As I enter my final year as Mayor of Arvada, and reflect on 24 years as a Councilmember and Mayor, one of the proudest aspects of my experience has been observing the excellent performance of the Arvada Police Department. The professionalism, ethical behavior, and human compassion displayed by our men and women in blue is second to none. It is for that reason that the Arvada Police Department is one of the highest accredited Departments in the Country.

2022 continued to be a very difficult time to serve as a Police Officer, not only in Arvada, but throughout this Country. The National dialogue regarding isolated police incidents elsewhere inappropriately advocated for efforts to defund the Police. I am proud of the actions of our City Council in denouncing such approaches. The philosophy of Community Policing adopted by Chief Link Strate and his Command Staff, and embraced by our Officers, has served Arvada well, and demonstrates what good policing looks like.

The events of September 11, 2022 continue to impact our Police Department, the City Team, the Council and our citizens. On that day, tragedy revisited Arvada when Officer Dillon Vakoff was murdered in the line of duty while responding to a domestic disturbance call. Officer Vakoff was a local high school graduate, Military Veteran, and a rising star within our Police Department.
This senseless loss caused us to revisit the pain we had experienced 15 months earlier when Officer Gordon Beesley was ambushed and murdered on June 21, 2021 in our beloved Olde Town Square. Arvada had gone decades without losing an Officer in the Line of Duty, and to have two fine officers taken from us in such a short timeframe has been extremely difficult.

“The professionalism, ethical behavior and human compassion displayed by our men and women in blue is second to none.”

Yet, in spite of the National dialogue and these horrible tragedies, our Officers have remained steadfast in honoring their Mission Statement: Respect, Dedication and Responsibility. These are not easy times to be a Police Officer, but there are positive moments that reaffirm the quality of our Department, and the appreciation our Community has for the individuals who protect us each and every day.

At the Memorial Services for Officers Beesley and Vakoff, we were able to observe the outpouring of support for our Officers from our Police Department and Agencies around the Country, along with countless everyday citizens at the Services and along the processions. In less sad times we also see how much our neighbors are grateful for our Officers at events such as National Night Out. I drive through neighborhoods where blue porch lights shine in support of our Police.

Nothing speaks higher for the quality of our Police Department than the fact that we had the perfect candidate internally to replace retiring Chief Strate. We have a strong bench, and Council was in full support of City Manager Lorie Gillis’ selection of Chief Brady. At the Retirement Ceremony for Chief Strate, incoming Chief Brady introduced me to our newest class of Officers who have just completed the Academy. They demonstrate a continuation of the fine tradition we have established here in Arvada.

I invite you to review this Annual Report and join me in appreciating the tireless work of the Arvada Police Department reviewed herein. I am confident that you will see why City Council, the City Team, and our Citizens are so proud.

Sincerely,

Marc Williams
Mayor, City of Arvada
2022 will always be remembered as the year we lost Officer Dillon Vakoff. Officer Vakoff was an excellent officer, an incredible human being, a faithful son, and a hero. He gave his life protecting others. He will always be remembered along with Officer Gordon Beesley (2021), Officer W. Michael Northey (1979), and Officer Robert Bechtol (1961).

2022 was the last year of Chief Link Strate’s 35 year career including four years as Chief of Police. Chief Strate led the Department through four of the most difficult years in the Department’s history which included a pandemic, a national anti-policing narrative, and two officer deaths. We thank Chief Strate for his leadership and service.

The year also presented staffing issues. While the Department hired 25 officers, we remained at about a 30-officer vacancy level. This issue was not just an Arvada Police Department issue, it was a national trend in law enforcement.

Despite a tragedy and these staffing challenges, the Arvada Police Department did exceptional work. When something bad happened in our community, an officer in an Arvada blue uniform showed up to help someone in need. The integrity, professionalism, and caring of our officers is second to none.

Our sector strategy, which divides the City into four geographical areas allows our Department to tailor our services to those specific areas and meet the individual needs of each of those communities. The sectors are led by four sector commanders who are responsible to deploy resources to address crime, traffic, and quality of life issues. Our patrol officers go out everyday to address those issues in each of the sectors.

The Criminal Investigations Bureau continues to provide quality investigations to seek justice for victims. The Neighborhood Services Team works in the community to provide services for
animal management and neighborhood code enforcement. The Administration Bureau staff does the hard work of recruiting, training, and keeps us in compliance with our police accreditation. The Professional Staff of the Department is the engine that keeps this Department moving. Their work in records, evidence storage, crime analysis, and front line assistance keeps this Department in professional working order. Everyone in this Department is a valued member who has a great deal of passion to serve this community.

I am very optimistic about the future of this Department. I am honored to swear in the new recruits when they get hired and I am always impressed with their commitment to service. I am hopeful that our recruiting challenges will improve so that we can provide even better service to our community members.

While I am honored to be the Chief, I am even more honored to be in the ranks of the members of this Department who protect this community. I started my career 29 years ago and I was blessed to have found Arvada and that Arvada found me. This Department has provided me opportunities that I could not have found in other departments and most importantly, it has allowed me to work alongside incredible people who are professional, ethical, and caring.

To the sworn and civilian members of this Department - Thank you for your commitment to this Department, the City team, and the community members you serve.

To our community members - Thank you for the trust you place in us to provide policing services to this community.

Respectfully,
Edward Brady
Chief of Police
ABOUT THE CITY OF ARVADA

Founded in 1870 and incorporated in 1904, Arvada is located in Jefferson and Adams Counties just 10 miles from downtown Denver.

Arvada’s land encompasses nearly 40 square miles. Three proximate interstate highways provide easy access to the larger metropolitan region and Denver International Airport. An extraordinary trail system links with Denver trails on the east and the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the west, punctuated with thousands of acres of parks and open spaces. Arvada offers unique amenities. Historic Olde Town Arvada, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, provides an eclectic shopping and dining experience and one of three transit stops along the G Line commuter rail line, part of the metropolitan FasTracks light rail system. Arvada’s diverse economic base, highly educated workforce, low crime rate and superb quality of life have helped shape our community into one of the most attractive and competitive cities in the Centennial State.

The City of Arvada operates within a council-manager form of government. This system of local government combines the strong political leadership of elected officials in the form of a council, with the managerial experience of an appointed City Manager who in turn is responsible for the hiring of and overseeing the Chief of Police and Arvada Police Department.

The Mayor represents the entire City of Arvada, presides over City Council Meetings and performs official duties; there are two Council Members At-Large, who represent the entire City of Arvada; and four District Council Members, each residing within and representing the citizens of their specific District as indicated on the City Council District Map.

