

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-27

A BILL

FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ADDING SECTION 2-68 OF THE CITY CODE TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, the City entered into a Consent Decree with the Colorado Attorney General's Office in 2021 to address issues identified in a patterns and practice investigation authorized by C.R.S. § 24-31-113; and

WHEREAS, the City engaged an independent consent decree monitor, IntegrAssure, to oversee the Consent Decree and assist the City with meeting the mandates of the Decree; and

WHEREAS, many mandates of the Consent Decree are now in substantial compliance, and the City seeks to establish an independent public safety oversight office to continue this function after the conclusion of IntegrAssure's engagement and completion of all remaining mandates; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Public Safety Accountability's mission will be the furtherance of the reforms achieved under the Consent Decree and culture of continuous improvement of the City's public safety departments; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Public Safety Accountability will conduct proactive and ongoing community outreach across Aurora, with particular focus on highly impacted communities, to better understand and respond to the diverse needs, and experiences

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. The City Code of the City of Aurora, Colorado, is hereby amended by adding Section 2-68 which section reads as follows:

"Sec. 2-68. Office of Public Safety Accountability.

(a) *Organizational independence.* The office of public safety accountability (hereinafter "PSA"), overseen by the manager of public safety accountability (hereinafter "manager"), is an independent function reporting administratively to the city manager and functionally to the public safety policy committee. The manager has the authority to discuss significant and sensitive matters with city council members, including concerns with the interference of duties, without city management present.

(b) *Powers and duties; scope of review.* The manager shall have the authority to conduct oversight and review of all public safety functions including all council appointees, offices, boards, activities, agencies, and programs. This includes, but is not limited to, police, fire, 911, and detention.

(c) *Oversight methodology.* PSA shall conduct ongoing review, monitoring, and participation in public safety processes, policies, and performance reporting. This includes, but is not limited to, use of force reviews, policy development, and department operations and performance meetings.

(d) *Critical Incidents.* Any city public safety agency that has a critical incident, defined as an incident resulting in death or serious bodily injury, shall notify PSA within thirty minutes of the incident. The manager or designated staff shall report to the site of the critical incident and have access to pertinent information and personnel involved in the incident. The manager shall have access to monitor any investigations or reviews under the purview of the city associated with critical incidents. The manager shall issue a report of findings contemporaneous with the release of other city investigations or reviews.

(e) *Family Communication and Transparency.* PSA shall assign a liaison to the family of any individual killed or injured in any critical incident within forty-eight hours of the incident. The liaison shall be the primary point of contact for the family. The liaison shall have training in trauma informed response and training in investigative processes as required under state law. The liaison is responsible for informing the family of the investigative processes required under state law. The liaison shall reach out to the investigating agency and judicial district attorney and request updates for the family at least every thirty (30) days and upon reasonable requests by the family. The liaison shall coordinate with the police department to ensure the family has access to viewing all body worn camera footage and other evidence as required by state law.

(f) *Funding.* Sufficient funds shall be proposed and approved to fulfill the responsibilities specified herein in accordance with the city policies and procedures. Sufficient resources shall be available to the manager of PSA and staff to ensure appropriate professional development, continuing professional education, and compliance with applicable professional certification requirements. The city council must approve any budget or resource reductions that impact the office of PSA's ability to fulfill its responsibilities.

(g) *Manager hiring and evaluation.* The city manager shall seek input from the city council Public Safety policy committee when hiring and removing the manager and evaluating the manager's performance, including remuneration. The manager shall be selected based on experience and education suitable for the professional performance of civilian oversight of law enforcement.

(h) *Appointment of employees.* The manager shall have the power to appoint, employ, and remove employees as deemed necessary to administrate the office's affairs and to prescribe their duties, scope of authority, and qualifications in accordance with all city policies, rules, and regulations.

(i) *Annual review plan.* The manager shall coordinate with the city manager in creating an annual review plan. The manager shall coordinate with the city auditor to coordinate each of their respective annual plans to identify areas of cooperation and interest. The manager shall annually present the proposed plan to the city council public safety policy committee for their review by the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year. The annual review plan should include the proposed reviews and identify potential objectives, the general nature of the reviews, and any special projects. The manager of PSA shall have final authority to select the reviews planned. The manager may modify the annual review plan as necessary during the fiscal year and will notify the city manager and the city council public safety policy committee of such modifications.

(j) *Access to employees, records, and property.* All officers and employees of Aurora shall provide to PSA unrestricted access to employees, information, records (including electronic data), body worn camera videos, property, equipment, and facilities required for the office to conduct reviews and oversight. If such officers or employees fail to produce access and/or information, the manager shall notify the city manager or applicable council appointee unless there is a concern about the loss or destruction of records. The manager then has the authority to initiate a search to obtain the needed information from any such official or employee, outside contractor, or subcontractor, except as governed by Colorado law. Additionally, during a review or related oversight duties, city officers and employees shall fully cooperate and fully disclose all known information to PSA.

(k) *Review reports.* Each annual review conducted in accordance with subsection (i) or subsection (d) will result in a report, electronically and publicly available, in accordance with state or federal law. A final draft of the review report will be shared with the reviewed program and the department director or chief for their review and to obtain management responses. The manager shall communicate the final results to city management, the city council public safety policy committee and the public. Information legally protected by state or federal law will be withheld from public release in accordance with applicable open records laws.

(l) *Annual reports.* The manager shall submit an annual report to the city council public safety policy committee indicating reviews completed, reports on internal performance measures, and significant issues management has not fully addressed.

(m) *Report on irregularities.* If the manager becomes aware of abuse or illegal acts or indications of such acts that could affect the city, the manager shall report the irregularities to the city manager, the city council public safety policy committee, or city attorney. In the

case that the city manager or a council appointee is believed to be a party to abuse or illegal acts, the manager shall report the acts directly to the city council.

(n) *Complaints and Commendations.* PSA shall take complaints against city employees of public safety agencies. The complaints shall be relayed to the appropriate department for action in accordance with that department's policies and procedures. PSA shall have the ability to monitor the investigative process to include providing feedback to the department on the process. PSA shall raise any concerns or issues associated with the investigative process with the appropriate department director or chief. PSA may facilitate communication between the complaining party and the appropriate department as needed.

(o) *Community Engagement.* PSA shall lead at least two community listening sessions yearly and be a liaison between community stakeholders, public safety departments, and city management."

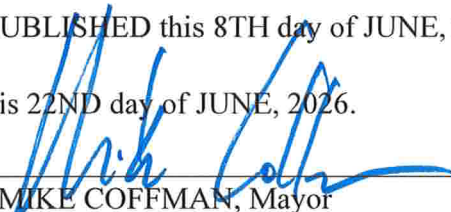
Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 5-5 of the Charter of the City of Aurora, Colorado, the second publication of this Ordinance shall be by reference, utilizing the ordinance title. Copies of this Ordinance are available at the Office of the City Clerk.

Section 5. Repealer. All orders, resolutions, or ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance or with any of the documents hereby approved, are hereby repealed only to the extent of such conflict. This repealer shall not be construed as reviving any resolution, ordinance, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this 8TH day of JUNE, 2026.

PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this 22ND day of JUNE, 2026.


MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:


KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: Megan Platt
(MEGAN PLATT, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY)