



July 29, 2019

Dear Denver community,

The Denver Police Department is committed to transparency and access to information, while never forgetting that our top priority is protecting the community and the officers charged with that responsibility.

On Monday, July 29, 2019, the Department began using a new encrypted radio system, which means radio traffic between officers and dispatchers will no longer be available to the public through police scanners and websites.

Numerous other public safety agencies in Colorado, and across the country, are already using encrypted radios. The Denver Police Department is making the switch for the following reasons:

- To protect the community and the personal information of certain victims, witnesses and juveniles;
- To protect tactical and investigative information;
- To enhance officer safety and prevent suspects from listening during incidents and investigations.

Chief Pazen has met with members of the media on five different occasions over the last eight months to ensure we have a system in place that balances the needs of the media with the safety of the community and our officers. The Department recognizes that police scanners play a role in news media awareness of public safety incidents in Denver. For this reason, we have made encrypted radios available for the media to purchase at cost, subject to a license that balances the needs of the media with the safety of the community and our officers. The license agreement is not intended in any way to control, limit or restrict media outlets' editorial judgement, discretion or decisions.

If you are interested in staying up-to-date on crime trends in Denver or your specific neighborhood, there are still great options, including the interactive crime map and crime data made publicly available through our website, [www.denvergov.org/police](http://www.denvergov.org/police). We also encourage you to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Nextdoor for current safety and crime prevention information. Additionally, you can request radio dispatch recordings through [open records processes](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul M. Pazen".

Paul M. Pazen  
Chief of Police

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