

Safety Committee – June 17

Executive Director Murphy Robinson
Chief Paul M. Pazen



Executive Director of Safety - Community Listening Sessions

Community Platforms

- Hosted:
 - Virtual Protest – May 29
 - Virtual Community Roundtables – June 9 & 11
- Participated:
 - Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance – May 29
 - Colorado Black Leadership Coalition - June 2
 - Colorado Black Roundtable – June 15
 - Colorado Public Radio Panel Discussion – June 1 & 4
 - Walked and talked with protestors on numerous days

General Themes Heard

- Tweaking a system of oppression that is 400 years old, is not the goal. Reimagining public safety should be the goal
- Improve Police Training on Cultural, Racial Bias, Equity and Race and Social Justice
- Improve police recruitment efforts – ensure candidates meet the core competencies such as emotional intelligence and character evaluations
- Improve accountability – a system that gives courage to CHECK police officers who are in the wrong
- Denver Police work hard on building relationships with the community proactively but single events or an officer's actions can erode trust
- Black Lives Matter

DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023

Preventing Crime & Treating People with Respect



Reducing Social Harms



- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Fear of Crime
- Multimodal Transportation

Precision Policing



- Identify Neighborhood-Specific Issues
- Focused Enforcement Efforts
- Domestic Violence Prevention Program

Taking Care of the People Who Take Care of the People



- Resilience & Wellness Programs
- Improving Work/Life Balance

Public Safety Branding



- Increase Public Information
- Decrease High-Frequency Crimes
- Increase Prevention Efforts

Outline

- Training Hours
- DPD Innovations in Responding to Calls for Service
- Use of Force Policy
- Crowd Management

Training Requirements

Academy Requirements

- POST requires 556 hours
- DPD Requires 1,018.5 hours
- Select courses include Emotional Intelligence, De-escalation, Tactical Communication, and Community Partnership

Back-to-Basics

- Recently completed
- 40-hour course
- Topics: connecting with the community, discussing ethics of policing, use of force and talking about how officers interact with the people they serve

DPD Innovations in Responding to Calls for Service

The Need for a New Approach

Percentage Growth, '10-'20



- Significant population growth in a short period of time
- Mental health related calls are up 17% against our 3-year average

Co-Responders

- Mental health worker with police officers
- 25 clinicians after adding 11 through Caring4Denver funds
- 2,385 individuals contacted in 2020, through May
- Only 2% of encounters resulted in arrest or citation
- No complaints filed, and ZERO budget impact





Support Team Assisted Response (STAR)

- Launched on June 1st
- Modeled after the CAHOOTS program
- Community-based response
- Mental health worker and a paramedic
- Community-led initiative
- ZERO budget impact

Case Manager Hub

Starting in June

Case Managers assigned to each district and headquarters

Public Health view on Public Safety

ZERO budget impact





Use of Force Policy - Timeline

April 2017 – Committee formed

August 2018 – Policy finalized with community group

August through December 2018 – All officers were trained on the new policies

January 27, 2019 – Use of Force policies implemented

February 2020 – Published Use of Force Incident data for 2016 through 2019 on Denver Police website

June 2020 – Updated policies consistent with DPD's Use of Force Committee recommendations and through consideration of recommendations from the Center for Policing Equity.

Use of Force Policy – Main Policy Tenets

A clearly stated philosophy - The department recognizes the value and sanctity of all human life and is committed to respecting and protecting the dignity, safety, and civil rights of community members, including the right to be free from inappropriate force

Guidelines that increased accountability – Officers must articulate that they had the authority to use force, and that the force was reasonable and necessary under the totality of circumstances

A policy that goes beyond the Graham v. Conner ruling, which states, “Just because an officer can use force, does not mean an officer should use force”

Utilizes de-escalation principles including time, distance, and cover to increase public and officer safety

Use of Force Training

August through December 2018

- Eight-hour training for all officers

August 2019 through February 2020

- Training on the policy for all officers during a two-day comprehensive class. Paused due to pandemic.

May 19, 2020

- Internal meeting to discuss distance learning and hybrid training

May 20, 2020

- Invited community use of force committee to a discussion on training. Meeting held 5/28/20

Crowd Management

Attempts are made to coordinate with event organizers, to communicate both legal and operational needs and expectations to the event's leadership

Traffic management to minimize the impact of the event on the normal flow of traffic as well as safely escort demonstrators

Law enforcement officers will make every effort to differentiate between individual misbehavior and actions of the crowd in general

Crowd Management

Denver Police Department first seeks voluntary compliance

When deciding to address law violations during crowd control situations, officers must consider the totality of the circumstances

The authority to give dispersal orders during riot conditions are detailed in Section 18 Article 9 of the Colorado Revised Statutes:

Riot means a public disturbance involving an assemblage of three or more persons which by tumultuous and violent conduct creates grave danger of damage or injury to property or persons or substantially obstructs the performance of any governmental function.

Crowd Management

Chemical munitions and pepper ball systems are utilized to gain compliance when:

- Violent, criminal behavior occurring
- Ongoing destruction
- There are attempts to prevent officers' control
- Individuals have non-firearm weapons

Outside Departments and the National Guard

Outside Agency Mutual Aid

- Allowed DPD to adequately staff the patrol districts and serve the community while addressing the violent and destructive conditions

National Guard

- Un-armed, assisted with interior security of city facilities that were targeted and damaged

Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM) Review

- OIM to provide a complete and thorough review of response
- We look forward to working collaboratively with the OIM and our community through this process

Questions?

*Work Hard & Treat People
Right*

