



Student Advisory Committee
to the Auraria Board

Please note: the official copy has been sent out over email. Please do not make anymore edits to this document, rather make your moves in our meeting. Thank you!

A Resolution in Support of Enhanced Communication and Transparency from the Auraria Campus Police Department

Resolution History

SACAB exists as an elected body of student representatives from all three institutions on Auraria campus, with the explicit purpose of elevating the student voice. SACAB strives to create a more balanced representation of all campus individuals, plan for the present and future campus environment, and maintain and enhance equitable campus-wide practices through passing legislation. This resolution is a testament to the duty we are compelled to carry out.

In speaking with members of the student body, including student organizations and one-on-one conversations, it is clear to us that there is one critical component that is lacking between students and the Auraria Campus Police Department: **Trust**. Many individuals and groups that this committee has spoken to over the last several months, particularly students of color, have felt that they do not know the police on Auraria campus, and as a result feel they cannot entrust them to protect their safety and well-being. SACAB believes that the responsibility of building trust falls to the Auraria Campus Police Department. The duty of a police officer is to protect and serve their constituents, which includes building and maintaining a strong relationship with their community.

As stated previously, SACAB is composed of student representatives, and it is our duty to elevate students' voices and call for change on behalf of our constituents; however, we are not immune to our own concerns regarding certain issues. Students have expressed the desire for a body worn camera program (BWC) to be implemented by the Auraria Campus Police Department. It is true that the campus police departments of CU Boulder, CU Colorado Springs, and Denver University all maintain a BWC program, and we are seeing numerous universities follow suit. However, research has shown that BWCs are not an effective tool to modify officer and citizen behavior, and does not significantly affect citizens' views of police (Lum et al., 2019; Yokum et al., 2017). On the other hand, there is also research to show that the use of BWCs reduce complaints against officers, use of force incidents, and also increase police productivity (Braga et al., 2017). It seems clear to us that the jury is still out on this issue. [this could go either way here: yes bwc, or no bwc]

SACAB acknowledges that these are great feats, and as such should not be taken lightly or without regard. The Auraria Campus Police Department has made many steps in the direction of trust, such as the acknowledgement that systemic racism is undeniably inherent in police forces across the nation, the adoption of a high standard for annual training, and the creation of the Community Advisory Board. Because ACPD has proven to be exceptional within their history at Auraria Campus, we therefore ask for greater contributions to ensure safety, not just physically, but psychologically, for our BIPOC and non-identified students. The demands herein reflect the call from students for greater communication and transparency from the Auraria Campus Police Department. We hereby ask the Auraria Campus Police Department to not only respect, but respond accordingly to the demands of the students.

Serve the people; Protect their future.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (SACAB), as well as the Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD), are committed to overall student safety and wellbeing on Auraria Campus; and,

WHEREAS, SACAB acknowledges that the unjust deaths of George Floyd, Elijah McClain, Breonna Taylor, and many other individuals of color, have resulted in growing fears and concern regarding police brutality, resulting in the global Black Lives Matter movement; and,

WHEREAS, When media coverage stops and reports of brutalization cease, Black Lives still matter. Today. Tomorrow. And forever. Black lives will always matter. Even when justice is served and ignorance is cleansed; and,

WHEREAS, SACAB recognizes that there have been demonstrations by students on Auraria Campus protesting police brutality, and in favor of police dismantling and defunding; and,

WHEREAS, the Police Departments of the University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and University of Denver utilize and maintain a body worn camera program; and,

WHEREAS, the 2019 ACPD Annual Report states that ACPD's budget in that fiscal year was \$4,100,000, and the implementation and annual maintenance of a body worn camera program amounts to roughly \$40,000 per year, or 1% of ACPD's budget; and,

WHEREAS, the 2019 ACPD Annual Report does not indicate where funds are being allocated; and,

WHEREAS, SACAB believes that the addition of an online text-form to the ACPD website would make students feel more comfortable in voicing their feedback and complaints to the department; and,

WHEREAS, SACAB understands that ACPD has a genuine interest in bettering their efforts of community policing which would improve student-officer relationships, increase transparency

within the department, improve comfort of students in a police presence, and is open to collaboration and new ideas;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that SACAB wholeheartedly supports the call for action that students have brought forth regarding increased trust, transparency, and collaboration between the student body and the Auraria Campus Police Department; and,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Auraria Campus Police Department implements a body worn camera program, in which ACPD shall report to the Community Advisory Board:

