

Commerce City
POLICE DEPARTMENT



2020
Annual Report



Detective Curt Holland
#4704
1983 – 2020
End of Watch – October 16, 2020

Dear Commerce City,

2020 was a challenging year for our city, our community, and our organization. The COVID-19 pandemic indeed presented new challenges and new opportunities for the Commerce City Police Department. We identified new ways of delivering service to our community despite the impact of the pandemic on operations. In many ways, our service delivery became more streamlined.

We closed our business offices for a time, stopped performing some non-essential services, significantly reduced person and vehicle stops, and took most reports over the phone to minimize person-to-person contact and limit exposure to residents and staff. Many of the significant statistical increases in 2020 were due to factors related directly to the pandemic. The department well ran below our authorized strength levels, and our employees were also subject to illness, leave, and general turnover.

In addition, 2020 marked the first time a Commerce City Police Officer was killed in the line of duty since the department was established in 1952. We grieved together with our community and continue to celebrate the memory of fallen Detective Curt Holland. Despite the tragic loss, our employees continued to serve and serve well.

Our staff has shown incredible resilience during these challenging times. They worked tirelessly every day, knowing that they would also be exposed to a deadly virus in addition to the inherent risks of being in law enforcement. They adapted, improvised, and overcame, just as so many of our residents found themselves doing.

As you review this report, I hope it provides an understanding of how we navigated the pandemic and continued to serve the community. I hope we will continue to grow and improve our community partnerships in the future.



Kind regards,

Clint Nichols

Clint Nichols

Chief of Police

Commerce City Police Department



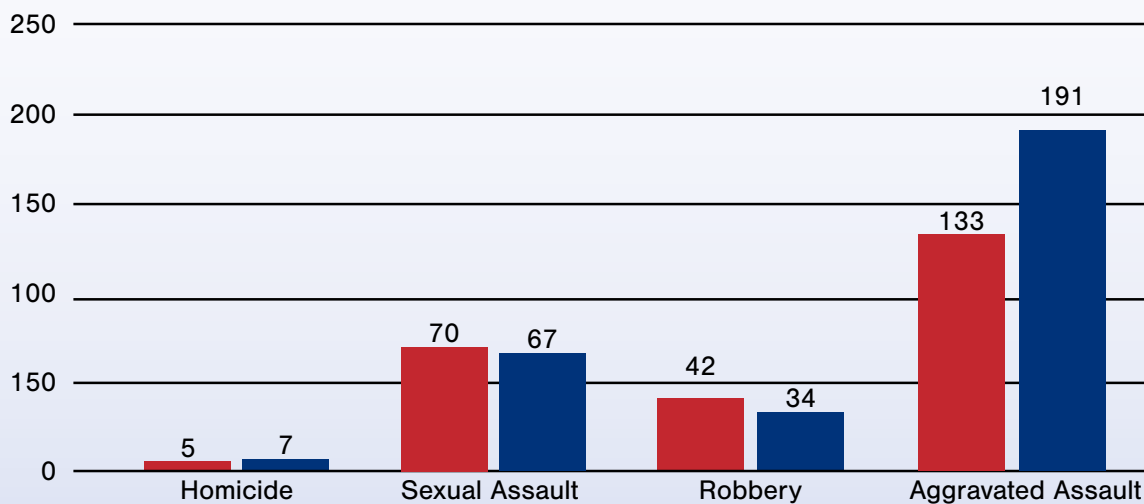
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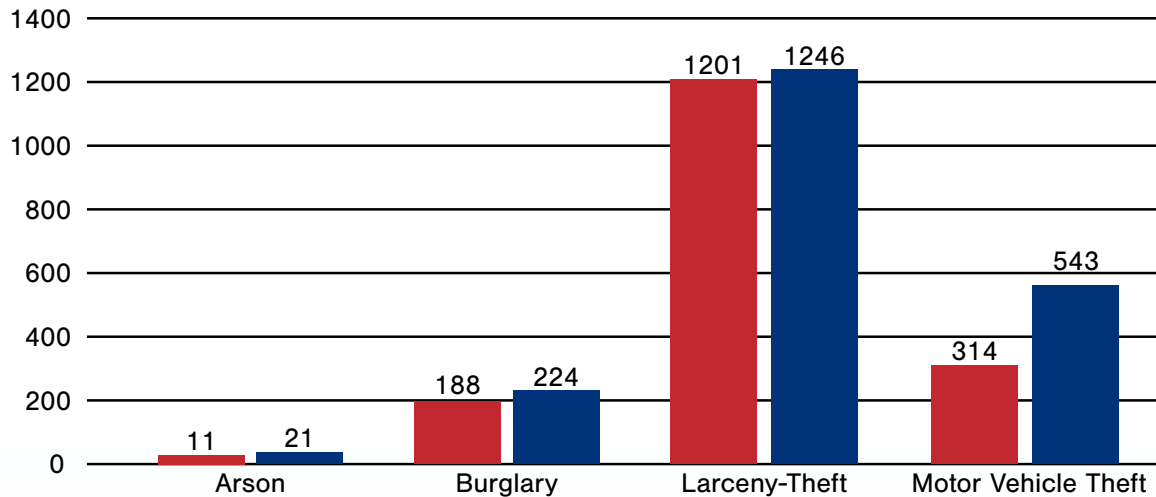
CRIME DATA – 2019-2020 COMPARISON

