

Auraria Higher Education Center

Colorado Capital Development Committee

Colleen Walker, Chief Executive Officer

Carl Meese, Deputy Chief of Planning and Sustainability

Jason Mollendor, Chief of Police



AURARIA
CAMPUS

December 13, 2024



THANK YOU

- **Support for Auraria**
- **Support for Phase 1
Campus Safety Center**

We Fly 3 Flags Proudly



Auraria Campus



AURARIA CAMPUS

SAFETY

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT



- Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and serving **43,000** students, faculty and staff
- Auraria Campus safety is our #1 collective priority
 - Crime in Denver increased by **21%** over 5 years
 - Crime risk is **~3x** the level of other higher education campuses
 - **90%** of crime on Auraria Campus is a result of external influences
- External influences unique to the Auraria Campus:
 - Tri-institutional campus in an urban setting
 - Two RTD Light Rail Stations on campus, along with a bus terminus
 - Proximity to Downtown Denver and Sports & Entertainment Arenas



RISING CRIME TRENDS

Crime Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Violent Crime	1868	2101	2146	2403	2493
sexual-assault	331	366	249	308	314
robbery	460	480	453	539	477
murder	17	20	26	21	30
aggravated-assault	1060	1235	1418	1535	1672
Property Crime	8403	9422	11513	13487	13869
theft-from-motor-vehicle	2224	2497	3474	4374	4576
larceny	3503	4124	3921	3898	3683
burglary	1252	1332	1948	1869	1682
auto-theft	1386	1433	2120	3268	3851
arson	38	36	50	78	77
Other Crimes	12895	12645	11098	10710	11697
white-collar-crime	347	364	282	268	292
public-disorder	3082	3153	3989	4102	4286
other-crimes-against-persons	1565	1968	1645	1621	1788
drug-alcohol	3133	2491	1170	1352	2000
all-other-crimes	4768	4669	4012	3367	3331
Total	23166	24168	24757	26600	28059

*District 1 & 6 crime data

RISING CRIME TRENDS

MAX-3 HEAT MAP



SITE NAME: AURARIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER
ADDRESS: 1068 9TH STREET PARK, DENVER, CO 80204

2023 NATIONAL CRIME RISK SCORES

THIS SITE'S CAP INDEX® SCORE:

665

THE CRIME RISK AT THIS SITE IS 6.65
 TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 100.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS 534

