

RESOLUTION NO. R 2020-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, CREATING A POLICE COMMUNITY TASK FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS POLICE OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY AND POLICE RELATIONS WITHIN THE CITY

WHEREAS, the relationship between the community and the Aurora Police Department (APD) is an important and valued focus for the City Council, City administration, police leadership, and the citizens of Aurora; and

WHEREAS, recent critical incidents and incidents involving police personnel have highlighted a need for improved relations between police and the community in order to present citizen-based recommendations to City Council and City Management; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds and determines that creating a task force to study and present recommendations to City staff and City Council on matters related to the operation of the Aurora Police Department and its personnel would be beneficial in addressing community and police relations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. Purpose: The City Council hereby creates a Police Community Task Force (the “Task Force”). The purpose of the Task Force is to inform Council about the status of police and community relations within the City, and to study and make recommendations related to police operations especially in terms of critical incident management, training, transparency, and oversight. The purpose of the Task Force is not to examine or review or make recommendations on a specific incident.

Section 2. Specific Charge: The initial charge of the Task Force will be the evaluation, discussion and development of recommendations to improve effective and transparent communication between APD and the community, including recommendations for a citizen-involved/citizen-based review of critical incidents, police operations, and police practices and procedures. The Task Force may recommend additional areas to study. City Council may modify, amend, expand, or change the specific charge of the Task Force by resolution so long as the modification, amendment, expansion or change does not assign the review of a specific incident to this Task Force.

Section 3. Term: The initial term of the Task Force for the specific charge stated in Section 2 will be for one (1) year from the date of formal appointment of the Task Force membership. The City Council may extend the term of the Task Force by resolution. If the Task Force completes its charge prior to the end of the term, it may disband.

Section 4. Membership: The Task Force shall consist of no less than nine (9) voting members and no more than thirteen (13) voting members, which shall include one (1) Chairperson who can be an organization representative or individual member. All Task Force members shall be volunteers and shall participate without compensation. All Task Force members shall be required to participate in training on police operations, as established by the City Manager or his designee, related to the Task Force's charge. The term of appointment for members of the Task Force shall be for two years or until the end of the Task Force term, whichever is sooner. In the event the Task Force continues past two years, members can serve an additional two-year term.

(a) Organization Representation: To the extent possible, the Task Force should consist of at least one member from each of the following groups, which representative shall be selected by the organization listed:

- Aurora Chapter of the NAACP
- Police Labor Organization
- Aurora Community of Faith
- The Aurora Key Community Response Team
- Aurora Public Schools and Cherry Creek School District
- Criminal justice reform organization (such as Second Chance Center, Inc., Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition)

(b) Individual Representation: The Task Force should also consist of individuals who must be Aurora residents and, to the extent possible, meet the following criteria:

- At least one resident from each of the three police districts.
- Individuals with direct experience in the criminal justice system.
- A lawyer with prosecutorial experience
- A lawyer with current or recent criminal defense experience
- An individual currently employed as a mental health professional.
- Residents from neighborhoods impacted by high APD operations, such as calls for service and/or high crime areas shall have an equitable representation of members proportionate to the percentage of crime volume reported in each district.
- Individuals who work with or volunteer with community service providers that traditionally work with individuals involved in the criminal justice system.
- Individuals of diverse backgrounds and varying ages.

Section 5. Member Selection: Upon passage of this Resolution, the City Manager will gather names for the organization Task Force members, individual Task Force members and the Chairperson. For individual members, staff can utilize existing systems for selection of members to Boards and Commissions. Staff will make appointment recommendations to City Council. The City Manager will prepare a resolution for Council for the February 24, 2020 regular City Council meeting to confirm the appointment of the Task Force members and a Chairperson of the Task Force.

Section 6. Work Plan: Within thirty (30) days following appointment, the Task Force shall prepare a work plan and schedule for presentation to the Public Safety Courts Civil Service Committee meeting. At a minimum, the work plan shall set forth the Task Force's roles and responsibilities in the areas with which they have been charged and provide any recommendations for additional areas in the field of critical incident management that may be applicable. The Task Force will provide regular updates to the Public Safety Courts Civil Service Committee throughout the term.

Section 7. Staff Support: The City Manager's Office and City Attorney's Office will provide staff support to the Task Force, to include the active and regular involvement of the Chief of Police and members of the Aurora Police Department. In addition, the City Manager and the City Attorney shall be responsible for bringing in subject-matter experts to speak to the Task Force regarding best practices. The City Manager is authorized to hire a third-party facilitator to work directly with the Task Force.

Section 8. Meetings: Meetings will be held on a regular and timely basis that shall be determined by the Task Force members. The location of the meetings shall rotate between locations in each of the wards. Meetings will include members of the Task Force and staff support for the Task Force, as determined by the City Manager and the City Attorney. The Task Force Chairperson or a designee shall prepare an agenda and take minutes at each meeting of the Task Force. Minutes will be forwarded via email to the Mayor and City Councilmembers, as well as the Task Force members and staff support. In addition to input at meetings, the Task Force shall take input from community members and other stakeholders regarding their charge.

Section 9. Final Report: The Task Force shall submit a final report with their findings and recommendations to the Public Safety, Courts and Civil Service Committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the end of the Task Force's term.

Section 10. All resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

STEPHEN RUGER, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



NANCY C. RODGERS, Deputy City Attorney

Final