Data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

	2019	2020	% Change
Homicide	5	7	40%
Sexual Assault	70	67	-4%
Robbery	42	34	-19%
Aggravated Assault	133	191	44%
Arson	11	21	91%
Burglary	188	224	19%
Larceny-Theft	1201	1246	4%
Motor Vehicle Theft	314	543	73%

CCPD Violent Crime Comparison 2019/2020

CCPD Property Crime Comparison 2019/2020



PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division provides uniformed police services to the community in response to emergency, non-emergency, and quality of life concerns. The division comprises the Patrol Unit, Youth Services Unit, Traffic Unit, and Community Services Unit. We also have several specialized units, including Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Bike Patrol, Crash Reconstruction Team (CRT), and Field Training Officers.

Providing police services during a global pandemic in 2020 presented several unique challenges, including ensuring the safety of our community while protecting our staff. The exceptional people of the

Police Department demonstrated courage, creativity, and excellence while overcoming these challenges to provide service to the community.

The Operations Division initiated several responses to crime and problem-solving. We created a "National Neighborhood Watch" program and promoted crime prevention campaigns about auto theft, package theft, safe driving behavior, and others throughout the year. We assisted local food banks with our "Cram the Cruiser" food drive, provided Thanksgiving meals for several families, and brightened the holidays for numerous children with our "Shop with a Cop" program.

2020 PATROL OPERATIONS SIGNIFICANT DATA POINTS

- Calls for Service **54,488**
- Traffic Stops **6,999**
- Parking Violations **3,633**
- Incident Reports Completed **9,908**
- Traffic Accidents Investigated **1,658**
 - Serious Injury Accidents **11**
 - Fatal Accidents **7**
- SWAT Operations **35**
- Animal Calls for Service **1,228**

We remained committed to our community programs and will continue to expand our efforts in 2021.

The Traffic Unit is highly active in traffic engagement and education to promote traffic safety around the city. The team is highly trained in accident reconstruction and conducts extensive investigations of severe and fatal accidents with the assistance of the

CRT. The Commerce City/Brighton SWAT team, a cooperative unit with the Brighton Police Department, conducted 35 tactical operations in 2020. Although the Youth Services Unit was reassigned to patrol duties during the pandemic, these officers maintained contact with the school districts and remained involved with the youth in our community.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

INVESTIGATIONS

The mission of the Investigations Bureau is to thoroughly and impartially investigate felony crimes, or misdemeanor crimes of particular sensitivity, occurring in or with significant ties to the City of Commerce City.

The Investigations Bureau is currently funded to staff one commander, two sergeants, two investigative technicians, three crime scene investigators, 18 full-time detectives, and two part-time detectives. Most of this staff is assigned to CCPD headquarters, while we also have staff assigned to the North Metro Drug Task Force, the FBI/Safe Streets Taskforce, and we are the proud host of

the Commerce City/Brighton Sexual Assault Task Force. The Investigations Bureau is also an active partner in the 17th Judicial District Critical Incident team, which investigates officer-involved shootings throughout the county. The general investigations team is generally divided into crimes against people, crimes against property, financial crimes, and domestic violence crimes.