Homicide 420

Rape 561

Robbery 705

Aggravated Assault 456

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY 892

Burglary 936

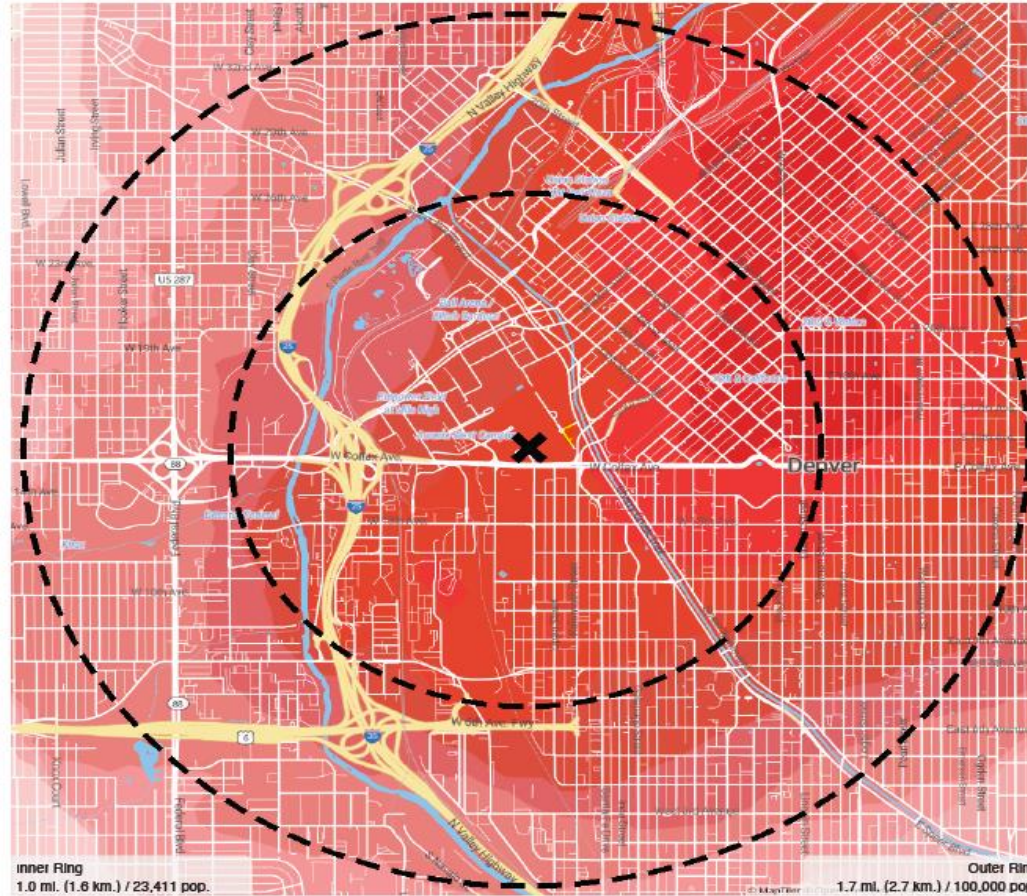
Larceny 909

Motor Vehicle Theft 888

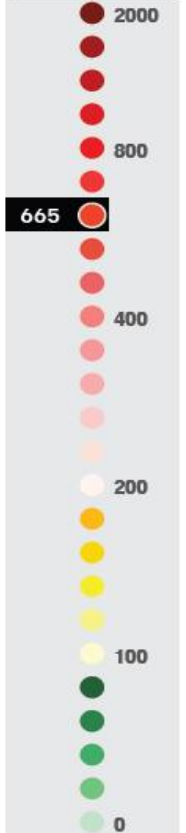
SUPPLEMENTAL SCORES

Simple Assault 545

Vandalism 705



CAP SCORE SCALE



Average Higher Education Score: 251

Safety Matters to Students

Auraria Campus students were asked to rank their top factors when choosing a college or university.

Campus safety ranks third highest.



1. **Affordable tuition**
(59% extremely important)
2. **Availability of a desired program**
(58% extremely important)
3. **Campus safety**
(53% extremely important)

ACPD COMPARISONS



Agency	Total Sworn	Student Pop.	Total Pop.	Officer to Student Ratio	Calls For Service 2022	Calls For Service per Officer	Sq ft Police Department
CU Boulder	45	37,000	7000 Residents	1.21 per 1000	NA	NA	31,985
UCCS	20	12,000	1800 Residents	1.7 per 1000	1072	53.6	14,768
CSU	36	33,400	6000 Residents	1.1 per 1000	3218	89.4	16,000
CU Anschutz	31	4,500	0 Residents	6.9 per 1000	9066	292.5	26,000
Auraria Campus	31	38,000	1159 Residents	.9 Per 1000	16585	535.0	6,500





Existing Auraria Campus Police Dept

Current Home of the Auraria Campus Police Department

- The Administrative building opened in 1999
- ACPD moved in shortly after as an interim solution
- There have been no major updates to the space since ACPD moved in
- Lack of adequate airflow in the retrofitted space
- The current space is **6,500 SF** for a 50-person department
 - 31 Peace Officers
 - 7 Dispatchers
 - 1 Records Manager
 - 1 Admin Assistant
 - 10 Neighborhood Community Officers





Existing Auraria **Campus Police Dept**

Entry/Exit and Egress

- The ACPD Dispatch Center is visible from the common areas
- There are only two means of egress from the space
- Access is through a shared lobby with students, faculty, and staff
- People requiring assistance, victims, and individuals in custody all share the same entrance and exit

