

# Behind The City Scene



**Charles "Charlie"  
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Council Member  
Ward IV**

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I will start off with a lighthearted sign of the times that made me chuckle. I came across a guide to formal meal table settings and it showed where the smart phone should be placed in relation to the plates and silverware. It is up and to the left of the bread plate!

I have been appointed as Chairman of the important Public Safety Council Committee for 2018 by Mayor Pro Tem Marsha Berzins. It is my intent to tackle several issues near and dear to me. I had the pleasure of attending the recent Police Academy graduation where 40 young men and women made it through 27 weeks of a grueling physical and mental regime. It was moving to see all the families there who will be hoping and praying that their loved one is safe every day.

It is my understanding that we will be hoping to have 82 new officers next year. However one of my early agenda items will be a presentation by the Civil Service Commission on exactly how many officers will graduate and how many and when academies will be held. We clearly are in a severe catch up phase due to historical understaffing to save money. I have been very outspoken about this failure to maintain the ranks of our Police Department. I will also be very aggressive about beefing up the staff of the Traffic Division of APA. I have not been satisfied with the response to neighborhood requests for targeted traffic (speeding) enforcement.

I will also be looking at the needs of our Fire Department which is overwhelmed by costly and inefficient overtime due to understaffing. I am concerned about the pressures being exerted on our Fire Service by the burgeoning Anschutz campus and next year's opening of the Gaylord Hotel. I intend to aggressively ask why the University of Colorado has not been asked to contribute to the Aurora Fire Service. As you can imagine the new Gaylord hotel will require substantial services. I have been told that we need new Fire Stations and renovations to existing ones.

There is also a push to create an all citizen Police Review Board. My Committee will be considering this controversial subject.

As always you can contact me with questions or suggestions on any City related issue at [crichard@auroragov.org](mailto:crichard@auroragov.org)

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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.