing, and implementation of the disposition of evidence through the Municipal Disposal Site.

Technician Knodel was the only Property Technician selected to work with the IT Department to test the Disposal Site for effectiveness, efficiency, and accuracy. She began working with this site in the beginning of June, 2017. Technician Knodel was provided a list of approximately six sworn members of the Department to utilize during this testing period. Technician Knodel was responsible for researching each Municipal case within a specific timeframe to determine if it could possibly be eligible for disposal and then sending those disposal reviews through the site. As the testing period progressed, more and more sworn members were added. Technician Knodel provided necessary feedback to both her Supervisor and the IT Department to inform them of how her experience with the site was working and what the sworn members’ feedback was.

In September of 2017, a Special Order (17-07) was published instructing the Department that we are now utilizing this Municipal Disposal Site and the instructions on how to use it. The Department was able to go live with this automated site only due to the diligent work done by Technician Knodel, as well, of course, as the thorough and meticulous work from IT to create the site. The implementation of the Municipal Disposal Site has resulted in a more efficient and user-friendly disposal program for both sworn members as well as property personnel.

Records Technicians Sharon Halsey, Cheryl McCormick, Sandra Potter, Jon Thoms and Joyce Torres
The Aurora Police Department’s Records Section identified areas for improvement in the processing of electronic accident reports. The APD Records Traffic Team, consisting of Cheryl McCormick, Jon Thoms, Joy Torres, Sandie Potter, and Sharon Halsey, worked diligently to learn new technology solutions for tracking reports, have consistently tracked errors for training or software review, have created training material to assist others in learning this important task, and assisted with a procedural review with our Department’s Traffic Unit.

It is through their efforts that we will be more efficient in sharing knowledge throughout our Section. Their teamwork and willingness to support positive change in our Organization means that our Traffic Unit now has a streamlined review process reducing unnecessary routing of approximately 2000 reports annually, thereby allowing their valuable time to be used more effectively on needed review and follow up.

Superior Award
Records Technicians Heather Ellis, Alysia Hanifin and Stephanie Simmons
Records Technicians Stephanie Simmons, Heather Ellis and Alysia Hanifin have each worked for the Aurora Police Department Records Unit for under 2 years. All three employees volunteered to become Records Training Officers (RTO) without additional compensation. They have taken on this leadership role and have trained multiple new employees without hesitation. They are excellent at being positive role models, and this has shown in how our new employees conduct themselves. Without their tireless training, we would not have been able to train the multitude of new employees. Stephanie, Heather and Alysia have taken advantage of any opportunity for advancement that has been offered. They continue to learn as they train and provide valuable feedback when they see things that can be done in a more effective manner. They are seen by their peers as leaders and are often sought out for their knowledge and problem solving abilities.
Automated Complaint and Commendation Report

The Automated Complaint and Commendation System accepts and records all submissions. The Department designed the system to manage the complaints and commendations reported on sworn personnel.

During 2017, there were 521 complaints received online or entered by a Police Department member that involved 518 sworn members and three non-sworn members. (Please note: some complaints may include several officers).

Additionally, 31 commendations were received for sworn officers. There was one commendation submitted for non-sworn members of the Department.

2017 Automated Complaints and Commendations
Automated Complaints by Type

The Automated Complaint System categorizes the submissions for the Department to analyze, determine trends and provide instruction if needed.

The system categorized the complaints received during 2017 as follows: Seven alleging an illegal search, one reported neglect of duty, 84 reported violations of court issues or missed court, four reported violations of Constitutional rights, ten allegations of unsatisfactory performance, four allegations of racial profiling, 29 reports of excessive use of force, 47 complaints of improper or incomplete investigations, 101 for other directives or SOPs not captured under the other types and 90 complaints of rudeness or professionalism issues.
Automated Complaints by Validity

In each of the complaint submissions received, the officer’s supervisor has investigated the complaint. The officer’s chain of command has reviewed the investigations before closing them.

The Department has reviewed each of the complaints and ascertained the validity of the complaint. From these there were 157 sustained, 81 not sustained, 192 unfounded, 81 within policy, two misunderstandings, and seven unknown due to unresponsive complainants.

