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Officials meet with protesters, refuse to fire police chief

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Aurora's city manager refused to fire the city's police chief after a meeting with protesters Monday night that lasted until about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday.



MiDian Shofner, who has led protest efforts against the Aurora Police Department, was issued a citation later Tuesday morning after refusing to leave the premises until city officials agreed to fire Aurora Police Chief Todd Chamberlain, she told The Denver Gazette.

Shofner met with City Manager Jason Batchelor, Mayor Pro Tem Alison Coombs and Public Safety Committee Chair Rob Andrews Monday night after the Aurora City Council meeting concluded.

When the meeting ended, officers asked all attendees to leave the Aurora Municipal Center, according to a city spokesperson. Shofner refused to leave, and officers escorted her out. She walked with them to the detention center, where they issued her a summons for municipal trespassing and released her. During the council meeting, Shofner told the council that she would not leave until an agreement for Chamberlain's termination was reached.

Batchelor told The Denver Gazette that the firing would not happen but that he was willing to listen. City officials discussed Shofner's pitch, then refused to fire Chamberlain, Shofner said.

For more than two years, protesters have attended every Aurora City Council meeting to talk about Kilyn Lewis and other Black people who have been killed by Aurora police.

In recent months, they have started to demand that Chamberlain be fired.

Chamberlain was chosen as chief by Batchelor in August 2024, months after Lewis was shot and killed on May 23, 2024. Community members have expressed concerns about his selection, claiming it was done behind closed doors without any community input.

Shofner, the organization's CEO who had led the protests, said her group has asked time and again to work with the city on their requests.

Mayor Mike Coffman told The Denver Gazette prior to the meeting that Chamberlain has brought "stability" to a department that lacked it for a long time, adding that "he needs to stay."

In Chamberlain's time with the department, there has been a 38.8% drop in major crimes, Coffman added.

According to the APD's transparency portal, there were about 16,300 reported crimes in 2024, 12,700 in 2025 and 8,500 year-to-date.

Of those, eight this year so far were homicides as compared to 30 last year and 35 in 2024.

"I'm all about bringing down the crime rate and making sure we're doing everything we can to decrease the number of victims and Todd has done a great job," Coffman said.

Aurora police have also been involved in several notable uses of lethal force over the last few years, including the May 2024 shooting of Lewis, the August 2025 shooting of Rajon Belt-Stubblefield and the April 2026 shooting of Amare Garlington.

Shofner told The Denver Gazette Tuesday that her organization is discussing next steps.