2020 was a challenging year for the investigations bureau, between the painful loss of Detective Curt Holland and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Investigations Bureau adjusted responses to crime scenes and other high-risk environments (i.e.,



Figure 1: Year over Year Comparison in Investigations case load

hospitals and nursing homes) and provided our staff with flexible schedules and personal protective equipment. The bureau utilized technology and great regional partnerships to maintain high-quality investigative services to our residents.

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

The Victim Services Unit (VSU) is a joint cooperative unit shared between the Brighton and the Commerce City Police Departments. The unit is comprised of a victim services manager, one lead victim advocate specialist, five victim advocate specialists, and seven victim advocate volunteers.

The VSU opened 1,547 cases in Commerce City in 2020, serving 2,850 victims and witnesses of crime and personal tragedy, and providing 878 on-scene responses. The Brighton and Commerce City VSU combined for a total of 2,513 new cases;

Like most of Colorado and much of the nation, Commerce City experienced a significant increase in felony crimes (specifically violent crime) in 2020. Investigative staff saw a 70% increase in assigned cases from 2019 to 2020.

4,502 victims and witnesses served, and 1,398 on-scene responses.

2020 was full of unexpected hurdles to providing services during the pandemic. We adapted our responses in the interests of safety while still meeting the needs of all victims, witnesses, and those who had experienced a personal tragedy. The VSU saw a 26% increase in the number of cases opened and a 38% increase in the number of victims and witnesses served in 2020. While this was tremendously challenging for everyone in the unit, staff handled tasks with tenacity and commitment to our community.

POLICE RECORDS UNIT

The Commerce City Police Records Unit consists of a supervisor, two lead police records technicians, five police service technicians, and a digital records technician (who handles all body camera requests and is responsible for all redactions and BWC footage release under the Colorado Open Records Act). Records Technicians perform duties including: assisting the public with report requests, handling red light camera questions, and helping officers with daily requests.

In 2020, the Records Unit changed our processes and implemented a paperless approach to reduce the amount of paper used. Records also now accepts credit card payments to process requests faster and improve customer service.

2020 RECORDS UNIT SIGNIFICANT DATA POINTS

- Body Camera and Photo Requests Processed

1,932

- Police Report Requests Processed

4456



PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE UNIT

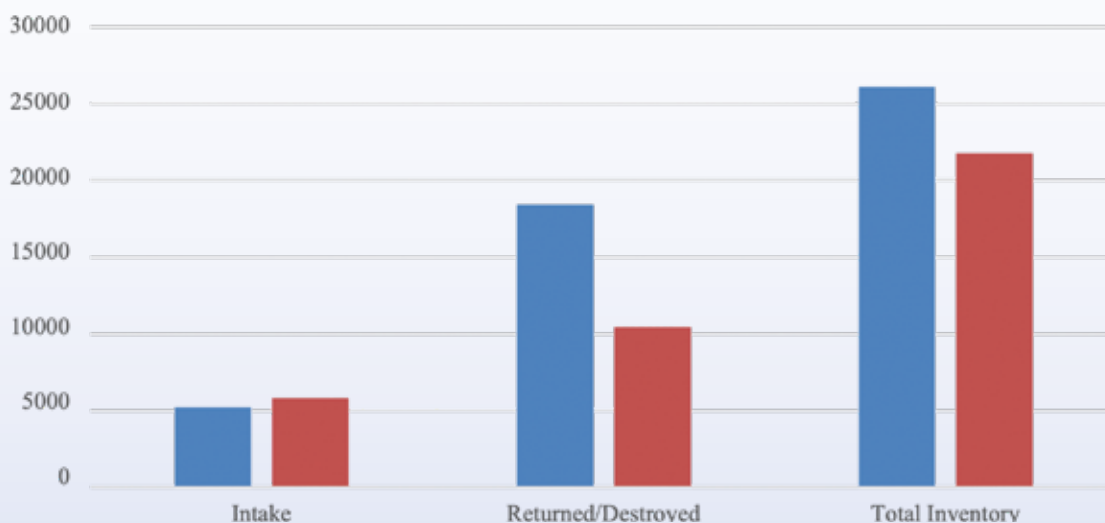
The Property and Evidence Unit strives to maintain property and evidence brought into custody at the Commerce City Police Department in the same condition as received, preserve the integrity of evidence being held in guardianship, and track an accurate and detailed chain of custody. Property and Evidence Technicians protect and safeguard all property and evidence under their control while ensuring a high level of integrity for the organization. The unit garners public trust by providing that evidence is available for court proceedings and prosecution, returned to its rightful owner, or otherwise disposed of in a prompt, efficient, and legal manner.