- I. All use of force by its officers that results in death or serious bodily injury;
- II. All instances when an officer resigned while under investigation for violating department policy;
- III. All data relating to contacts conducted by officers; and
- IV. All data related to the use of an unannounced entry by an officer;

BE IT RESOLVED: Officers who are found to be guilty of use of excessive force, resulting in death or serious bodily injury by the Community Advisory Board by 2/3rd's vote shall be recommended for termination of employment by the board.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Auraria Campus Police Department de-weaponizes patrol officers that are not actively responding to calls on Auraria Campus; and,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Auraria Campus Police Department release a line-item report on the spending of their annual budget every year; and,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Auraria Campus Police Department responds to calls regarding mental health crises with a trained social worker and paramedic, and only sends an officer in the event that their presence is requested; and,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Auraria Campus Police Department implements a text-box feedback and complaint form that is hosted on the Auraria Campus Police Department website, in which students, staff and faculty have the option to anonymously leave feedback regarding officer conduct or the department as a whole. Any non-case-related feedback shall be reported to the Community Advisory Board; and,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Auraria Campus Police Department increases their public visibility and opportunities to connect on campus by hosting monthly town-hall meetings, Q&A sessions, or other forms of community-oriented events; and,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Auraria Campus Police Department broadcasts a public statement that:

- I. Acknowledges that the unjust murders of BIPOC individuals across our nation is rooted in systemic racism, and say their names;
- II. Acknowledges the history of systemic racism, institutionalized brutalization of BIPOC protected by the law, and the history of slavery and racism within the United States;
- III. Acknowledges that it is not the duty of BIPOC students to form and foster a relationship with the Auraria Campus Police Department; and,

IV. States that immigration laws are not enforced by the campus police department;

BE IT RESOLVED: The Auraria Campus Police Department responds to the passing of this resolution in a timely manner; and,

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, Upon passage, copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the student body, the institutional Student Government Associations, the Auraria Campus Police Department, and the Auraria Board of Directors.

Marlena Harwood, *Chair*, Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board

Special Thanks to Muslimah's 4 Change/Mu Delta Alpha - CU Denver Chapter, the Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy, Dr. Devon Wright and the Africana Studies Department at MSU Denver.

NOTES

Also another abstract idea, not sure best way to include in resolution, but i think we should ask the department to acknowledge that murders of BIPOC by police is a problem rooted in systemic racism, not because the BIPOC community is not friendly w police officers

We ask ACPD to understand history of systematic racism, institutionalized brutalization of BIPOC protected by the law, and be educated in history of slavery and racism within the United States. ACPD serves a mostly diverse background of students, to understand their history is a step into their world that creates less conflict and better policing.

By pushing the resolution of body cameras SACAB hereby ensures the safety of students within the Auraria campus by providing voices to those who feel unprotected transferred to ears that can protect.

It is not the job of BIPOC students to form a relationship with police, the oppressed does not seek validation from the oppressor just as the victim does not seek comfort with their abuser. We acknowledge the great works ACPD has contributed to the auraria campus (such as.....-honour ACPD history) because APD has proven to be exceptional within their history at Auraria Campus, we therefore, expect greater contributions to ensure safety not just physically but psychologically for our BIPOC or non identified students. We hereby ask ASPD to respect and respond accordingly to the demands of the students."serve the people, protect their future"

Community policing? ← This is outlined in the Annual Report

For the history, acknowledge that there is data that does support that body worn camera systems can, and have been, used by police departments to further discriminate against BIPOC communities. However, we have attempted to curtail this possibility by reporting incidences to

the police advisory board to increase accountability and transparency. We are a student government association that elevates the voices and wants of students, and we must represent our constituents.

CAMPUS SAFE NIGHT

NOTES FROM MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE HEROD

Perhaps should not name people in the resolution

Budget for mental health services

Other avenues for change?

- Budget and info on other dept (mental health)
- Boosting other groups' resolutions and work
- Getting communities together, convening with other groups on campus

How is ACPD's budget being spent?