Complaints by Validity

- Sustained (157)
- Not Sustained (81)
- Unfounded (192)
- Policy Compliance (81)
- Misunderstanding (2)
- Unknown Validity (7)
Automated Complaints, Results

The Automated Complaint System records any corrective action taken by the Department as a result of the investigation. The results range from “none justified” to an order by the Chief for the Internal Affairs Bureau to formally investigate the complaint. Careful study and comparison of this information will reveal that more incidents result in some form of correction than incidents that are found to be valid. This is because the complaint may not be valid in light of the Department Directives, but the supervisor may determine the officer needs some degree of instruction to help him/her do a better job.

The results of the complaints submitted are as follows, in descending order of severity. The Chief of Police ordered the Internal Affairs Section to formally investigate 61 members. The Department issued 24 Written Reprimands for violations of Department Directives. A Written Reprimand is permanent discipline that remains in the officer’s file for his/her entire career. The Department issued 16 Corrective Action Reports instructing the officers to change their behavior. The Corrective Action Report is not discipline but a notice or warning to modify behavior. The Corrective Action Report remains in the officer’s file for one to two years, depending on his/her evaluation date and cycle. It is documentation of past problems and corrective measures taken to correct the behavior. The officer’s supervisors issued 43 Performance Appraisal Entry (PAE) reports documenting negative performance. The supervisors use the PAE reports as documentation to be included in the officers’ annual evaluations. On 39 occasions, the supervisors verbally counseled the officers. Two complaints were referred to mediation. The supervisors completed 11 Performance Appraisal Entry reports that were to document the investigation only (nothing negative toward the officer). The Department concluded in 320 of the complaints that the complaint was not valid and that no documentation was needed.

Automated Compliants - Results

- 62% Referred to IAS (61)
- 12% Written Reprimand (24)
- 5% Corrective Action Report (16)
- 8% PAE for Correction (43)
- 8% PAE Documentation (11)
- 3% No Documentation Needed (320)
- 2% Mediation (2)
- 2% Counseling Only (39)
Automated Complaints, Follow Up Contact Method

At the conclusion of the investigation the supervisor is required, if possible, to contact the complainant and explain the findings. The Automated Complaint System records show the supervisor contacted that person.

The supervisors contacted the complainant by telephone in 104 of the cases. The supervisors used e-mail 119 times. In 66 cases, the supervisor could not contact the complainant (anonymous complaint or attempted but unable to contact). The supervisor met the complainant in person 81 times.
Automated Commendations by Type

The system categorized the 31 commendations received during 2017 as follows:

Six citizen submissions expressed appreciation for the officer. Three others reported a job well done. Two submissions stated the officer was professional. One reported the officer went above and beyond expectations and 19 expressed a thank you.

![Automated Commendations by Type]
Automated Complaint and Commendation System, Miscellaneous Information on People Reporting

The automated complaint and commendation system allows the submitting person the opportunity to provide information about himself/herself. The system has a drop-down menu giving the person a choice of options to describe himself/herself. 88 of the people submitting a complaint or commendation indicated they were a citizen of Aurora. 84 indicated they were a non-resident. 65 said they were an employee member of the Department, and 86 indicated they were a government official.

Type of People Submitting Commendations and Complaints

- Resident (88) - 27%
- Non-Resident (84) - 27%
- Member (65) - 26%
- City Official (86) - 20%
Gender of People
Submitting Commendations and Complaints

- Male (144) - 49%
- Female (93) - 32%
- Unknown Gender (55) - 19%

Reported Ethnicity of People
Submitting Commendations and Complaints

- White (136) - 47%
- African American (52) - 31%
- Latino (10) - 4%
- Asian (1) - 0%
- American Indian (0) - >1%
- Arab (1) - >1%
- Unknown (91) - 18%
District and Bureau Discipline Report

During 2017, the Department completed and finalized 34 District / Bureau investigations. Each resulted in the Chief of Police ordering a Written Reprimand as discipline for the violation of one or more Department Directives. A Written Reprimand is permanent discipline that remains in the employee’s file for his/her career. The following is a summary of these cases for 2017:

Chief Metz and the Aurora Police Department recognize members of the Aurora Police Department have a right to privacy in the contents of their personnel files and expect the contents of these files will be held in confidence by their employer. This expectation and right to privacy flows from the United States Constitution, the Colorado Constitution, the Colorado Open Records Act, Colorado Revised Statutes § 24-72-201, et. seq., the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act, Colorado Revised Statutes, § 24-72-301, et. seq., the City of Aurora Personnel Policies and Procedures, and the Aurora Police Department Directives. While there is little, if any, public interest in investigations stemming from allegations relating to purely administrative matters such as the use of equipment, abuse of leave and the like, these matters are nonetheless provided below.