A July 2020 unit audit of 3,010 items of evidence revealed an excellent error rate of just 0.002%. In 2020, the unit updated, amended, and expanded the CCPD

Property Evidence Policy to align with current industry standards, implemented a new method of storing all case evidence together (with large or cumbersome items stored separately), and organized all in-custody evidence by case number to locate and manage inventory more easily.

The unit also completed a significant purge of aged case evidence, restructured all storage locations in the property room to create additional space, and cleaned storage areas. Property and Evidence aims to continue maintaining a 100% purge rate to ensure that space will be available to meet the agency's future needs. The unit also enhanced technical training material for officers by creating QR Codes for training videos on the most common items booked into the unit.

2020 PROPERTY/EVIDENCE SIGNIFICANT DATA POINTS



TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT UNIT

The CCPD Training and Recruitment Unit identifies and recruits the most qualified people to serve the Commerce City community in sworn and professional staff positions. The unit oversees all departmental job processes, including the recruitment process from job announcement to the final job offer. Training and Recruitment works closely with other departments in the city and outside resources to ensure a fair, balanced, and comprehensive recruitment process.

The Training and Recruitment Unit maintains well-established relationships with several Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) approved basic police academies in the Denver Metropolitan area. New non-certified recruits attend these academies to receive over 550 hours of training to become certified police officers. Once new officers complete a POST training academy, they attend a six-week in-house academy with CCPD to familiarize themselves with department operations. Recruits then spend an additional 12 weeks in a Field Training Officer program, where they work with a trained senior officer to utilize all the skills they have learned to perform the duties of a police officer.

The Training and Recruitment Unit provides the best possible Recruit training for new officers, In- service training for all sworn

2020 TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT SIGNIFICANT DATA POINTS

2020 Police Officer Recruitment

		Hired
Application Received	504	
Non-Certified Applicants	398	9
Certified Applicants	106	1
Total		10

2020 Professional Staff/Non-Sworn Recruitment

		Hired
Application Received	582	
Administrative Supervisor	26	1
Administrative Specialist II	42	2
Investigative Technician	154	0
Police Service Technician	220	2
Community Service Officer	69	0
Background Investigator	71	5
Total		10

officers, Community Service / Animal Control Officers, and all non-sworn police personnel from within the department. The Training and Recruitment Unit accomplishes this commitment by utilizing Subject Matter Experts from within the department in all training disciplines.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

The Professional Standards Unit (PSU) accepts, investigates, and manages alleged misconduct complaints by officers of the Commerce City Police Department objectively and impartially to ensure justice and fairness towards department employees and Commerce City residents.

The goal of the PSU is to ensure professional conduct by all department employees and a high level of integrity for the department.

In 2020, the PSU sent 196 informational and training items to department members to facilitate learning opportunities and increase professionalism.

CCPD cares about the level of service our employees provide to the community. When community members feel they have been treated unprofessionally or observe conduct that requires an explanation, they can voice concerns to the department for review.

Police supervisors are available to discuss concerns and explain an officer's actions in each situation. All complaints (alleged or suspected, signed or anonymous) against the department or its employees are investigated by the PSU or a department supervisor.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

Community members can report complaints verbally or in writing; by name or anonymously; by telephone, mail, or directly to any CCPD employee, the Professional Standards Unit, or the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police will decide, if warranted, to initiate a formal internal affairs investigation.

If a complaint warrants a formal investigation, the PSU notifies the complainant of the final disposition of the allegation via registered mail upon completion of the investigation. Not all complaints or questions about service delivery result in personnel investigations. Complaints or questions about service can be initiated in several ways:

- By a community member - classified as a citizen inquiry
- By a Police supervisor - classified as a supervisor inquiry
- By an officer against another officer regarding on or off duty conduct

- By command after an incident review
- By the Chief of Police

There are six Personnel Complaint dispositions:

Unfounded - The investigation discloses that the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve department members. Complaints determined to be frivolous will fall within the classification of unfounded.

Exonerated - The investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred but the action was justified, lawful, and/or proper.

Not Sustained - The investigation discloses insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.

Sustained - The investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish the act occurred and the act constituted misconduct.

Resignation/Retirement in Lieu of Termination - The investigation is incomplete because the accused employee resigned or retired before completing the investigation or recommended discipline.