Notes from Marlena - Meeting with Ramsha with Muslimahs for Change

- Really like the idea of making the advisory board have statements out to the students
- Want ACPD to acknowledge what is going on regarding student safety, town halls, in person events
- Fostering engagement and communication
- ACPD to collaborate with DPD about student wants, representatives from ACPD specifically act as liaisons between students wants and needs
- Demilitarization and de-arming of police presence on campus – **patrol officers should not be carrying weapons (tasers are okay, guns are not)**
- Police show up for mental crises – not wanted, police presence can aggravate situation
- Co-responder program should just be trained social worker/medic (situational)
- Increase communication with student life
- Maybe a structured schedule of having events, ACPD be briefed on student life events throughout the semester and make the effort to reach out to students
- ACPD has much less to do right now, so they should be making the effort to collaborate with student organizations right now
- Call for defunding of the police / reallocation of budget expenses
- Make changes to the budget that help students
- Stop worrying about hurting police feelings and
- **Police statement about DACA – police does not enforce immigration laws**
- Students of Color do not know the people in uniform and therefore cannot trust them. IF you don't know someone, you cannot trust them, especially with your life, health and safety.

Mariam's Feedback notes

Community Feedback (CCD):

In lieu of not getting very many responses from CCD student organizations: I met with BIPOC classmates (Feb 5-present) and CCD SGA members (Feb 5). Many of the BIPOC students I met with were very candid with their negative experiences with ACPD and communicated their inability to associate security with campus police. I had a peer who revealed to me that she had experienced a myriad of unfortunate altercations and encounters of cogent discrimination with ACPD due to just having a disability. Another student told me she bore witness to ACPD do nothing after being called to deescalate and put an end to an altercation between a group of xenophobic (non-Muslim) students who were verbally harassing a woman in a hijab outside the Tivoli. And that it was students who ended up intervening. Several students revealed insistence, in which they had been tailed around by campus cops, deprived of respect when in conversation, and ACPD not showing up at all when aid was requested.

In regards to defunding vs. reform, it seems that CCD students are mixed on that. All students agreed that there is racism embedded in the institution of policing. Yet, a good portion is uncomfortable with the idea of a world (campus) without cops. There was, however, also a good amount of students who expressed interest in Auraria to start re-imagining the role and threshold of responsibilities for ACPD. Also, almost everyone I talked to after Feb 10 mentioned the Denverite article about the STAR program and was excited by that alternative of response. Overall, everyone seemed pleased with SACAB's resolution and is glad it takes up space.

Black healing circle 1-on-1 with Queen/ a healing circle participant and Advisory Board member (Friday, Feb 12, 2021):

Queen is in favor of the installment of Body Cameras in ACPD's methodology of policing. She spoke mostly of her discontent with her interactions with Chief. Especially since he advocates against the incorporation of Cameras in ACPD's practice and overall finds that to be odd and suspicious. She also spoke about the anxieties and unpleasant experiences she has had with ACPD and thus struggles to imagine an ACPD that responds with the best intentions for BIPOC students' needs. And, believes that enforcing cameras is a good next step. Yet, yearns for other ways to hold ACPD accountable besides a body camera mandate.

Overall, most students (at all institutions) advocate for cameras rather than against cameras; I (Mariam) just personally don't believe they will be effective. But a lot of that is influenced by my involvement in Abolitionist thought before this summer events.

Mariam's personal thoughts:

Personally, I don't believe body cams are an adequate solution since the research we have access to shows that body cams are ineffective in deterring [excessive force](#) and actually exacerbate the racist practice of [stop and frisk](#). I err opposed to the idea of enforcing body cameras because of the [dearth of conclusive evidence](#) indicating both the effectiveness and ineffectiveness of surveillance technology (especially the effectiveness). And rather see it as an opportunity for more funds to be allocated to ACPD (which is the last thing they deserve). I rather there be more funds granted to the inception of programs like the DPD STAR Program or initiatives that harbor a more [transformative justice framework](#) rather than a punitive one. It would be cool to invite organizations outside of ACPD. Who are actively thinking about ways we can reorganize how we live our lives together. To devote more resources to engage in conversations about alternative methods of addressing social-economic tension, political animus, or interpersonal problems, etc., on campus without state intervention. To perhaps reinvest these funds to support Denver organizations that protect, serve and uplift Black and

Brown communities instead of deriving our solutions from ACPD (i.e. more body cameras or increasing their budgets).