Further, the City of Aurora also maintains the right to withhold its deliberative process as confidential. The following summaries are included with these privileges of confidentiality in mind. The following summaries do not constitute a waiver of either the individual employee’s expectation of privacy in the contents of his/her personnel file, nor waiver of the City of Aurora’s right to withhold its deliberative process as confidential.

The Department has categorized these 34 cases as follows: Five cases involved members not following Department policies for vehicle operations and/or the Department’s emergency response policy. Two cases involved issues of professional conduct. Two cases involved department equipment. Two cases involved the handling of evidence and/or property. One case involved police – community relations. Nine involved court issues. One case involved request for leave. Seven cases involved unsatisfactory performance. One case involved unintentional discharge of a less lethal weapon. Two cases involved supervisor responsibilities. One involved the utilization of a K9.

The 34 District/Bureau written reprimands involved 33 members and were issued to four recruit officers, 23 officers, one agent, four sergeants, and one lieutenant.

These matters that resulted in written reprimands are summarized with more detail below.

1) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directives 4.1 Routine Police Vehicle Operations and 4.1.3 Vehicle Operations.

   This officer was involved in two preventable motor vehicle accidents within 24 months.

2) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.9.2 Responsibility for Handling or Depositing Evidence and Other Property.

   This officer lost a suspect’s wallet during an arrest and it was never located.
3) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 5.8.15 Unintentional/Negligent Discharge of a Less Lethal Weapon.

This officer unintentionally discharged his department issued Taser.

4) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 4.4 Police and City Owned Vehicle Collision.

This officer was involved in a preventable accident.

5) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directives 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility and 17.5.8 Communication Protocol.

This officer made an inappropriate comment over his radio.

6) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating K9 Standard Operation Procedure 03.01.1 Utilization.

This officer was walking his K9 near his residence when he stopped to speak with a neighbor and his K9 bit the neighbor in the leg.

7) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 14.3.8 Police-Community Relations.

This officer acted in an unprofessional manner with a civilian.

8) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.10.13 Supervisory / Command Review of Reports.

This member failed to properly review a general offense report.

9) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 7.3.2 Firearms Qualification.

This member failed to complete the mandatory 4th quarter firearms qualification.

10) The Department sustained a member for violating Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance.

This recruit member failed to complete mandatory assignments as required and failed multiple exams.

11) The Department sustained a member for violating Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance.

This recruit member continually had low scores and failures at the academy.

12) The Department sustained a member for violating Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance.
This recruit member failed to complete mandatory academy assignments in a timely manner.

13) The Department sustained a member for violating Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance.

This recruit member failed three consecutive mandatory tests.

14) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directives 8.3 Court and 14.3.5 Neglect of Duty.

This officer failed to appear in court which resulted in a second unexcused absence in 4 months.

15) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.3 Court.

This officer failed to appear in court for the second time within a one year period.

16) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 17.13 Accessing Criminal Justice Information Systems.

This sergeant accessed CCIC for personal use.

17) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 4.2.2 Adherence to Law during Emergency Response.

This member was involved in a preventable traffic accident.

18) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.3 Court.

This member failed to appear for court which resulted in the case being dismissed.

19) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.9.2 Responsibility for Handling Evidence and Other Property.

This officer lost prisoner property.

20) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance.

This member destroyed department property in an effort to retrieve evidence.

21) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 1.4.11 Supervisor Responsibility; Accountability for Performance of Subordinates.

This sergeant conducted an illegal search during a shooting.

22) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.3 Court.

This member failed to appear for court.
23) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 4.6.5 Use of Departmental Equipment.

This member lost a department issued building pass.

24) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.3 Court and 8.3.3 Member Duties and Responsibilities.

This member failed to appear in court.

25) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.3 Court.

This member failed to appear in court.

26) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.3 Court.

This member failed to appear in court.

27) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 4.4 Police and City Owned Vehicle Collisions.

This member had 3 preventable accidents within 24 months.

28) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.3.4 Members Appearing Late or Failure to Appear.

This member was late for court.

29) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 4.4.7 Police and City Owned Vehicle Collisions.

This member had 2 preventable accidents within 24 months.

30) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance and 14.3.8 Police – Community Relations.