Find your Arvada City Councilor at: arvada.org/arvada-city-council-contacts

Council Members (from left to right),
Bob Fifer, At-Large
Lisa Smith, At-Large
John Marriott, District 3
Marc Williams, Mayor
Lauren Simpson, District 2
Randy Moorman, District 1
David Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 4
FAST FACTS

125K+ residents

49K+ households

100% ALL residents live within 1/2 mile of a park

<3% unemployment rate

40 square miles

42 median age

3400 acres of parks and open space

$96K median income

154 miles of off-street pedestrian and bike trails
The Arvada Police Department was the first law enforcement agency in Colorado and the 18th agency in the United States to achieve accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Arvada has been accredited since 1986 and is designated as a CALEA Flagship agency, one of the highest honors bestowed upon a police department through this accreditation organization. In order to achieve accreditation status, Arvada's police department must meet 459 standards developed by CALEA.
THE EARLY YEARS

The community was organized and incorporated as the town of Arvada on July 26, 1904. The City hired a marshal to keep order, eliminate farm animals, cats, and dogs from the streets and supervise the water ditches.

1923
Arvada’s first major crime occurred when three masked men robbed First State Bank of Arvada and escaped with $6,240. Three men were captured within days, pleaded guilty, and sent to the state prison. “Jake,” the fourth man who had stolen $3,000, was not found.

1941
The yearly fight over having a traffic cop ended when the Town Board hired Lee Beghtol, the first uniformed police officer. He had to purchase his uniforms after serving as a night traffic officer and day Marshal. He also served on the town board and city council.

1957
As part of an unauthorized “ditch day,” members of the senior class of Arvada High School climbed the City’s water tower and painted “57 Seniors” on the tank. A few days later, another group changed the graffiti to “58 Seniors”. Graduating students changed it back to “57 seniors”. A week later, three junior class students were apprehended by police as they climbed down after changing the painting back to “58 seniors”. Since they were juveniles, the punishment remained confidential.

1967
January 3, William J. Beary was named Chief of Police, replacing Leonard Smith. Beary had retired from the New York City Police Department as a lieutenant after 22 years of service. Doug Wilkie, who had served as the interim Chief, remained as Assistant Chief.

(Stay tuned to future Annual Report issues for more historical stories about APD.)
The Arvada Police Department has, for decades, maintained an exhaustive recruiting, background investigation, and hiring system. Arvada Police Department sets high standards for our applicants to ensure our community receives the quality of service they demand and deserve. Despite the challenging and competitive law enforcement market, Arvada Police Department hired 22 officers in 2022 without reducing standards or requirements. The Arvada Police Department has also implemented an innovative pre-academy training program. This program allows applicants to be hired several weeks or months before starting at a law enforcement academy. During this time, the recruits receive all the benefits and salary warranted to their position, begin learning their new job functions, and make valuable connections with members of the Department who will mentor and follow them throughout their formal training. With the addition of the pre-academy training program, Arvada Police recruits can start the formal field training program almost immediately after graduation and begin their careers as law enforcement officers serving the community of the City of Arvada.

Scan the QR code for more information
**Salary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police Officer</th>
<th>Full Time Sworn Officers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police Recruit I</td>
<td>$70,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Recruit II</td>
<td>$74,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Officer</td>
<td>$78,890 – $105,946</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Effective January 1, 2023**

(does not include 1.5% college bonus)

**Benefits Summary**

- 104 hours of Holiday Leave
- Sick leave is accrued at 8 hours per month. Sick leave may be used for the employee’s own illness, medical/dental/vision appointments, and to care for an ill/injured family member
- Overtime is calculated on a 40 hour work week

**City of Arvada offers a robust and complete benefits package:**

- Health Plans—Several
- Dental plan
- Vision Plan
- Life insurance
- **Wellness Clinics:** The City has partnered with Everside Health to provide a wellness clinic to all employees and their dependents that are enrolled in one of the City’s health plans. Services provided at the clinic include wellness exams, chronic disease management, acute care episodes, and coordination of care with your primary care provider or specialist. Approximately 50 of the most commonly prescribed medications are available on-site. The clinic is available at no or low cost, and is staffed by a certified Family Medicine physician who is available for emergencies 24/7
- **Wellness Incentives:** You can save up to $520 yearly and receive one day off for completing wellness goals
- **Several flexible Spending Accounts to include:** Healthcare Flexible Spending Account, Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account and a Health Savings Account
- **Police officers participate in the Police Money Purchase Plan (PMPP).** Sworn officers contribute 12% of salary; the City contributes 12%. This is a 401a defined contribution plan, and is a replacement for Social Security
- A supplemental 457 deferred compensation program is available to all employees
- 457 deferred compensation program is available to sworn police personnel through the Fire & Police Pension Association (FPPA)
- Life Insurance and Long Term Disability Insurance
- All sworn police personnel are covered for basic life insurance of 2x their annual salary
- Tuition Reimbursement up to $2,000 yearly
- City Hall and several outlying facilities maintain fitness center and equipment for free use
- Discounts at the APEX center
- Receive discounts for the Arvada Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Service</th>
<th>Monthly Accrual</th>
<th>Pay Period Accrual</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>9.33</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>10.66</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>12.66</td>
<td>5.84</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 or more</td>
<td>14.66</td>
<td>6.76</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY BASED POLICING

Community Stations
Three substations are located throughout the city, or community based policing model, designed to build familiarity of officers within the community they are responsible for while also having the added benefit of allowing for quicker deployment and response time of officers throughout Arvada.

A. Adam Sector
The northeast corner of Arvada from W. 88th Ave. to W. 64th Ave., and Sheridan Blvd. to Simms Street
Lake Arbor Station
8110 Vance Dr., Arvada, CO 80003
Commander Bob Vander Veen

B. Baker Sector
The southeast corner of Arvada roughly bordered by W. 64th Ave. to I-70, and Sheridan Blvd. to Kipling Street
Headquarters at City Hall,
8101 Ralston Rd., Arvada, CO 80002
Commander Ron Avila

C. Charlie Sector
The southwest section of Arvada from W. 72nd to W. 60th Avenues, and Kipling Avenue to State Highway 93
West Woods Station
6644 Kendrick Dr., Arvada, CO 80007
Commander Melanie Thornton

D. Delta Sector
The newest sector, in the northwest portion of the City W. 96th to W. 72nd Avenues, and Simms Street to the mouth of Coal Creek Canyon
Whisper Creek Station
14360 W. 89th Dr., Arvada, CO 80005
Commander Eric Kellogg

Commander Anthony Baros is in our Criminal Investigations Bureau.
Commander Betsy Westbrook is assigned to the Administration Bureau.

For more information regard the different sectors within the City, visit arvada.org/policing-sectors.