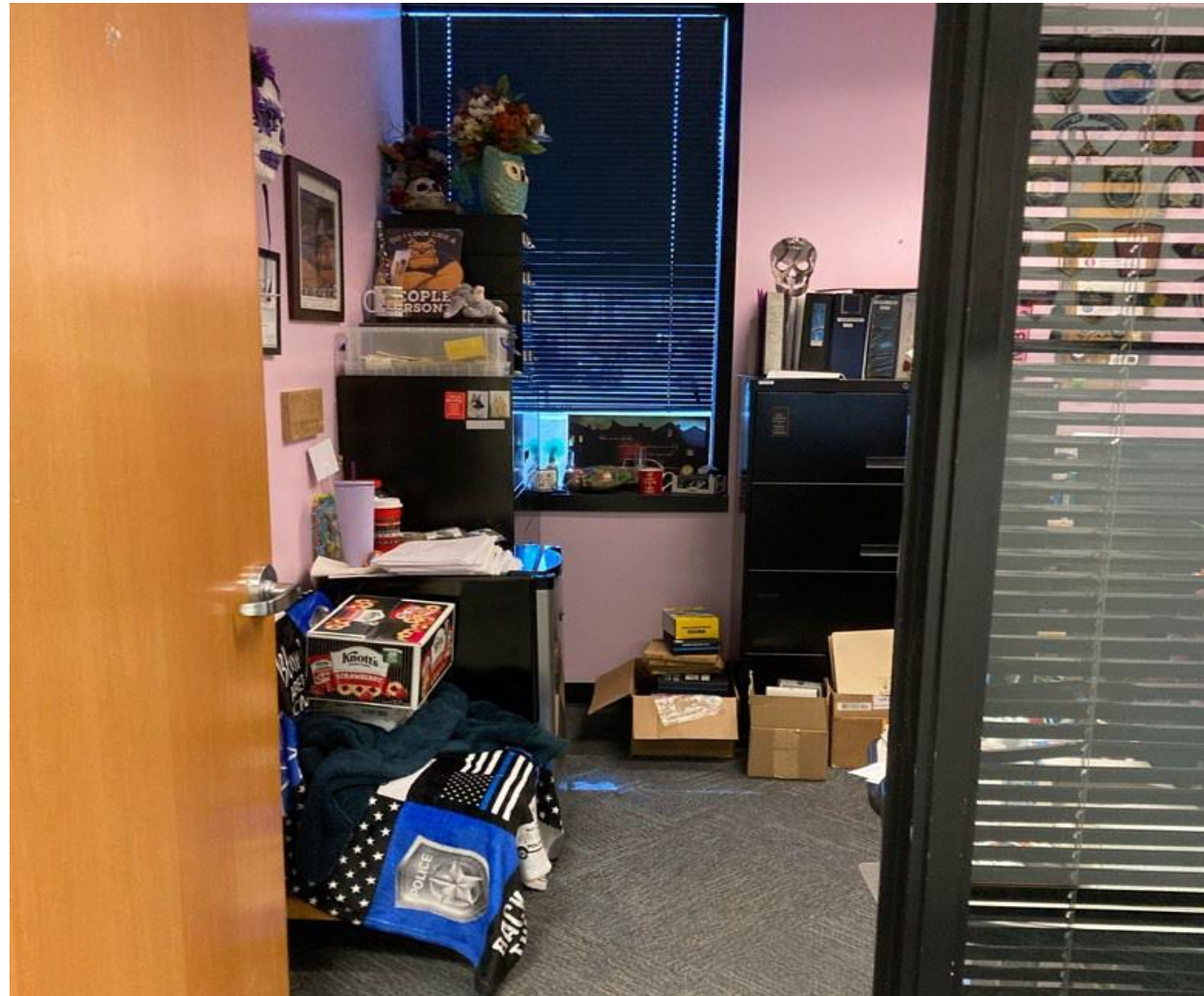




Existing Auraria **Campus Police Dept**

Inadequate space to provide modern safety practices

- No space to take a report or interview
- The Communication Center is inadequately sized
- Limited desk space for paperwork
- Infrastructure doesn't support modern technology
- Lack of space for private phone calls, mentoring, coaching, or counseling
- Only two short-term holding rooms without internal restrooms





Existing Auraria **Campus Police Dept**

Lack of space

- Evidence processing & storage is not acceptable
- File & equipment storage units are in hallways
- Armory storage is inadequately sized and unventilated
- No space for engagement with community
- Lack of training & education space
- ACPD must utilize offsite locations for training

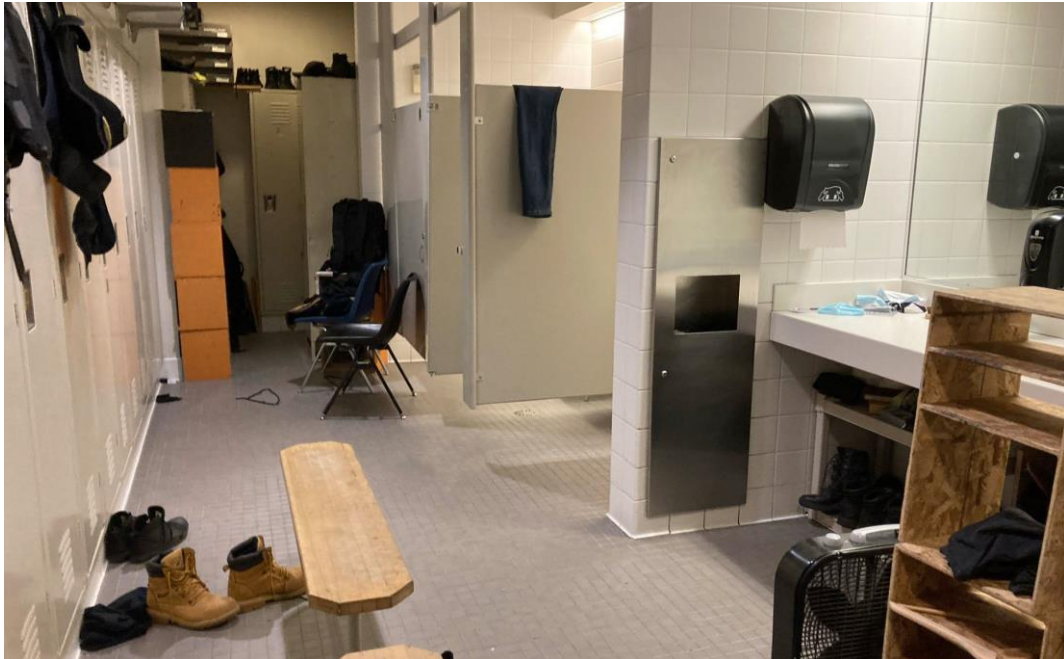




Existing Auraria **Campus Police Dept**

Locker rooms and lavatories

- Locker rooms and lavatories are severely undersized and shared by officers, visitors/staff, and individuals in custody
- Lack of space to store officer's uniform, which includes 30 lbs. of gear, worn daily
- The showers, one per locker room, are inoperable and are now used for storage
- There is inadequate access to running water, except for the small locker rooms; there is one sink serving the entire department for other needs
- There is an inadequate number of lavatories within each locker room
 - Men's Room: 2 stalls for 27 Officers/NCOs
 - Women's Room: 2 stalls for 8 Officers/NCOs



ACPD CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



Although the existing police space does not foster student engagement opportunities, the ACPD goes out on the campus to meet the community

For the 22-23 academic year, the Auraria Campus Police Department hosted **17 events** on campus that included:

- **5,687** total attendees
- Finals Week Petting Zoo
 - **1,573** attendees
- BBQ with a Badge
 - **670** attendees
- Cocoa with Cops
 - **1,504** attendees



AURARIA CAMPUS SAFETY CENTER PROGRAM PLAN ENGAGEMENT



ACPD Annual Report | 2021-2022 Community Engagement

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Influenced Public Safety Project

Last year we hired a consultant, Lisa Noel Groves, to engage with the community, learn about their public safety concerns, and provide recommendations to ACPD and the campus. Over the course of five months, Lisa engaged with nearly two thousand people and received over 600 survey responses. Of those who completed the survey, on a scale from 1-to-100, the average score of how safe people felt on campus was 65. Discussions and survey participants provided insight into how the Auraria Campus community feels about their safety. The top concerns included:

- Situational Awareness – being alert in the environment with access to resources as needed.
- Improved Lighting – the interior buildings on campus need more lighting as do some of the parking lots.
- Mental Abuse Center and Integrated Care and Conduct Center due to increased needs of the surrounding unhoused community.
- Lisa gave us a Community Influenced Public Safety Report in May 2022. We have already begun addressing these concerns and incorporating her recommendations into future plans for ACPD and the campus.



By The Numbers:

1845 INDIVIDUAL/GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS	
563 TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES	520 CU DENVER PEOPLE ENGAGED
460 MSU PEOPLE ENGAGED	530 CCD PEOPLE ENGAGED

12



PROPOSED ACPD PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

Site, Structural, and Construction Requirements of the Proposed ACPD Public Safety Center Include:

- Enhanced structural code and load-bearing requirements
- Tornado-proof
- Location must be out of the 500-year floodplain
- Location must be central and have two vehicular access points
- Sites 1 and 2 are the two preferred sites to be explored



CAMPUS SITE PLAN

- 1 East Holly
- 2 Modulars
- 3 West Holly
- 4 Juniper
- 5 Spruce
- 6 Elm
- 7 Maple

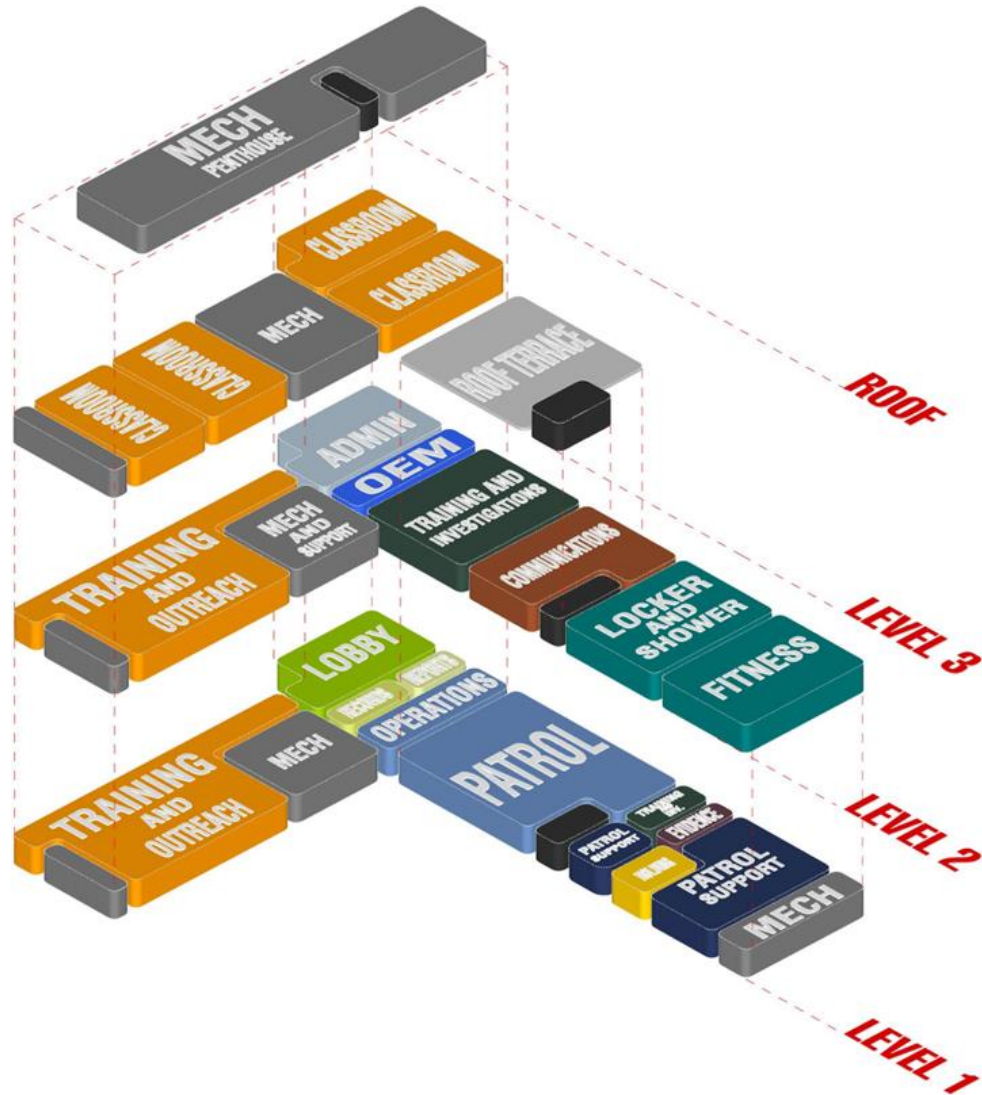
Site 3 was not explored further due to constraints on creating two access points for police vehicles.

Sites 4 and 7 were not explored further due to distance from center of campus and existing utilities.

Sites 5 and 6 were not explored due to being located within the 500 year flood plain.

■ 500 YR FLOOD PLAIN
■ 100 YR FLOOD PLAIN

PROPOSED ACPD PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER



- 33,500 SF: 3-Stories
- 24-Hour Computer Lab and Student Lounge
- Co-Responder Program to provide mental health services
- Class Labs for all three institution's Criminal Justice Programs
- Administrative, processing, and support space for ACPD
- Centralized campus ride share location with drop-off
- State-wide resource for the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)
- Student support and community services programed adjacent to main entry lobby and distributed on all three levels



IN SUMMARY- ACPD CAMPUS SAFETY CENTER



After almost **25 years of use**, the existing facility is inadequate, undersized, and cannot be remodeled or enlarged, leading to **decreased morale, retention and recruitment challenges, and substandard working conditions.**

The Auraria Campus Safety Center will create a **welcoming, accessible, and supportive atmosphere** and allow for **co-located resources**, the opportunity to **engage with our students**, and the ability to become a model in **21st-century community policing practices.**

Today, we are requesting **Phase 2**, continuation funding of just over **\$16 million** to continue advancing the project. We have received Phase 1 funding of almost \$20 million. The **total request for \$36 million** is an essential need for the Auraria Campus.

We are nearly complete with the **Schematic Design** and will **complete Design and Community Engagement by Summer 2025**. Initial site work, including soil analysis and geothermal test boars will begin soon with construction kicking-off shortly after in Summer 2025. Upon receiving the second phase of funding, AHEC will be able to immediately begin construction activities.



THANK

YOU

