



# COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE CALL

## THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

### PANELISTS

- Chief Joseph Morris, Arapahoe Community College PD (Prior Experience: Chief at Florence, CO PD)
- Chief Dustin Olson, Colorado School of Mines (Prior Experience: Chief at UC Santa Barbara, Asst. Chief at UNLV)
- Chief John Mackey, Edgewater Police Department (Prior Experience: Chief at Auraria Higher Ed - U of Colorado, Metropolitan State U, CC of Denver, Chief at Dillon, CO PD, Chief at Red Rocks CC PD)
- Chief George Mumma, Morrison Police Department (Prior Experience: Sr. Investigator at Jefferson County DA's Office)
- Chief Sean Dugan, Red Rocks Community College Police Department (Prior Experience: Commander at Littleton, CO PD)

### The Alliance 8

- The Alliance 8 includes three campus chiefs, four municipal chiefs, and the chief of the Regional Transportation District (RTD), all headquartered or with facilities in Jefferson County, Colorado.
- The collaborative is well-organized, but has not formalized the association. All eight agencies have had turnover of their chiefs, but each new chief has continued membership in the Alliance.
- The Columbine High School massacre led to greater collaboration among Denver metro area law enforcement agencies. Other events, including 9/11 and the Democratic National Convention, reinforced the interdependency among agencies and were the impetus for the creation of the Alliance 8.
- Members meet monthly to assist each other with a range of issues small and large, including:
  - Equipment purchases
  - Grants
  - Investigations
  - Personnel issues
  - Staffing
  - Stress management
- The lack of adequate and modern equipment led the agencies to collaborate on the submission of a proposal for grant funds to purchase mobile data terminals and encryption capability.
- By joining together to purchase equipment, the Alliance is able to purchase larger amounts at a lower cost per unit.



## Status of Campuses in the Alliance During COVID-19

- Arapahoe Community College completely realigned police operations, including reducing the number of personnel working at the same time to reduce exposure to COVID-19.
- Arapahoe Community College closed two of its three campuses, and faculty and staff are allowed on the open campus with permission.
- Colorado School of Mines still has about 25 students in dorms and several families in apartments.

## Alliance 8 and COVID-19 Responses

- Since the onset of COVID-19 the Alliance has held a 10:00 a.m. daily call among the members to share concerns and brainstorm solutions. Knowing that other chiefs are available to provide support reduces some of the stress associated with the pandemic. When one agency was running low on hand sanitizer another member of the Alliance directed the agency where it could acquire more, for example.
- Some agencies lacked PPE, while others had a surplus. By combining resources, the Alliance was able to make a large purchase that allowed for an equitable distribution among the eight agencies. Without combining resources on the purchase, each agency's order may not have been large enough to be processed.
- Alliance agencies developed contingency plans to assist with staffing should an agency need assistance.
- The members collaborated on making gym time available at campus and municipal facilities to officers and their families.
- A local grocery chain established shopping hours solely for Alliance 8 members and their families.

## Collaborating with the Jefferson County Sheriff

- The Jefferson County Sheriff deputized all law enforcement officers in the county. Officers visited other agencies in the county to gain familiarity with facilities in the event they need to assist with staffing shortages.
- The Sheriff was able to arrange for testing of all law enforcement personnel in the county with a 48-hour turnaround.
- Alliance 8 agencies are helping to answer low-priority calls for the Sheriff, and officers in many agencies are handling reports over the telephone.

For additional information on the Alliance 8 please contact Chief John Mackey, Edgewater Police Department at: [JMackey@edgewaterpd.com](mailto:JMackey@edgewaterpd.com)