

Behind The City Scene



**Charles "Charlie"
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Aurora is one of the few cities that has a voter mandated minimum police staffing requirement of two officers per one thousand citizens. This is obviously supported by the Police labor organizations and a fair number of citizens – it is opposed by every City Administration that has had to deal with it. City administrators view it as a usurpation of their authority to determine appropriate staffing based upon various factors including revenue, crime statistics and the economy. It has produced multiple rounds of litigation between the City and the Police labor organizations.

Aurora is currently operating under the second amended consent decree issued by the Arapahoe County District Court. For 2018 the City is legally required to have 686 police officers on December 15th, the official measurement of officer's date. As you can imagine the number of police officers is an extremely dynamic (fluid) situation. The easiest component is the scheduling of the Police Academies with fixed start and graduation dates. For example an Academy is scheduled to start in early March for both "basics" (no previous law enforcement experience) that will last 26 weeks and "laterals" (officers from other jurisdictions) that will last 11 weeks. The goal is to have 43 basics and 16 laterals start.

The City has historical attrition data in order to calculate the expected number of graduates. It is also estimated that 3 will wash out of the post Academy period as the graduates actually perform Police work under the direct supervision of a training officer. In October a second lateral class will start with a projected number of 14 cadets. Of course this can be adjusted up both in terms of date and the number of officers if necessary. For 2018 it is projected that 41 officers will leave the Department for various reasons. The City Council has budgeted for 714 officers as of December 15th. The City Administration calls the difference between 686 and 714 as the "cushion". I disagree with this characterization and continue to push hard for 714. If you have any questions about this somewhat convoluted situation please contact me.

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2018 Ward IV Town Meetings — held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at EcoTech Institute, 1400 S. Abilene St., unless otherwise noted.