



June 19, 2014

Dear Members of the Community:

Over the past year, there has been a great deal of discussion about police response times in Denver, including at today's Audit Committee Meeting, largely because they were increasing prior to 2014.

Response times are important across the nation, and they are something I have monitored closely during my career as Chief of Police with four different agencies.

However, response times are just one of the tools smart police departments use to address and prevent crime, which is the primary focus of the Denver Police Department.

That is why we employ a larger crime prevention strategy focused on *proactively* eliminating crime before it requires a *reactive* call for service or a law enforcement response.

To support this larger strategy, my team and I have worked diligently over the past two years to institute foundational changes throughout the Department. Specifically, we have:

- Reassigned sworn officers that were performing duties that did not require a badge or a gun, to patrol.
- Hired civilian report writers to take reports that do not require a law enforcement officer.
- Redrew district boundaries to more efficiently allot resources based on geography, calls for service, and crime data – everything that drives police services.
- Implemented “Team Policing” to ensure officers are subject matter experts in the neighborhoods they patrol as it relates to crime.
- Developed sophisticated metrics based on demand for service, types of calls, and community policing to measure performance and appropriately allocate resources.

As these foundational changes and our crime prevention strategy continue to take hold, I am confident Denver will see a consistent reduction in response times related to fewer calls for service and lower crime rates.

In fact, since we began making sweeping changes in 2012, our metrics support these management changes are working. Coupled with taxpayers' support of Measure 2A, we are seeing:

- A downward trend in response times which we expect will continue to improve as even more officers graduate from the Police Academy and are placed on the streets.
- A 5% decrease in crime/reported offenses.
- A 10% decrease in citizen calls for police service.
- An 81% increase in officer productivity.
- An 11% increase in case clearance (from 69% to 80%).

Additionally, since Measure 2A was passed, over 200 police recruits will have entered and/or graduated from the Denver Police Academy by the end of 2014.

Despite these positive outcomes I am not satisfied, and I commit to the community that I will continue to look for ways to improve our crime prevention efforts by identifying technology improvements we can leverage; expanding opportunities for civilianization to further increase patrol strength; and to stay apprised of innovative practices across the nation that can be used to improve crime prevention efforts.

I care deeply about this community and its citizens, and continue to welcome your feedback about the Denver Police Department and its larger crime prevention strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert C. White
Chief of Police