Staying Social
Sector Commanders are encouraged to have a presence in the community, establishing relationships with residents and business owners, in-person and via social media, such as NextDoor and Neighbors app.
Environmental Responsibility

All three Arvada Police Department Substations maintain Gold Level LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) ratings. LEED is the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

For more information visit arvada.org/residents/police-services/policing-sectors

Community Rooms

Adam Sector, Charlie Sector and Delta Sector have community rooms available to the citizens in the sectors, free of charge, to use for meetings or gatherings. Reserve Community Rooms at arvada.org/residents/police-services/community-roomreservations.
The Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) has undergone some major changes in the past 18 months: one of the two full-time employees retired in mid-2021 after nearly 23 years at the Arvada Police Department. In addition to hiring a successor for her, the unit added a third full-time employee, and a Lead Analyst position was established.

Once all three analysts were in their new roles, they took the opportunity to evaluate goals and objectives for the unit. This included shifting strategies, identifying process improvement opportunities, and setting new goals for the unit. Some of these included increasing communication, seeking more training and incorporating new technology.

The CAU’s core activities are analyzing data, performing research, providing support for investigations, and creating a variety of analytical products. Some early priorities for the revamped unit have been to increase visibility and interaction with other units within the agency. To accomplish this, the analysts presented in-service training about their unit and its capabilities to APD officers and detectives during nine separate sessions. The CAU presented information about the unit to the APD Citizens’ Police Academy as well.

The CAU began working with City IT staff to find new ways to extract and visualize data for use by the department and City leadership. In addition to enlisting this help, the analysts are actively working to bolster their skills in this area as well, so that they are able to quickly assist with specialized requests and to develop more innovative ways to share the information, such as dashboards and customized reports.

During 2022, the CAU created and disseminated 64 crime and intelligence bulletins to internal employees as well as other law enforcement agencies. Of those, slightly more than two-thirds were requested by police officers or detectives. The rest were initiated by the analysts, generating follow up on unassigned cases or sharing information for officer safety. The analysts often provide assistance with investigations and help make connections between related cases both internally and with other agencies.

The analysts have also been working with the Public Information Officer (PIO) to feature crimes on social media, in the hopes of soliciting help from the community. They will be collaborating even more in the coming year to cover more unsolved crimes and to highlight unusual cases or extraordinary efforts by APD employees.

With the newly-expanded capacity of the CAU, the analysts have been working hard to build upon its already solid foundation and to maximize the benefits to APD Command Staff, department personnel, City leadership, and the community.
**YEARLY CRIME TRENDS**

### Top 10 officer calls

- **Traffic Stop**: 2021 - 7365, 2022 - 6960
- **Extra Patrol**: 2021 - 5193, 2022 - 5282
- **Advised PD**: 2021 - 2849, 2022 - 2879
- **Special Assignment PD**: 2021 - 1760, 2022 - 1323
- **Ordinance Violation**: 2021 - 1147, 2022 - 1121
- **Traffic Enforcement**: 2021 - 869, 2022 - 847
- **Area Check**: 2021 - 632, 2022 - 474
- **Attempt To Locate**: 2021 - 413, 2022 - 423
- **Pedestrian Stop**: 2021 - 281, 2022 - 288
- **Warrant Arrest**: 2021 - 269, 2022 - 277

### Top 10 resident calls

- **Info Medical (Law)**: 2021 - 7382, 2022 - 8099
- **911 Hangup/Check**: 2021 - 6405, 2022 - 10050
- **Citizen Assist**: 2021 - 3816, 2022 - 3757
- **Welfare Check**: 2021 - 3772, 2022 - 3690
- **Unwanted Party**: 2021 - 2227, 2022 - 2570
- **Suspicious Vehicle**: 2021 - 2443, 2022 - 2690
- **Unverified Alarm**: 2021 - 2161, 2022 - 2309
- **Theft**: 2021 - 2424, 2022 - 2387
- **Suspicious Incident**: 2021 - 2332, 2022 - 2052
- **Disturbance**: 2021 - 1814, 2022 - 2077
The PST Team is the front line in customer service for our community stations. They support the needs of the community in person, over the phone, and online by providing many police services to include documenting non-emergency criminal and non-criminal incidents. They are the friendly faces that provide report record requests, collect evidence, perform VIN verifications, manage community room reservations and, processing of dog licenses. This versatile team also assists the Records Unit with data entry, helps with research projects for the Crime Analysts and aides the Crime Lab by collecting and logging evidentiary swabs necessary for automobile theft prosecution. In addition, the PSTs follow up on runaway reports, process the paperwork for abandoned vehicles, maintain supplies at the community stations, and fingerprint new employees and liquor license applicants. Arvada PD now has four locations to contact the police; Headquarters and three community stations, all appointed with a front desk for a PST to provide superior service to the community.

This hard working team of 7 averages over 6000 Calls for Service that result in almost 3000 reports generated annually. The reports that were submitted online have increased by 54% over the past 3 years resulting in over half of the reports that the PSTs are documenting are being submitted online.

POLICE SERVICE TECHNICIANS – 2022 Top Criminal Call Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>PATROL</th>
<th>PST</th>
<th>Total Calls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>1266</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>2161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Trespass</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2550</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>4455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Arvada Police Department Community Outreach Resource Enforcement Team (CORE) was established with the purpose to develop a lasting community alliance by providing options, support, and outreach for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

In addition to the regular duties and responsibilities of a police officer, the Community Outreach Resource Enforcement Team has the following responsibilities:

- Development of a multi-pronged partnership to increase collaboration of services provided to assist the homeless in becoming self-sufficient, we work closely with the city’s Homeless Navigator;
- Foster ongoing personal contact between the CORE Team officers and homeless individuals and families to increase trust and make referrals to service providers;
- Work closely with local organizations to facilitate public and private resources, mental health services, treatment programs, housing, employment, and medical services; and
- Enforcement of state and municipal laws and ordinances.
- CORE partners with the Arvada City Attorney’s office and Municipal Court in the One Small Step Program (OSS). The OSS is a specialized problem-solving Court designed to assist defendants who are experiencing homelessness.
- City-Wide Calls For Service Involving the phrase “Homeless” or “Transient”

### 2021 – 3832 Contacts    2022 – 3729 Contacts

**Court Perspective: Number of cases filed**

| 733 | Total number of OSS cases filed in 2022 |
| 4669 | Total number of cases filed (adult cases including criminal, traffic, animal and code) |
| 16% | Percent of total cases filed including adult cases, including criminal, traffic, animal and code violations that were OSS cases |
| 1030 | Total number of criminal violation cases filed in 2022 |
| 71% | Percent of total criminal violations filed in 2022 that were OSS cases |
COMMUNITY RESPONSE IMPACT TEAM (C.R.I.T.)

The Community Response Impact Team (CRIT) consists of five full-service police officers and a Sergeant; they are assigned to specific areas throughout the City of Arvada to establish problem solving partnerships with residents, rental property owners/managers, schools, places of worship, and business owners. CRIT focuses on community policing efforts in order to reduce crime and the fear of crime in our neighborhoods.

The mission of CRIT is to address criminal activity and statistical trends that have a negative impact on the quality of life for citizens of Arvada. The team concentrates on high crime areas, problem properties, and current crime trends that present a drain on patrol and the criminal investigations bureau. The CRIT:

- Identifies and resolves crime related issues to improve the quality of life in those neighborhoods.

- Apply creative and advanced technical resources to provide support and concentrated law enforcement efforts toward achieving long-term resolution of high crime areas and problem properties.

What does CRIT do?

CRIT officers are usually dressed in plain clothing and driving unmarked police vehicles. This helps the team by allowing officers to conduct surveillances and gives the officers a better opportunity to catch criminals in the act. The CRIT spends a majority of their time doing the following:

- Impacts crime at problem properties by providing long term resolutions.

- Works proactively to prevent crime before crime occurs.

- Conducts surveillances and apprehensions on wanted fugitives.

- Conducts stationary and rolling surveillances on occupied stolen vehicles. When the opportunity presents itself, CRIT will place these auto thieves into custody.

- Works closely with internal departments (patrol, investigations, neighborhood services, housing) and with external agencies (Department of Corrections, US Marshals, FBI Safe Streets, Secret Service, ATF, DEA as well as with multiple metro area police department and sheriff office fugitive and impact teams.)

- Provides free training to the community throughout the year. Some of the classes that are taught include Crime Free Multi-Housing, Crime Prevention, Neighbors Connected, Evacuate Evade Defend, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), Safety and Security in your place of Worship, and the Citizens Police Academy.

- Current CRIT officers are also called on frequently due to their extensive experience in tactics to teach multiple classes for Red Rocks Community College Police Academy and to current Arvada PD sworn at in-service training classes throughout the year. Some of these classes are Building Searches, High Risk Vehicle Stops, Pedestrian Contacts, RAID, Single Officer Response to an Active Shooter, Rescue Task Force, and Officer/Citizen Down Rescue.

In 2022 CRIT was involved in nearly 100 arrests and submitted 32 case files to the District Attorney’s Office for review. Some of these arrests and filings were the result of motor vehicle theft arrests, warrants for arrest, possession of narcotics, felony menacing, domestic violence, homicide, attempt homicide, first degree assault, and possession of child pornography. Additionally the CRIT instructed 48 classes and worked closely with the 54 multi-family crime free housing communities who have all attended Arvada PD’s Crime Free Multi-Housing class.
Officer Dillon Vakoff
E.O.W. 9-11-2022
A Mother’s Memories

Remembering a chilling conversation on October 15th, 2021, Dillon’s mother, Lisa Vakoff, recalled her son saying, “I will have my day.” This mother-son birthday exchange would have a much deeper meaning for Lisa in light of the impending tragedy that occurred less than a year later when Dillon was killed in the line of duty. Dillon had wanted to know that his mom would be okay. Two years prior, the Vakoff family lost Cody, Dillon’s brother, which increased their concern that Dillon had chosen a noble yet dangerous line of work. During this dinner conversation, Lisa told her son that she would be sad and miss him; however, she would be “okay.” She promised Dillon she would be a lion.

Lisa recalled her son as a loving child who cared deeply about her. One of the few times she recalled Dillon crying was when he had just started talking and was still having trouble pronouncing his Rs. She had just cut her long curly hair, and when she returned home, Dillon began crying, touching her hair. “Where are your circles?” he asked Lisa, referring to her curly hair.

Dillon was a perfectionist. Whether wanting to be like his hero, Bam Margera, the late 1990s daredevil skateboarder, or having the best sports card collections, Dillon was in 100 percent. According to Lisa, Dillon’s passion for collecting football, baseball, or other sports cards was the turning point in improving his reading ability, as he loved reading the athletes’ statistics. “Dillon became a preferred member at the Brass Armadillo at the age of eight,” Lisa said, referring to a local antique store where he would purchase sports cards. This perfectionism defined Dillon’s adult life.

Becoming Airman Vakoff

In 2013 Dillon joined the United States Air Force with the dream of being a Pararescue (PJ) specialist, one of the elite units. After all, Dillon had been training his body for years. Dan and Lisa recalled Dillon loading up five-gallon buckets with rocks and then heading to Red Rocks Amphitheater to run. He was on the “Diet of Champions” and urged his family to improve their nutrition. Dan remembered having ice cream after a hard day’s work and Dillon going through the trash to find the wrappers, admonishing Dan to do better.

Unfortunately, while in the Air Force, Airman Vakoff suffered a back injury that prevented him from completing the grueling pararescue training and testing for pararescue. But Dillon never missed a step, even after a significant setback. Dillon became a Staff Sergeant to manage a B-52 in the 96th Bomb Squadron. His job was to ensure every logistic detail
Officer Dillon Vakoff

Dillon could not wait to test to be a police officer. In the last months of his military service, he requested time away to fly out and take the Arvada Police Department (APD) exams. With little time, APD expedited Dillon’s test and quickly offered him a job. Hired in 2019, he attended the police academy and became a leader described as the “gel” of the Arvada squad throughout the training. Dillon was in great physical condition and received the award for top fitness.

After graduating and completing his field training in patrol, Dillon was assigned to the overnight shift in patrol. He thrived there, as he loved serving his community, no matter the time of day. Often and frequently, not the best move to get in the good graces of your teammates, Dillon would find stolen cars late in the shift. This meant that his friends would end up staying late because that is what you do as a cop. Even though his graveyard team was not fans of this practice, they just knew “that was Dillon” and appreciated him being on their team.

Dillon was already looking for new challenges and was torn between becoming a SWAT team member or a school resource officer; he wanted to work at Ralston Valley High School and give back to that community. No one would have been surprised if Dillon had done both, according to his teammates.

The Shooting

At 1:41 a.m. September 11th, 2022, Dillon was murdered while trying to protect the Arvada community.

Dillon and another officer responded to a domestic disturbance at an address on 51st Avenue. They found many people arguing in the parking lot of an apartment building. Several of the people started to fight. Dillon and his partner lost sight of each other as they tried to separate the fight. During the altercation, the suspect retrieved an assault rifle from his apartment. The suspect returned to the parking lot, fired into the air, and then shot a woman involved in the fight. Dillon shot the suspect in an attempt to stop him from shooting anyone else, but the suspect shot Dillon. Dillon died of his wounds.

The suspect was transported to a local hospital, where he was treated for his injuries while in the custody of the Arvada Police.

The Community Responds

Within hours of the Arvada Police Department announcing they had lost a second Officer within 15 months to murder, the community responded. By week’s end, friends, colleagues, residents and visitors had placed hundreds of flowers, notes, and other mementos in Dillon’s honor on a patrol car, placed as a memorial in front of City Hall. Those paying their respects at the memorial would gaze in disbelief at the patrol car covered in mementos, and cry.

