

AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FORCE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

01.00 ADMINISTRATION

Approved By:	Christopher Juul, Professional Standards and Training Division Chief
Effective:	Jul-10-2023
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Associated Policy:	None
References:	None
Review Authority:	Professional Standards and Training Division Chief

01.01 BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 20-217 increased community expectations regarding the application of physical force in police incidents by demanding a more in-depth examination and investigation into force-related incidents. In order to enhance the Aurora Police Department's ability to meet these new requirements, the Force Investigation Unit (FIU) was created on November 21, 2020.

The FIU is a Professional Standards Section (PSS) unit within the Professional Accountability Division. The FIU is charged with investigating the application of force by members of the Department along with the administrative collection, formatting, and presentation of information relevant to the incident.

01.02 MISSION

To provide thorough, accurate, and unbiased investigations and data collection related to the use of force by sworn members of the Aurora Police Department. Our mandate is to do so with transparency and integrity while conducting ourselves at the highest ethical standards to build and maintain internal and external Department trust and confidence.

01.03 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Enhance the efficiency of use of force investigative procedures while ensuring all investigations are complete, accurate, and unbiased.
- Maintain internal confidence of sworn members that use of force incidents will be investigated by a unit comprised of subject matter experts who understand use of force dynamics, human factors, relevant law, and policy.
- Establish trust in the community by projecting the department's policy of transparency regarding investigations into the use of force by department sworn members.
- Capture and accurately report relevant statistical data relating to use of force incidents to assist in identifying trends, patterns, and training needs.

01.04 STAKEHOLDERS

For the purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), stakeholders are those organizations, entities, or individuals that can either affect or be affected by the FIU. Recognizing the primary stakeholders or "customer base" is an essential aspect of the FIU. This will allow the FIU to foster a standard of excellence, quality, transparency, and accountability to maintain internal and external trust and respect.

Recognized stakeholders include the following:

- Aurora Police Department personnel
- City Attorney's (CA) Office
- City Government
- Collective Bargaining Associations
- Community
- District Attorney's (DA) Office
- Media
- Psychological Services
- Public Information Office (PIO)
- Risk Management
- Training staff

01.05 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To address unit productivity and determine if FIU is fulfilling its mission, the following operational areas of the FIU will be reviewed and documented on an annual basis:

- Proposed changes to policies.
- Proposed changes to training.
- Training provided by FIU staff.
 - Roll Calls
 - In-Service
 - Academy
 - Outside agencies
- Training attended by FIU staff.
- Transparency with the community.
 - Attending community meetings
 - Distribution of Investigative Summaries internally/externally
 - Dissemination of use of force-related statistical data

01.06 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIU SERGEANT

In addition to the duties and responsibilities of a police sergeant, the FIU sergeant is also responsible for the following:

- Receiving, prioritizing, and assigning force incident investigations.
- Monitoring and directing investigations assigned to FIU personnel.
- Assisting in the coordination of investigations and incident presentations.
- Conducting Clarification Inquiry interviews and/or Preliminary Administrative Investigation interviews when necessary.
- Supervising and evaluating FIU personnel.
- Ensuring PSS Lieutenant and FRB recommendations are followed-up and adequately documented (i.e., remediation, debrief, etc.).
- Ensuring timely FIU response to incidents, on and off duty, that meet the FIU callout requirements.
- Attending and participating in training, conferences, and seminars as needed to improve skills related to being assigned to FIU.
- Tracking and reporting statistical data relating to force incidents.
- Coordination with stakeholders to ensure force incident investigations are complete, accurate, thorough, and completed in a timely manner.
- Making appropriate notifications regarding issues or concerns relating to force incident investigations.
- Be familiar with and adhere to all applicable statutes regarding the reporting and confidentiality requirements related to use of force incidents.

01.07 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIU INVESTIGATORS

In addition to the duties and responsibilities of a police officer and/or police agent, FIU investigators are also responsible for the following:

- Accepting assigned force incident investigations.
- Coordinating with stakeholders to ensure assigned force incident investigations are accurate, thorough, and completed in a timely manner.
- Completing high-quality, accurate, thorough, and timely force incident presentations.
- When directed, respond promptly to FIU callouts, on or off duty, that meet the FIU callout requirements.
- Attending and participating in training, conferences, and seminars as needed to improve skills related to being assigned to FIU.
- Tracking and reporting statistical data relating to assigned force incidents.

- Tracking and reporting time spent on assigned force incidents.
- Notifying the FIU supervisor of any issues or concerns relating to assigned force incidents.
- Be familiar with and adhere to all applicable statutes regarding the reporting and confidentiality requirements related to use of force incidents.