This member had an avoidable confrontation with a citizen during a welfare check.

31) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.3 Court.

This member failed to appear in court.

32) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility and 14.3.5 Neglect of Duty.

This member displayed unprofessional conduct and neglected his job functions while assigned to the training academy.

33) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance.
This member failed to properly investigate a case.

34) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 8.2.3 Request for Leave.

This member went into unpaid leave status without permission from the Chief of Police.
Formal Internal Investigations and Discipline Report

During 2017, the Department completed and finalized 59 formal internal investigations. The following is a summary of the cases resolved in 2017.

Chief Metz and the Aurora Police Department recognize the individual members of the Aurora Police Department have a right to privacy in the contents of their personnel files, including the results of formal investigations and incidents of discipline, and expect the contents of these files will be held in confidence by their employer. This expectation and right to privacy flows from the United States Constitution, the Colorado Constitution, the Colorado Open Records Act, Colorado Revised Statute, § 24-72-201, et. Seq., the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act, Colorado Revised Statutes § 24-72-301. et. Seq., the City of Aurora Personnel Policies and Procedures, and the Aurora Police Department Directives.

Further, the City of Aurora also maintains the right to withhold its deliberative process as confidential. The following summaries are included below with these privileges of confidentiality in mind. The inclusion of the following summaries does not constitute a waiver of either the individual employee’s expectation of privacy in the contents of his/her personnel files, nor waiver of the City of Aurora’s right to withhold its deliberative process as confidential. In an effort to balance the privacy and confidentiality rights of the individual officers, retaining the deliberative process privilege associated with the decision making detailed below, while at the same time providing our citizens with sufficient information to evaluate the adequacy, thoroughness and impartiality of the Aurora Police Department’s internal investigation and disciplinary process, the following information is provided:

Summary

The Department conducted and resolved 59 formal Internal Affairs investigations in 2017 involving 67 department members. These members consisted of five civilians, two recruits, 43 officers, nine sergeants, six lieutenants, and one captain. (Please note: some employees may be involved in more than one IAB case). The discipline included 23 suspensions without pay, 19 written reprimands, two corrective actions, and one member was fined. Seven members resigned or retired before discipline was issued. One member resigned in lieu of termination. One member was terminated. The Department cleared 22 members of any wrongdoing; either by findings of compliance, exoneration, or they were not sustained.

1) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directives 8.2.2 Leave Procedures, 8.3 Court, 8.3.3 Member Duties and Responsibilities, 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility, and 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance. The member received Written Reprimand.

   This officer failed to appear for court on two different trial dates and was unprofessional when dealing with an Arapahoe County Victim Witness Specialist.

2) The Department investigated a sworn member involved in a shooting. This is standard practice for any officer involved shooting. Directives reviewed for compliance were 5.1.2 Shooting at or from a moving Vehicle, 5.5.15 Ammunition, 7.3.2 Firearms Qualification, 14.5.8 Critical Incident Drug/Alcohol Testing. The officer was found to be in compliance with all directives reviewed.
Multiple officers responded to an intoxicated party armed with a handgun at a bar. The armed subject failed to comply with multiple orders to drop the gun. This officer fired three rounds from a department issued shotgun. Pellets from the shotgun hit the subject who ran from the area, throwing his handgun. Subject was taken into custody after a short foot pursuit.

3) The Department sustained sworn members for violating Department Directives 14.3.2 Conduct Towards Superior and Subordinate Officers and Associates. Both members received Written Reprimands.

These officers engaged in a brief verbal exchange in front of another officer and an attorney following a critical incident.

4) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directives 14.3.5 Neglect of Duty. The member received a 20-hour suspension.

This officer failed to arrive to work for a scheduled shift and did not request prior approval for leave that day and did not notify anyone that they would not be at work.

5) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directives 6.11.2 Responsibility for Preliminary Investigations, 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance, and 14.3.3 Making a False or Untruthful Declaration. The member resigned prior to any discipline being imposed.

This officer investigated a report of disorderly conduct but failed to complete any follow up.

6) The Department sustained sworn members for violating Department Directives 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance and 1.4.11 Supervisor Responsibility: Accountability for Performance of Subordinates. One member received a Written Reprimand for 1.4.11 and the other member received a 20-hour suspension for 14.3.1.