The Arrest

Upon the murder suspect’s release from a local hospital on September 15th, Arvada Police Officers were waiting to formally place the suspect into custody. Officers told the suspect he was under arrest for the murder of Officer Dillon Vakoff and put handcuffs on him. These handcuffs were the same handcuffs used daily by Officer Vakoff, bearing his badge number, 1927. The suspect was then taken to the Jefferson County Jail. Officer Anthony Daniel aired through dispatch, “4-Baker-60, adult male in custody,” 4-Baker-60 was Officer Vakoff’s call sign that tragic Sunday.
A Day to Celebrate Dillon

Starting on September 11th, plans were underway to honor the Arvada Police Department’s second hero killed in the line of duty in only 15 months. On September 16th at 10 a.m., a large service was held for the American Airman and Police Officer Dillon Vakoff at a Lafayette, Colorado Church. A miles-long procession of law enforcement and first responders led the way.

On a beautiful fall Colorado day full of sunshine, hundreds of law enforcement officers from around the nation gathered to remember Dillon. The Service started outside with a flyover of a B-52 from Dillon’s unit, the 96th Bomb Squadron, United States Air Force 2nd Operations Group, out of Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. Special permission to do this had been given from the highest levels of the Air Force from the Pentagon.

Several people spoke about the amazing young man. Chief Link Strate described Dillon as having “everything you want in a police officer” and announced that he would be posthumously awarded the Arvada Police Department’s Medal of Valor, the agency’s highest honor, for his actions on that tragic day. Dillon’s partner at work and in life, Officer Megan Esslinger delivered the bravest of eulogies, describing Dillon as an incredibly caring young man, and shared that there was so much they had wanted to do together in life. Moving Forward

Winston Churchill once said, “Death and sorrow will be the companions of our journey; hardship our garment; constancy and valor our only shield. We must be united, we must be undaunted, we must be inflexible.”

Dillon may no longer be with us to start a shift or to find a late stolen car, still, his NFQ motivation-al acronym spirit has strengthened our resolve to put others before ourselves, just as he would have. This spring, many members of the Arvada Police Department, alongside Dillon’s family, will make the journey to Washington D.C. to honor the enshrinement of Officer Dillon Vakoff’s name to the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

Thank you to Lisa Vakoff and Dan Lammers for sharing Dillon with us in this article.

“We all go through life and meet a lot of people, but we only find only a handful of true friends. I am proud to have known him and proud to have considered him as one of my true friends. I knew Dillon since 2019 but feel like I had known him a lifetime. On the job, he was diligent, proactive, and kind hearted. Off the job, he was funny, light hearted, and selfless. He was always there if you needed help.”

Officer Adam Ross, Academy Classmate and patrol teammate.

“Dillon was the most important person in my life. He supported me and encouraged me when I needed it, and I did the same for him. He pushed me to strive to be better in every aspect of my life. He was kind, charismatic, strong, and dedicated. He was the only person who could make me smile when I was having a bad day. When he looked at me and smiled, all of my problems disappeared.”

Officer Megan Esslinger, Dillon’s girlfriend.

In May of 2022, a contingent of 27 members of the Arvada Police Department traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Annual Law Enforcement Memorial. Officers from around the nation were honored who had lost their lives in the line of duty. In 2022 Officials added Officer Gordon Beesley’s (June 21, 2021) name appeared on the Memorial Wall alongside Arvada Officer Michael Northey (August 13, 1979) and Officer Robert G. Beghtol (June 28, 1961). The Arvada Police Department was honored to escort Amanda Beesley-Weinstock and Nicky Weinstock, Gordon’s sister and brother-in-law, through the week’s events, culminating with a ceremony on the lawn in front of the Nation’s Capital.
In order to comply with the requirements of Colorado Senate Bill 217 and the body worn camera portion of the law, we hired four full-time employees to help manage this unfunded State mandate. In order to ensure a smooth transition, we deployed several cameras in early 2022 in a test phase, but went live with all 209 systems for our uniformed staff in July of 2022.

Half of our essential body worn camera team is comprised of two Digital Media Technicians (DMT). These positions help maintain the security of the videos, as well as uploading, storing, retaining, and controlling all digital media stored as evidence. Our DMT’s are responsible for ensuring the proper upload and chain of custody for all digital media in our system, managing the retention schedule for all our digital files, and to ensure the disposition information is up to date in order to manage the stored data effectively. These two employees provide daily quality assurances including accurate file naming, case numbering, classification, and the assignment of a retention schedule. These employees are critical in providing necessary training and technical support for our police department to safeguard this important data.

As of December 31, 2022, we have over 35,000 BWC videos, an average of 215.12 per day, that are being monitored by this two-person team.

The other half of this team is comprised of two Digital Records Technicians (DRT). These positions report to our Records Unit and perform technical and administrative tasks related to controlling, redacting, and disseminating digital records. Our DRT’s process requests for a digital media for internal requests and external customers per CCJRA/CORA regulations, as well as departmental policies and procedures.

The amount of time it takes for our staff to review and redact/blur video footage from the BWC and other digital media is staggering. Redaction time is averaging four times the original length of the video. This means that if there are three cameras on one call, each with 15 minutes of footage, this would equate to approximately four days of work for our DRT’s.

From June 9, 2022 through December 31, 2022, our DRT’s edited 190 digital media releases from 604 videos, 3,538 images, and 89 other types of files (audio, documents, etc.).

Although this program is in its infancy, the roll out of body cams would not have been as successful as they were at APD if it weren’t for this team.

From 6/9/22 to 12/31/22 there were **190 Digital Media releases** that were comprised of

- **604 videos**
- **3,538 images**
- **89 other types**
For over two decades, the Arvada Police Department has been placing police officers in schools within the City of Arvada. The Department invests over $1 million dollars into the SRO program with seven officers currently assigned to Arvada schools.

The Arvada Police Department knows the students’ safety is a priority and assists in providing students in the community a safe place to learn.

The Department started with placing a School Resource Officer (SRO) in every public high school. When fully staffed the Department will have officers in all of the middle schools and a dedicated SRO for all of the elementary schools. The SROs work with each school’s administration and community in providing the best resources and services to the students and communities. As a police department, we quickly realized there were many benefits of having officers in the schools. The SROs also quickly became an integral part of the school community in which they worked.

When we respond to emergency calls for service, such as traffic accidents, assaults, child abuse, or domestic violence, a police officer in uniform can be intimidating. Introducing police officers into our school system to work side by side with school staff allows our youngest community members to see a police officer as an essential resource and not be frightened.

All of our SROs have been through the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Introductory SRO course. This course is currently the national standard in SROs and their training.

In this course, SRO’s learn three primary purposes for their role; school safety, informal counselor/mentor, and education.