I find the Body camera justification as an argument that is rooted in a posit that believes the systemic racism inherent in policing. As being something that can be "remedy" and is a mere glitch in the system. When in actuality, the American judicial system [has always been used as a weapon against BIPOC](#). And thus, [not equipped to fix itself](#) because the very system of policing is the problem. It suggests that if the cops are proven guilty via collected body cam or bystander footage. They will face prosecutions and be held accountable for their malfeasance. When in actuality, that's rarely the case ([and mostly occurs if the killer cop is of color](#)).

Helpful essays:

1. [Body Cameras Haven't Stopped Police Brutality. Here's Why](#)
2. [Body Cam Study Shows No Effect On Police Use Of Force Or Citizen Complaints](#)
3. [Can Body Cameras Improve Policing?](#)
4. [Civil Rights and Community Groups Ask DHS to Halt Discriminatory Surveillance Grant Program](#)

Has SACAB distributed a campus-wide survey that indicates students' desire to sustain a police department? Is keeping a police department the preference of choice of most students, or immediately disarming the Auraria Police Department the better option for BIPOC students (sorry, I am still playing catch up with campus stuff)? Would SACAB be interested in drafting a separate resolution requesting the disarmament or and hopefully the total dismantling of ACPD? Like [the University of Minnesota](#) or Yale's [Pathway to Abolition](#)?

SIDE NOTE: I thought I added my notes to this doc, but I guess I was editing a copy of this resolution the entire time—Ha—technology—will finalize comments this weekend! Also, if you want to arrange a workshop meeting to finalize this resolution. Let me know, I will be happy to get something on the books :).

Meeting with Safer Spaces Resolution Authors

- How do we educate our constituents about the history of body worn cameras when they have historically been used to discriminate against BIPOC people
- What institutions contribute to ACPD's budget?
- What is the relationship between SACAB and the advisory board?
- Denver STAR program - care worker response
 - Provide data about program success
- Need to be more specific about the resolution recommendations
 - Provide specific information/data
- Allies for Diversity (BAD?)
 - Alternatives to policing

- Reach out to other large colorado institutions and ask how their body worn camera program is working
- Tri-campus survey? Students comfort on campus

Dominique Perez (MSU Denver) Personal Thoughts:

- Although I am a little hesitant on the body camera piece, I do still think we should include it in the resolution only because the feedback that I have received from students suggests that this implementation would make them more comfortable on campus. Also, the fact that the Chief has never really been on board with body cams, makes me skeptical of this as well. I do agree with Mariam that perhaps these funds not used on body cams can then be used to support organizations that protect, serve, and uplift black and brown communities but with this as well, there can be problems. These problems include lack of accountability (ex: who is going to determine and follow through with the reallocation of funds?), and redirecting of partnerships. In my opinion, I am liking how direct and straightforward this resolution is. Right now I think the sole focus should be bettering the relationships within the Auraria Campus (because those are the students who are most affected right now) and then perhaps once those partnerships and relationships are better, then we can ask for ACPD to begin reaching out to the community around Auraria Campus. Just a couple thoughts I had!

For intro

- History of the BLM movement
- History of systemic racism, institutionalized brutalization
- “We acknowledge the great works ACPD has contributed to the auraria campus (such as.....-honour ACPD history) because APD has proven to be exceptional within their history at Auraria Campus, we therefore, expect greater contributions to ensure safety not just physically but psychologically for our BIPOC or non identified students. We hereby ask ACPD to respect and respond accordingly to the demands of the students. 'serve the people, protect their future'”
- Cite peer reviewed papers that support body worn camera programs
- Cite student feedback and input
- Contribute immensely to student organization and involvement with community outreach within the Auraria campus

Meeting with Dr. Devon Wright

- Something unique violent and persistent about American racism, especially within law enforcement
- After Rodney King beating, it was thought that nobody could dismiss that police brutality was widespread, but obviously now this is not the case as the officers were acquitted.
 - LA Riots
- Arthur McDuffy - Black motorcyclist stopped by police and murdered unjustly, riots/protests occurred in Liberty City.
- Citizen journalism is very prevalent now
- After George Floyd, it was believed that nothing would come of it
 - Dr. Wright was surprised by the huge protests that exploded across the globe
 -

Alt for history: however, as informed representatives of the student body, sometimes SACAB must call for change that lies within the best interest of our constituents, which may go against certain desires.