One member failed to properly investigate and complete three cases between 2013 and 2016. All three cases were filed with the District Attorney, however there were multiple follow up investigations which were not completed. The supervisor of this member failed to properly document the on-going issues.

7) The Department sustained sworn members for violating Department Directives 16.4 Body-worn Cameras. Both members received a Written Reprimand.

Members were investigating allegations of a crime and turned their body worn cameras off while still in contact with the citizens.

8) The Department investigated sworn members for violating Department Directives 5.3 Use of Force, 6.13 Handling Persons with Mental Illness, and 14.2.9 Constitutional Requirements. One member was sustained for 5.3 and received a 40-hour suspension.

This member approached an individual in his home who was acting strange and gave the individual two options; he could either leave the apartment on his own or he would be placed on a mental health hold. The individual refused to leave and this member used unjustified force to take the individual into custody.
9) The Department investigated sworn members for violating Department Directives 5.4.2 Incidents that Require Notification and Reporting, 6.1.2 Release of Adults Arrested without a Warrant, 6.1.10 Release of Handcuffed Persons Following Investigatory Stop, 14.2.9 Constitutional Requirements, and 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance. One member was sustained for 14.2.9 and received a 20-hour suspension.

Officers responded to a family dispute and when they arrived in the area an open garage door with loud noise coming from another residence drew the attention of the officers. The officers made contact with the residents and detained and released two people from the residence without charges. One officer also did not complete an offense report for the use of force used on one resident of the house.

10) The Department investigated two sworn members and one non-sworn member for violating Department Directive 14.3.4 Dissemination of Information. One sworn member was sustained and received a Written Reprimand.

Members were accused of sharing confidential information regarding the background check of a former employee.

11) The Department sustained a sworn member of the department for violation Department Directives 6.1 Arrest Procedure, 6.1.10 Release of Handcuffed Persons Following Investigatory Stop, 6.11.2 Responsibility for Preliminary Investigations, 14.2.9 Constitutional Requirements, and 14.3.3 Making a False or Untruthful Statement. The member resigned prior to any discipline being imposed.

This officer responded to a private property accident and contacted the at-fault driver. The officer entered her apartment, without a warrant, and placed her under arrest. The officer took the subject to the patrol car for a brief time before uncuffing her and releasing her back to her apartment. The officer was interviewed in Internal Affairs about the incident where it was believed that the officer lied during the interview.

12) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directive 5.1.3 Other Unauthorized Firing of a Weapon. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

Officers conducted a felony traffic stop on a robbery suspect. When exiting the vehicle, the officer unintentionally fired the duty weapon into the air.

13) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation Department Directives 6.6.9 Detainees Property, and 6.11.13 Collection, Preservation, and Use of Physical Evidence. The member was sustained on 6.6.9 and received a Written Reprimand.

After conducting an investigation, the officer failed to maintain custody of evidence taken from the prisoner’s property.

14) The department investigated sworn members for violation of Department Directives 5.1.3 Other Unauthorized Firing of a Weapon and 10.1.1 Notification. One member was sustained for 5.1.3 and received a 10-hour suspension.
Officers responded to a burglary in progress call and while clearing the outside of the residence, this member unintentionally fired his weapon.

15) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility. The member was not sustained.

This case involved a dispute between two members of the department and the subject making unprofessional statements towards the other member.

16) The Department sustained a civilian member for violation of Department Standard Operating Procedures 03.01 Recording/Eavesdropping Policy. Member resigned prior to any discipline being imposed.

During a two month timeframe this member took photographs of the records section on their cellphone.

17) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 14.1.5 Conformance To Law, 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility, 14.3.5 Neglect of Duty, and 17.2 Use of CAD and MDC. The member resigned before any formal discipline was imposed.

This member engaged in unprofessional activity on and off duty.

18) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 14.1.5 Conformance to Law, 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility, and 14.3.5 Neglect of Duty. The member resigned in lieu of termination.

This member acted inappropriately on several occasions towards several different women while working on and/or off duty.

19) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 7.3.2 Firearms Qualification. The member received a Written Reprimand.

Following an Officer Involved Shooting it was discovered that this member had failed to qualify with his firearm.

20) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 7.2.1 Attendance and 14.3.3 Making a False or Untruthful Declaration. The member was sustained for 7.2.1 and received a Written Reprimand.

Member failed to attend mandatory 2nd quarter in-service.

21) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 5.1.3 Other Unauthorized Firing of a Weapon. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

While performing a required functions check of the assigned patrol vehicle shotgun, this officer unintentionally discharged a shotgun round into the air.

22) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance. The member received a 12-hour suspension.
This supervisor approved annual leave for two sergeants for the same evening leaving patrol without a first-line supervisor.

23) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 16.4 Body-Worn Cameras and 17.9 Social Media. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

This member posted a photo of a juvenile that was captured from a personal cell phone from his department issued body camera on a Facebook chat group.

24) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 4.3 Traffic Enforcement and 16.4 Body-Worn Cameras. The member was sustained on 16.4 and received a Corrective Action.

During a DUI investigation, the member chose to take the driver home instead of arresting for DUI. Additionally, the body-worn camera was turned off prior to completing the contact with the driver.

25) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 5.1.3 Other Unauthorized Firing of a Weapon. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

While working in an off-duty capacity, this member unintentionally discharged one round from their duty handgun in the bank’s restroom.

26) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance. The member medically retired prior to discipline.

Following this member’s promotion to sergeant, there were numerous complaints of misconduct and poor decision making.

27) The Department sustained a recruit member for violation of Department Directive 14.3.2 Conduct Towards Superior and Subordinate Officers and Associates. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

While attending a lateral recruit academy, this member called another recruit member a derogatory name.

28) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 14.3.8 Police-Community Relation and 16.4 Body-Worn Cameras. The member was not sustained.

While investigating a motor vehicle accident, another driver attempted to go around the scene of the accident in an attempt to exit the highway. In an effort to get the driver’s attention, this officer allegedly yelled profanities and hit the truck with his fist, causing damage to the vehicle.

29) The Department investigated sworn members for violation of Department Directives 14.1.5 Conformance to Law, 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility, and 10.2.2 Initial Inquiry. One member was sustained for 14.1.5 and 14.3 and received a 60-hour suspension. The other member was sustained on 10.2.2 and received a Written Reprimand.
One member was arrested for being in possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol and the other member failed to complete an initial inquiry into the incident in a timely manner.

30) The Department sustained a sworn member for violating Department Directives 5.3 Use of Force. The member received a Written Reprimand.

While assisting school deans with crowd control and attempting to keep the peace between two groups of students, this member advised two aggressive females they needed to leave the campus. Eventually this officer decided to arrest one of the females for her actions but the student walked off. The officer followed in an attempt to stop her and another female stood in his way with clenched fists and physically blocked his path. The officer pushed the female out of the way and continued towards the intended arrestee.

31) The Department investigated a sworn member for violating Department Directives 5.3 Use of Force. The member was not sustained.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with occupants who were believed to be involved in a fight with weapons. One occupant ran from the scene and three others were removed from the vehicle. This officer conducted a pat-down search of the driver who refused to comply with the officer’s orders. The driver was taken from a seated position to prone control where he was handcuffed and placed into the patrol car. The driver/arrestee alleged that the officer slammed his head to the ground causing a facial injury.

32) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 17.9 Social Media and 14.1.5 Conformance to Law. The member was not sustained.

The Department’s PIO Office received an email from FOX 31 News stating they received an anonymous tip claiming the member was using the internet to solicit the tipster’s son.

33) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 6.9.2 Enforcement Guidelines and 8.10.10 Municipal Application for Arrest Warrant. The member was not sustained.

This member investigated a domestic violence case where the suspect was not on scene. The officer indicated in his General Offense report that he would attempt to locate the suspect and if he failed to do so he would apply for a Municipal warrant. Six years later while researching another case, a supervisor discovered that the suspect in question was never arrested even though the case had been closed as “Warrant Applied For” it did not contain any copies of an application for the warrant or any supplemental reports indicating that a warrant was applied for.

34) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 14.3.1 Professional Conduct and Responsibility, 14.3.3 Making a False or Untruthful Declaration, and 14.3.8 Police-Community Relations. The member received an 80-hour suspension.

While off-duty and in uniform, this officer allegedly sped by the Comitis Crisis Center in his personal vehicle endangering pedestrians and then flipped off several people which was seen by several witnesses. Initially the officer stated to his supervisor that he did not have a confrontation with anyone in front of Comitis Center and denied flipping anyone off. During the Internal Affairs interview, the officer admitted that he did in fact flip off a person near Comitis.
35) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 6.11.2 Responsibility for Preliminary Investigations. The member received a 40-hour suspension.