The SROs are not inside of the schools with the goal of strict enforcement in mind. Through the unified support of the SRO and school administration, several situations can be handled without criminal charges. Our SROs would prefer to resolve problems within the school without writing a ticket or making an arrest. The start of restorative practices in schools has helped with these goals and priorities.

We have seen that our SROs have built relationships with their students, allowing them to gauge what resources might be best to help support the students. The SROs work closely with the City Attorney and the juvenile District Attorneys. This partnership is essential because the SRO can talk with the attorney about a criminally charged student and discuss what resources, classes, or programs might benefit the student best. The goal is always to help students learn and become better, so they do not become repeat offenders.

They attend after school events like dances to continue to build relationships within a more relaxed atmosphere. The SROs host and teach parent academies with the hope of empowering parents. The SROs also respond to most Safe2Tell (an anonymous reporting platform for schools in Colorado) reports within the city.

We are proud to have a wonderful working relationship with our area schools and the Jefferson County Public School District. We are even more proud of our SRO program and the officers within it.

The Department invests over $1 million in the SRO program and has seven officers assigned to Arvada schools.
Elementary Schools
Elementary schools (on a rotating basis)
Patrol Officers respond to assist the schools in their sectors.

Middle Schools
Arvada K-8 - Officer Kelly Lechuga
Three Creeks K-8 - Officer Nicole Deering
North Arvada Middle School - Officer Kevin Lewis
Oberon Middle School - Officer Adrienne Blackwood

High Schools
Arvada High School - Officer Albino Guerrero
Arvada West High School - Officer Brad Gagon
Ralston Valley High School - Officer Nicole Deering
Pomona High School - Officer Richard Brown
The Arvada Police Department and the Boy Scouts of America jointly sponsor our volunteer Explorer Post; a program for youth, aged 14 to 21, that supports law enforcement based education, skills, and community service. Arvada has had an active Explorer Post for over 25 years, with officers, a sergeant, and a lieutenant all involved in the operations and supervision of the program.

In addition to receiving training by Arvada Police Officers, the Explorers provide assistance with various City functions, including the Fourth of July Celebration, Kite Festival, and the annual Secrest Bike Rodeo. Explorers are often asked to help with parking at concerts as well as assisting the Liquor Enforcement Unit with liquor stings. Every summer, APD Explorers attend the LEEPAAC (Law Enforcement Explorer Post Advisor’s Association of Colorado) conference at Western State College in Gunnison.

**Citizen’s Police Academy & Alumni**

Citizen’s Police Academy (CPA) instructors include police officers and other police department employees who lecture, teach, and provide hands-on participation in such areas as traffic stops, crime scene investigation, building searches, and officer survival. Other topics covered include internal affairs, media relations, preserving evidence, SWAT, and dispatch. One of the most exciting aspects of the CPA is an optional ride-along with a police officer.

To learn more, visit [arvada.org/citizens-police-academy](http://arvada.org/citizens-police-academy)

**Youth Engagement**

**Christmas Event**

Over the last several years, an anonymous donor has partnered with APD and graciously donated Christmas gifts to 35 students in Arvada. Arvada SROs obtain the name of students who are in need and provide it to APD. After the gifts are ready, APD officers distribute them to the students in need.
The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) conducts major case and follow-up investigations. CIB consists of specialized functions: Major Crimes, Crimes Against Children, Crimes Against at Risk Adults, Sex Offender Registration, Domestic Violence, Intelligence, and Narcotics.

### CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT
Investigates crimes involving physical or sexual abuse involving children.
- Conducted over 99 Forensic Interviews at the Ralston House
- Investigated 14 cases referred to CIB by the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

### NARCOTICS
APD Detectives were involved in the investigation, directly and regionally, and seizure of the following:
- 359,000 Fentanyl pills
- 239 lbs of Methamphetamine
- 206 pounds (94 kilograms) of Cocaine
- 17 pounds of MDMA/Molly
- 10 pounds of heroin
- 7 pounds of GHB
- 4 pounds of mushrooms
- 3 pounds of Pharmaceuticals
- 1.7 pounds of LSD

### AUTO THEFT UNIT
- Investigated over 80 cases.
- The City of Arvada partnered with the Colorado Metro Area Auto Theft (CMATT) Task Force to help address auto theft.

### MAJOR CRIMES
- CIB was involved in 11 Critical Incident Response Team investigations, typically involving a law enforcement officer using deadly force.
- Conducted the criminal investigation for the suspect who shot and killed Officer Vakoff.
- Charged nine Mongol motorcycle gang members for a homicide that occurred in 2020.

### SEX OFFENDER UNIT
- Registered 252 Sex Offenders
- Conducted three joint operations targeting sex offenders who failed to register, where 14 criminal cases were brought as a result.

### CRIMES AGAINST AT RISK ADULTS
- Investigated over 60 cases involving At-Risk Adults.
- Major Case: Two suspects were arrested and criminally charged for scamming seniors for tree trimming services.
APD Crime Scene Investigators are specially trained sworn officers who analyze crime scenes, collect evidence from crime scenes, suspects, and victims, and collect various items of evidentiary value, such as DNA, fingerprints, and crime scene information.

2022 STATISTICS

responded to 591 incidents

processed 244 vehicles

extracted 46 cell phones

conducted 56 digital scan projects

called out 37 times
LIQUOR LICENSE CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR

The LLCA position falls under Civilian Operations within the Police Department and is responsible for three major tasks: compliance checks for businesses with liquor licenses, inspections, and liquor license investigations.

Compliance Checks:
For under age compliance checks, we utilize one or two of our minor-aged Police Explorers who are accompanied by two APD officers and the LLCA. These operations last between four to six hours and consist of 15 to 20 undercover compliance checks. If a location fails, a Show Cause hearing process is started and concludes in a Liquor Authority Show Cause Hearing.

Inspections:
The LLCA completes “boots on the ground” liquor inspections in every Arvada business that has a liquor license. All “new” licenses will get an initial inspection upon State and local approval of the liquor license close to the opening of the location or the issuance of the license. During the inspections, the LLCA will make sure necessary signage is posted and visible, as well as the general cleanliness of liquor storage areas. If they are available, the General Manager and/or owner are spoken with during the inspection. If the location sells tobacco products, the LLCA will look for necessary signage and warnings to be posted as per license requirements.

Liquor License Investigations:
Liquor license applications are taken by the City’s Deputy City Clerk and once the new application file is deemed complete, the file is then sent to the LLCA for an investigation. All new licenses, transfer licenses, and structure change applications require a full investigation by the LLCA. This investigation includes but is not limited to; fingerprinting, a background investigation, social media searches, financial searches, and local jurisdiction checks (if from out of state), etc. Upon completing the background investigation, the LLCA prepares an investigation report that is sent to the Deputy City Clerk and the members of the Arvada Liquor Authority. The Authority conducts their public hearing based on information supplied in the LLCA’s investigation report.

