

# SEXUAL ASSAULT TASKFORCE Factsheet

**THE SEXUAL ASSAULT TASKFORCE** The Sexual Assault Taskforce is the first of its kind in Colorado. The task force will centralize and consolidate sexual assault investigations and sex offender registration management across two adjacent jurisdictions. A multi-jurisdictional, centralized approach to combating sex crimes has the potential to transform the way jurisdictions respond to, and investigate sex crimes, serve victims, and maintain consistent oversight of sex offender registration.

## BENEFITS

- Provides dedicated detectives and staff who are trained to support and engage victims, and effectively investigate sex crimes.
- Improves consistency in each agency's capacity to investigate sex crimes and enforce sex offender registration.
- Leverages multi-agency coordination, providing access to partners with wide-ranging capabilities and resources, more than any one agency could provide.
- Increases effectiveness of general crime investigations by moving sex crime investigations into a specialized task force.

## ABOUT

- The Strategies for Policing Innovation (SPI) initiative is a collaborative effort that includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, state and local law enforcement agencies and researchers designed to assist agencies with identifying innovative and evidence-based solutions to tackle chronic crime problems in their jurisdictions.
- The taskforce has eight full-time employees including: five detectives, a sergeant and two victim advocates, dedicated to solving sex crimes and managing sex offenders.
- Additional support will be provided by the victim services manager, commander, deputy chief of police and an independent PhD researcher.

## GOALS

- Better serve victims of sexual abuse
- Further build on the departments' commitment to provide victim-centered resources, such as the You Have Options Program.
- Provide a regional model for addressing sex crimes

## FAST FACTS

- Since 2015, Commerce City has seen a 16.7% increase in sex crime reporting, while Brighton has seen a 75% increase.
- The combined cities have a population of 85,518 residents.

## COST

- In 2017, the Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded a \$700,000 Smart Policing Initiative grant to Commerce City to fund the program for three years.
- An additional \$1.1 million of in-kind contributions are coming from Commerce City and the City of Brighton.
- The taskforce rents the office space from Adams County for \$28,000 a year.