This member responded to a burglary alarm but failed to get out of his patrol vehicle and physically check the premises, and cleared the call as “checked ok, employees on scene”. The business was burglarized and suffered a $68,000 loss. The officer failed to properly investigate the crime.

36) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 8.2.3 Request for Leave. The member received a Written Reprimand.

Member went into leave without pay status without proper approval of the Chief of Police.

37) The Department investigated sworn members for violation of Department Directives 14.2.9 Constitutional Requirements and 1.4.11 Supervisor Responsibility; Accountability for Performance of Subordinates. One member was sustained for 14.2.9 and received a Written Reprimand.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle, ordered the occupants to exit the vehicle and eventually arrested the driver for Failure to Obey. One member then searched the vehicle’s passenger compartment, trunk, and closed containers in both areas. The member stated the search was incident to arrest and stated officers can search for evidence of a crime. Two District Attorneys stated a search in places where firearms could not be concealed was excessive and any evidence located would have been lost in a suppression hearing.

38) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 6.11.2 Responsibility for Preliminary Investigations and 14.2.9 Constitutional Requirements. The member resigned prior to any discipline being imposed.

The member investigated a cold threat complaint involving a protection order. The call notes indicated the threat was received via email and the RP stated that a no-contact order was in place against her ex-husband, who was aware of the order. The officer found the order in NCIC/CCIC but failed to realize the ex-husband was actually the protected party. The officer submitted warrant paperwork, based on the email threat, for the arrest of the ex-husband who was later arrested and jailed.

39) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 4.6.5 Use of Departmental Equipment. The member received a fine of $318.

This officer took off his body camera and placed it on the back of his patrol vehicle. The officer was later dispatched to a call and drove off with the camera still on the patrol car. The camera fell off and was later recovered but was badly damaged.

40) The Department investigated sworn members for violation of Department Directives 10.2.14 Supervisor Responsibility, 10.1.1 Notification, 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility, and 4.2.9 Pursuit Guidelines. One member was sustained for 10.2.14 and received a Written Reprimand. Two members were sustained for 14.3 and received Written Reprimands.
Members were involved in a pursuit. After the pursuit ended, one member was attempting to take pictures of the suspect who refused and would not comply with the officers. One member grabbed the suspect’s forehead and lifted his head up for a photograph and another member held the suspect’s neck/chin area to assist with the photograph being taken. The supervisor on scene directed the officers to hold the suspect’s head so he could take a picture.

41) The Department sustained a civilian member for violation of Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance, 14.3.2 Conduct Towards Superior and Subordinate Officers and Associates, 14.3.3 Making a False or Untruthful Declaration, and 14.3.5 Neglect of Duty. The member resigned prior to discipline being imposed.

During the course of approximately four years, this civilian member displayed a pattern of poor work performance. The member also was disrespectful to her direct supervisor which was witnessed by other employees. It is alleged that the member lied to her supervisor during an initial inquiry into possible violations of City Owned Computers Policy.

42) The Department investigated sworn members for violation of Department Directives 14.3.1 Professional Conduct and Responsibility and 10.2.14 Supervisor Responsibility. One member was sustained for 14.3.1 and was terminated.

Officers were investigating a Denver PD pursuit and officer-involved shooting in Aurora. Following the pursuit and the shooting a large crowd had gathered at the scene. After the scene was secure, two members engaged in a conversation, captured on body-worn camera where one member made a racial slur and the other member immediately turned off his body camera and failed to immediately notify anyone of the incident.

43) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance. The member received a Written Reprimand.

This member failed to make the proper notifications following a critical incident.

44) The Department investigated a civilian member for violation of Department Directive 14.3.3 Making a False or Untruthful Declaration and SOP PRP 304 2.6 Disposition of Evidence, Confiscated or Found Property. The member was sustained on SOP 304 2.6 and received a 100-hour suspension.

While working at the property warehouse the member did not follow policies or procedures and destroyed a diagnostic computer as found property, when it had actually been reported stolen. The member also stated to his supervisor that he did not see the item had a serial number until it was destroyed, but the video from the warehouse contradicted the statements.

45) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 5.1.3 Other Unauthorized Firing of a Weapon. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

While clearing a building on a burglary alarm, the officer noticed that the weapon’s mounted light switch was malfunctioning. After the search of the building, the officer attempted to determine the cause for the malfunction. As the officer attempted to remove the light assembly, he unintentionally discharged a round from his firearm.
46) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 8.3 *Court*. The member received a Corrective Action.

This officer failed to appear for court on three separate occasions during the same year.

47) The Department investigated sworn members for violation of Department Directives 4.1.3 *Vehicle Operation*, 4.4.3 *On-Scene Supervisor Responsibility*, and 14.3.3 *Making a False or Untruthful Declaration*. The members were not sustained.

While responding to a call involving street racers, one officer hit another vehicle and the vehicle fled from the scene. The officer informed his supervisor as to what happened and explained to his supervisor that he was attempting to block the vehicle from leaving. The written statements of the officer and his supervisor conflicted with the information heard on the body cameras.

48) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 5.1.3 *Other Unauthorized Firing of a Weapon*. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

While off-duty and at home, this member unintentionally discharged a round from his firearm while showing his wife what he had learned in the academy.

49) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 4.1.3 *Vehicle Operation*. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

This member was involved in three motor vehicle accidents in less than 24 months.

50) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 14.1.5 *Conformance to Law*, 17.1.1 *Authorized Use of City Computers, Associated Devices, and City-Owned Networks*, and 17.2 *Use of Cad and MDC*. The member was not sustained.

Officers arrested a person who was wanted and known to be working at a retail store in Aurora. One of the officers’ girlfriends worked at the store. The RP/arrestee alleged the officer inappropriately collected information about her in order to personally advance his girlfriend.

51) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 17.9.5 *Personal Use*. The member received a Written Reprimand.

The Chief of Police sent out a Tweet encouraging the Transgender community to apply for positions with the police department. After the Tweet, a retired APD Officer made a post on his Facebook page regarding the Chief’s Tweet. This member commented on the post, which offended a City Council Member.

52) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 14.3 *Professional Conduct and Responsibility* and 14.3.1 *Unsatisfactory Performance*. The member was not sustained.

This member was assisting a Program Director with the City on a project. The Program Director reported that the member was not following up on project tasks as assigned. The member met with the Program Director to discuss issues regarding the project and instead of discussing those, the member talked about his personal life and made disparaging remarks about the Chief.
53) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directives 14.3 Professional Conduct and Responsibility and 14.3.4 Dissemination of Information. The member was sustained on 14.3 and received a Written Reprimand.

A presentation regarding the APA was given to the Lateral Recruit class and during the presentation this member made disparaging comments about another member of APD.

54) The Department investigated a civilian member for violation of Department Directives 14.3.7 Leave, Illness, and Injury. The member was not sustained.

This employee attended a required training class however she left early as she was feeling ill. Later that same night, she posted pictures on social media showing she was at a casino in Blackhawk.

55) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 8.3 Court. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

This officer failed to appear for court on three separate occasions during the same year.

56) The Department investigated a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 6.11.2 Responsibility for Preliminary Investigations and 14.3.3 Making a False or Untruthful Declaration. The member was sustained on 6.11.2 and received a 40-hour suspension.

While taking a report of a return runaway, statements were made to the officer that the juvenile may have been sexually assaulted. The officer failed to document the alleged sexual assault and took no further action when the mother of the juvenile stated she would be taking her daughter to the hospital for a sex assault examination.

57) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 6.11.2 Responsibility for Preliminary Investigations and 14.3.1 Unsatisfactory Performance. The member received a 20-hour suspension.

Officers responded to a department store reference a shoplifter in custody. This officer contacted the suspect who was found to be in possession of a jar of methamphetamine. The officer interviewed the suspect about the narcotics and believed she was not a user of methamphetamine and she only had the narcotics in her possession because her boyfriend put them in her purse. The officer seized the narcotics and issued the suspect a municipal summons for theft and released her on scene. A detective later filed possession of narcotics charges.

58) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 5.1.3 Other Unauthorized Firing of a Weapon. The member received a 10-hour suspension.

While investigating a possible residential burglary, the officer noticed a garage door was partially up and a small window next to the front door was broken out. The officer transferred his weapon to his left hand so he could reach in and open the door with his right hand. As the officer reached in the window, he unintentionally fired a round from his firearm.
59) The Department sustained a sworn member for violation of Department Directive 14.1.5 Conformance to Law. The member received a 240-hour suspension.

Member was arrested for DUI while off-duty.