In 2022 our Investigator completed:

- 177 liquor inspections
- 89 fingerprint completed
- 53 tobacco inspections
- 10 authority meetings
- 21 investigation reports
- 18 compliance checks
- 24 background checks
- 2 show/cause hearings
- 16 new liquor license
- 112 letters sent

(5 transfers, 7 new, 4 structure change). The 5 additional investigation reports were for Registered Managers of current locations. The State no longer requires that a registered manager go through a background investigation.)
In 2022 the variety of animal-related calls for service continued to grow. The Arvada Police Department Animal Management Officer possess various skills and competencies. Arvada Animal Management Officers responded to 5211 animal related calls for service. Leash law violations represented the largest number of calls for service, with 753 or approximately 7% of the total calls for service. APD Animal Management Officer represents a unique resource to the citizens of Arvada, diligently problem-solving the various calls for service with great care and compassion for the citizens and animals involved.

The Animal Management team members are not certified peace officers in Colorado. The Officers do have the capability to issue the City of Arvada citations for municipal violations. If an investigation involves a potential felony crime, the AMO will work with an APD detective to file appropriate charges.
Code Enforcement’s work load also remained unusually high. With most people working from home, citizens had time to observe the rhythms of their neighborhood. This resulted in Code violation complaints being received at the unusually high rate. In 2022, Code handled approximately 3,504 complaints. These ranged from minor issues (snow not being shoveled from sidewalks) to major investigations into potentially dangerous health issues, such as high density housing complexes not being able to maintain sufficiently warm indoor temperatures during the winter. Code Enforcement officers also mediated many neighborhood disputes, investigated over 1,000 complaints of abandoned vehicles, ordered the abatement (cleaning) of dozens of blighted properties and diligently worked to ensure that Arvada maintained its friendly and clean appearance.
Arvada PD’s Evidence Unit is tasked with managing the chain of custody for every piece of evidence that is collected by the officers and/or investigators for a criminal case. Chain of Custody means maintaining the integrity of the evidence from point of collection until the disposition of a case. This requires tracking every move a piece of evidence makes. The evidence team is also responsible for many other critical functions including evidence transfers and destruction, mandatory audits, conversions, evidence and property releases, and auction preparation. Over the past 5 years, the Unit has managed the intake of almost 23,000 items per year. This is an increase of 33% over the previous 5 years. With the advanced crime scene processing and criminal case load maintained by the Arvada Police Department, our Evidence Unit handles just under 100 item transfers daily. Working in the Evidence Unit requires a high attention to detail and the ability to provide exceptional customer service to the employees of the police department, the city, and the citizens of Arvada.

In 2022, the Arvada Police Department requested and was granted permission and funding to build a new, critically needed evidence building. More to come in 2023.
In May of 2022, we were able to gather once again after COVID and honor the great work of our fellow police team with an awards ceremony. This ceremony recognized work done in 2020 and 2021. Held at the Arvada Center, the following awards were given to very deserving recipients:

**Arvada Police Department Employee Commendation**
**Officer Isabelle Moccia**
On December 31, 2021, Officer Isabelle Moccia coordinated a clothing drive to help those impacted by the Marshall Fire.

**2020/2021 Arvada Police Department Event Citation**
**Peer Support Team**
Peer Support responded to numerous callouts during 2020 and 2021.

**Life-Saving Awards**
**Officer Jerica Chavez**
On March 23, 2020, Officer Jerica Chavez responded to an assisted living center. Upon arrival, Officer Chavez performed chest compressions on a patient in cardiac arrest and unconscious for nearly 10 minutes. Due to Officer Chavez’s life-saving measures, EMS did stabilize the subject and transported them to the Hospital.

**Officer Dakota Koolmees**
On April 8, 2020, Officer Dakota Koolmees responded to an unknown situation and discovered a male who had attempted to hang himself. The male was not breathing and had no pulse. Officer Koolmees performed chest compressions, ultimately reviving the male.

**Officers Ryan Freeman and Tyler McCune**
On July 5, 2020, Officer Ryan Freeman and Officer Tyler McCune responded to an overdose. They encountered a male covered in blood behaving erratically. Officer Freeman and Officer McCune placed the subject into protective custody. They applied a tourniquet to each arm, likely saving his life.

**Sergeant Brandon Valdez**
On August 14, 2020, Sergeant Brandon Valdez responded to a call for service where a male had cut himself on a ceramic vase and lost blood. His wife was driving him to a hospital before Sergeant Valdez intervened to locate the male to apply a tourniquet. EMS then transported the male to the Hospital for further treatment.

**Officer Dakota Koolmees**
On February 21, 2021, Officer Dakota Koolmees responded to a possible overdose. Officer Koolmees located the subject and immediately started chest compressions before EMS’s arrival. Lieutenant Knoebel from the Arvada Fire Department advised that the person would not have survived without Officer Koolmees’ quick response.

**Officer Tyler McCune**
On March 7, 2021, Officer Tyler McCune responded to a shooting and located a subject who was shot in the chest. Officer McCune provided trauma care to the chest wound and assisted in carrying the victim to the ambulance.

**Sergeant Scott Thomas, Officer Calise Conley, and Officer Luke Cogar**
On July 22, 2021, Sergeant Scott Thomas, Officer Calise Conley, and Officer Luke Cogar responded to a welfare check. A suicidal woman texted her family to advise she loved them and was sorry. Upon arrival, officers observed a strong odor of exhaust coming from the garage, which had been barricaded shut. Officers removed a window air conditioning unit to enter and remove the female from the garage, saving her life.
Officer Ryan Freeman
On August 8, 2021, Officer Ryan Freeman was dispatched to a person who had overdosed. He observed a male lying on his back, unconscious and not breathing. Officer Freeman began chest compressions, revived the subject, and paramedics took him to a local hospital.

Officer T.J. Wees
On December 28, 2021, Officer T.J. Wees responded to a call for service about a child who was unconscious and not breathing. Officer Wees responded and performed multiple back blows and CPR until EMS arrived and transported the child to a Hospital.

Life Preservation Award
Officer Luke Cogar
On August 22, 2020, Officer Luke Cogar responded to a male who had barricaded himself in a restaurant bathroom. The subject had brandished a large knife and told employees he would kill himself. Officer Cogar made phone contact with the person, who surrendered after 48 minutes of communication.

Officer Thomas VanHaecke
On November 21, 2021, Officers responded to a domestic disturbance after the victim called an Officer advising that the suspect had returned; the suspect smashed her phone after speaking to the police. Officer Thomas VanHaecke arrived and observed the suspect grab a large butcher knife from the kitchen and hold it to the victim’s throat. Officer VanHaecke de-escalated the situation and convinced the suspect to drop the knife, release the victim, and surrender to the police.