Misconduct Not Based on Complaint - Misconduct occurred, but was not part of the original complaint.

2020 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SIGNIFICANT DATA POINTS

	2019	2020	% Change
Personnel Investigation	9	20	122%
Citizen Inquiries	60	53	-12%
Use of Force	29	49	69%
Vehicle Accidents	30	28	-7%
Vehicle Pursuits	1	5	400%
Firerarm Discharges	0	3	NA
Employee Injuries	25	39	56%
Damaged property	33	51	55%
Self Inflicted Injuries	3	9	200%
Administrative Investigations	0	2	NA

COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Detective Curt Holland
(awarded posthumously)

MEDAL OF VALOR

Officer Andrew Hadley
Officer Andrew Saracino
Officer Joseph Neville
Officer Oscar Morales
Sergeant Talon Darling

MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

Officer Brittany Buckner
Kim Messina
Officer Miguel Castellanos
Sergeant Monce Portillo

LIFE-SAVING AWARD

Officer John Krupa
Sergeant Nicholas Arias
Officer Sergio Rosales
Sergeant Thomas Boskovich

CHIEF'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Officer Andrew Cross
Officer Andrew Saracino
Officer Wade Wedel

CITIZEN'S CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Christopher Thayer
Lyric Gubser

CHIEF'S UNIT CITATION

Technician Alison Schroeder
Officer Andrew Cross
Officer Andrew Saracino
Officer Andrew Sivetts
Officer Arnold Aguilar
CSI Benjamin Birdsell
Officer Bradley Keadle
Detective Brandi Brunner
Officer Brandon Torres
Officer Brendan Dylla
Detective Brian Govi
Sergeant Bryan Mestas
Officer Cale Petersen
Christina Young
Officer Christopher Castillo
Detective Cody Nau
Detective Coni Crook
Detective Curt Holland
Sergeant Damian Thompson
Sergeant Daniel McCoy
Sergeant Dave Bores
Officer David Adams
Officer Dax Nance
CSI Dennis Davenport
Commander Dennis Flynn
Officer Devin Jarvis
Officer Don Calvano
CSI Dory Weidert
Technician Elizabeth Couture
Officer James Zamora
Officer Jeffrey Janosko
Detective Jolene Krebs

Officer Joshua Moody
Detective Justin Anderson
Executive Administration
Supervisor Kiana Jodell
Officer Krista Golly
Officer Kyle Swing
Detective Mark Faulhaber
Detective Mark Michieli
Sergeant Meagan Cordova
Detective Micah Acker
Officer Michael Gray
Detective Michael Kim
Officer Michael Rahn
Officer Miguel Castellanos
Detective Mike Vasquez
Detective Nicholas Archuleta
Detective Nicholas Baez
Officer Nicole Houghland
Detective Patrick Ness
Detective Rice Val
Sergeant Richard Anderson
Officer Richard Irwin
Detective Richard Rodriguez
Officer Ricky Evans
Sergeant Rudy Underwood
Officer Ryan O'Hern
Officer Sergio Rosales
Officer Silvia Sanabria-Javier
Sergeant Thomas Boskovich
Sergeant Travis Fender
Sergeant Tyler Ahlem
Officer Wade Wedel
Sergeant William Schoepflin

The Commerce City Police Department is committed to displaying and holding ourselves accountable to our five core values every day in every interaction:

TRUST

A firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

RESPECT

Due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of others.

EXCELLENCE

The quality of being outstanding or extremely good.

LEADERSHIP

A process of influence which maximizes the effort of others.

RESTRAINT

Self control over our impulses and emotions.

EXECUTIVE STAFF



Chief of Police
Clint Nichols



Deputy Chief
Dennis Moon



Deputy Chief
Greg Sadar



Commander
Harold Chatman



Emergency
Manager
Kirk Dominic



Executive
Admin Supervisor
Kiana Jodell

COMMAND STAFF



Commander
Charlie Schoepflin



Commander
Rob McCoy



Commander
Dennis Flynn



Commander
Kendall Grove



Interim Commander
Dave Mowery

Contact Commerce City Police Department

Emergency: Dial 911

Non-Emergency Dispatch: 303-288-1535

Police Records/General Information: 303-287-2844

Traffic Hotline: 303-727-3939

Online: c3gov.com/police



Commerce City Police Department
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Commerce City, CO 80022