

Aurora leaders, protesters to meet over demand to fire police chief

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Two Aurora City Council members and the city manager plan to meet with community leaders after the council meeting late Monday night to discuss protesters' demand to fire the police chief.



"Tonight, we are formally here to let you know publicly that we will not leave this building until we have a termination date and termination strategy of police chief Todd Chamberlain," MiDian Shofner told councilmembers during the public comment period in Monday's council meeting.

A group of protesters, organized by Epitome of Black Excellence, demanded the meeting with City Manager Jason Batchelor, Public Safety Committee Chair Rob Andrews and Mayor Pro Tem Alison Coombs "regarding the community's demand for the termination of Chamberlain.

Batchelor confirmed that the meeting with Shofner's group would happen after the council meeting, which was still going on at 10 p.m.

Shofner said she will not leave the meeting until an agreement for Chamberlain's firing is reached.

Batchelor told The Denver Gazette that the firing will not happen, but that he is willing to listen. He added that there was no need for protesters to "demand" a meeting, saying he was very willing to meet with them.

Dozens of people stood behind Shofner on Monday night holding protest signs and photos of Black men killed by Aurora police.

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. 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. *Note*

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 Kilyn Lewis, the August 2025 shooting of Rajon Belt-Stubblefield and the April 2026 shooting of Amare Garlington.