Employee Commendation
Detective Duane Eaton, Detective Jen Grimes

Medal of Meritorious Service
Detective Steve Grisham
In July 2020, members of the Mongols motorcycle gang attacked the Hell’s Angels motorcycle gang members in the middle of an Arvada residential neighborhood. One Hell’s Angel was killed, and several were injured, including innocent civilians. Detective Grisham was the lead detective and had assistance from Detective Grimes and Detective Eaton; they spent hundreds of hours on this investigation, which resulted in 10 arrests of individuals across the country.

Medal of Distinguished Service
Officer Katie Tafoya

Medal of Valor
Sergeant Brandon Valdez
On July 30, 2021, Officers responded to a protection order violation. When Officers attempted to take the male into custody, he resisted arrest and assaulted Officers before being placed in custody. Sergeant Brandon Valdez was struck in the head and required staples for his injury. Officer Katie Tafoya was hit in the face and sustained a concussion.

Arvada Police Department Event Citation
Patrol Team 4 and Team 5

Arvada Police Department Employee Commendation
Detective Matt Archuleta, Detective Chris Steiner, Detective Kyle McElroy, CSI Mike Reid, Officer Dennis Sauter, Officer Kayla Tinsley, Officer Nam Tran, and Officer Ben Marshall

Medal of Distinguished Service
Sergeant Derek Nesladek and Officer Jordan Griffin

Medal of Valor
Lieutenant Paul Carroll, Sergeant Ken Huff, Officer Cordell Wintz, Officer Travis McKenna, Officer Sean Ames, Officer Donato Santos, and Officer Zack Tickel
Event: On January 22, 2020, Officers responded to a disturbance with a suspect holding a metal pipe. The suspect was confronted but barricaded himself inside his truck. Information was gleaned that the suspect had committed several crimes before Police contact. As Officers attempted to de-escalate the situation, the suspect exited his vehicle, brandishing a large knife, and sprinted towards Officers who used lethal force to protect themselves and other Officers.

Event Citation
Team 5

Employee Commendation
Detective Chris Steiner, Detective Matt Archuleta, Detective Kyle McElroy, and CSI Mike Reid

Medal of Meritorious Service
Officer Thomas VanHaecke, Officer Travis McKenna, and Officer Nevada Putnam

Medal of Valor
Sergeant Ken Huff, Sergeant Jeremy Auchtung, Detective Rob Hille, Officer Robert Lobosco, Officer Nam Tran, and Officer Adam Magera
Event: On February 21, 2020, Officers were dispatched to a stabbing. Officers contacted the suspect, who advised he had killed his girlfriend
and locked the deadbolt to the residence. Officers spoke to a witness and relayed information regarding the suspect’s movements inside the home. Officers entered the residence to attempt to rescue the victim. 40mm less lethal rounds were used to gain compliance, but the suspect charged at Officers wielding a knife. Officers were forced to use deadly force to stop the suspect from injuring the officers close to the suspect.

**Medal of Meritorious Service**

**Officer Austin Beck**

Event: On October 10, 2021, Officer Austin Beck responded to a gunshot wound. Upon arrival, Officer Beck encountered 10-20 people in the immediate area running around frantically. Officer Beck quickly got suspect information from the victim, who was in significant pain and had trouble speaking. Officer Beck rode to the Hospital with the victim and contacted approximately 20-30 people in the parking lot to gain further information.

**Neighborhood Services Technician Mike Travis**

Event: On November 19, 2021, Patrol officers responded to a garage fire. NST Mike Travis arrived on the scene and tore down a fence to allow easy access to the fire. NST Travis was informed by neighbors the garage was occupied. NST Travis kicked down the garage door and applied water to the fire via a garden hose before the Arvada Fire Department responded and took over the scene.

**Medal of Distinguished Service**

**Officer Ryan Freeman and Officer Daniel Garibay**

On March 29, 2021, Officer Ryan Freeman conducted a traffic stop where the driver was asked to step out of the vehicle to conduct the investigation. Officer Freeman observed a passenger he identified as a wanted felon with a violent history with law enforcement. After being unsuccessful in placing the vehicle in gear, the male attempted to flee in the car but fled on foot. Officer Freeman and Officer Daniel Garibay chased the male. They were then assaulted by the male while trying to place the male into custody. A firearm was later located in the vehicle where the male was seated.

**Arvada Police Department Event Citation**

**Team 6**

**Medal of Distinguished Service**

Lieutenant Paul Carroll, Sergeant Ryan Johnson, Officer TJ Wees, Officer Daniel Garibay, Officer Austin Asch, Officer Zeth Ramsay, Officer Matt Raley

Event: Domestic Violence call involving a barricaded suspect. On May 11, 2021 Officers responded to a domestic disturbance where a male subject had assaulted the residence’s occupants. Upon arrival, Officers discovered the male subject had barricaded himself in a back bedroom with several knives and a makeshift blow torch. The male repeatedly stated that Officers would have to shoot him. Officers deployed multiple 40mm less-lethal foam baton rounds. They spoke to the subject for approximately an hour and a half resulting in the subject’s surrender.

**Arvada Police Department Event Citation**

**Team 1**

**Medal of Valor**

Officer Mike Brumbaugh, Officer Josh Mazone, and Officer Chris Dennehy

Event: On June 2, 2021 Officers were dispatched to a carjacking where the victim was robbed at gunpoint, and the suspect fled in the stolen vehicle. Shortly after, a menacing/hit and run were reported in the 8200 block of Garland Dr. The stolen vehicle was disabled due to damage. The suspect exited the stolen vehicle and approached Jackie Zurawski’s residence where she owns a home daycare and was awaiting the children. Jackie was outside when the suspect approached her with a firearm and told her not to move. Jackie informed a parent and child who had just arrived of the danger and ensured 911 was called. Officers arrived on the scene and were forced to use lethal force after they were fired upon.
Our unique relationship with our first responder friends at Arvada Fire is second to none. We could not support this community without you!

The Ralston House was created to help the youngest victims of crime. The outstanding people in this organization put our children on the path to healing from the start.

The Jefferson Center for mental health is our partner on the front lines of the mental crisis in America.

The Family Justice Center serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, and human trafficking. They are a proven partner with APD.

Thank you, Arvada Center, for providing the Arvada Police Department with support, from supporting our events to hosting events such as “Touch A Truck” and “National Night Out.”

Unfortunately, we have received help from the Colorado Fallen Heros Foundation for two consecutive years. The Arvada Police Department will be forever grateful.

From providing the much-needed pick-me-up to sponsoring “Coffee with a Cop,” the Red Silo and Js House of Coffee shops are proven community partners.
Arvada Police Department

Contact us
720-898-6900
8101 Ralston Rd., Arvada, CO 80002
arvadapolice.org

@arvadapolice @arvadapolice @arvada_police