Longmont Department of Public Safety

Police Services Encrypted Channel Pilot Project

September 22, 2018 through March 21, 2019

Longmont Police Services launched a pilot project on September 22, 2018 utilizing an encrypted radio channel for the dispatch of police calls for service. In recent years, scanner technology has become readily accessible and freely available to all smart phones, making it easy for the public, including criminals, to listen to live police radio communications. For approximately ten years, Longmont Police staff have routinely brought forward the following points regarding the need to encrypt our radio system:

1. Encryption enhances the safety of our citizens by better protecting them from those who intend to do harm.
2. It improves our effectiveness by eliminating the means by which criminals monitor our activities in order to commit crimes and avoid apprehension.
3. It protects the private information of our community members by preventing its public broadcast.
4. It increases officer safety by removing one mechanism used to monitor police activity and response thereby reducing the opportunity for an ambush on our officers.

Background

Encrypting our dispatch services has been the topic of conversation for quite some time among our staff. Police officers have been concerned for years that those who commit crimes listen to our radio traffic to determine our specific location in the community. However, our decision to make this operational modification was precipitated by a very specific unsafe and dangerous set of circumstances encountered by our officers.

Just prior to this operational change, our officers were “set up” by people who simultaneously were also making death threats to our officers. The “set up” was intended to ambush our police officers. Fortunately, we were able to detect what was happening and responded accordingly. One of the potential assailants called dispatch complaining they could not hear our radio traffic and asked where the police were. Upon review of the threats and history of the individuals involved, senior police staff determined that these attempts were a real and credible threat to officer safety. The threats towards police continue from these same people today.

Additional public safety threats we have managed over recent years include:

1. A robber armed with a .45 automatic warned his victim at a local business that if the police were called, he would hear it on his scanner and would come back and shoot the victim.

2. Dispatched calls for service involving domestic violence, sexual assault, child molestation and other like calls almost always include names of victims, ages, and

addresses of victims. We also air personal information about kids who are potential suspects in crimes. All of this information is protected information and not for public dissemination. It is imperative that we are able to discuss this type of information over the air.

3. Cases involving domestic violence and stalking include suspects who listen to our radio traffic to determine where we are at prior to assaulting their victims. Victims and detectives report this as a common practice among some DV offenders. They also hear over our radios where their victims are currently located (which is supposed to be confidential).

4. One officer recounted a pursuit in which the evading driver was provided information by another person about what police were doing, where police were at, etc. That was a dangerous pursuit that lasted much longer because of access to our radio channel.

5. In a kidnapping, the kidnappers timed their kidnapping by listening to the activities of police, which turned into a horrific case for the victim. This particular case, known as the Turner Kidnapping, occurred in 2013 and involved a child abduction in which the kidnapper worked with an accomplice who used the 5-0 Radio Pro Police scanner application to actively monitor the location and actions of police officers in order to successfully abduct the victim. (The victim was found in Canada the next day and returned safely to his mother.)

6. Numerous cases in which people used scanners to detect when police are about to execute a search warrant and would subsequently destroy contraband and evidence prior to our arrival.

7. Several cases where people considered highly dangerous to our community used police scanners to evade capture. In some of those cases, they were able to commit more crimes before we placed them into custody.

8. There was another case in which multiple suspects, who we eventually arrested, were using our radio channel to time their car break-ins, burglaries and auto thefts. They later admitted that they knew where the police were and how long they had to victimize people’s houses and cars.

9. Our intelligence revealed that there are conversations on social media from suspects committing crimes in our community discussing concerns that they can no longer access our radio channels.

With this history combined with the very specific and credible threat against our officers in mind, we implemented our encryption pilot project.

Pilot Monitoring and Measuring

Enclosed is a summary of the approach for monitoring and measuring this pilot, along with the findings.

Citizen Safety and Effectiveness of Policing

Our hypotheses are that:

1. The use of an encrypted channel will enable the Longmont Police Department to detect and apprehend criminals who have previously been able to evade police by monitoring the unencrypted channel while committing crimes. Our capacity to prevent or intervene in these crimes directly impacts the safety of our citizens.

   For instance, when a criminal who is in the process of committing a crime is alerted to the fact that a police response has been dispatched to their location, as happens with unencrypted radio channels, the most common response is to flee. Police departments across the country, including our own, can provide countless examples where attempts on the part of the criminal to flee have endangered citizens through reckless driving, break-ins to residences in order to elude police, or carjacking to avoid apprehension, among others. By preventing criminals from being alerted to our response and presence, we increase the safety of our community.

2. Encryption increases citizen safety is by providing protection to those who report crimes from retaliation by criminals and their associates.

   This is a particular concern for those reporting cases of domestic violence, illegal drugs, and/or info on criminals wanted by law enforcement. By ensuring that their information is not aired over the radio, we reduce our community members' vulnerability to retribution.

Various data points were tracked and monitored to evaluate the impact of encryption and whether or not the aforementioned hypotheses were substantiated. Staff utilized the crime statistics for the same time period (9/22 – 3/21) to ensure seasonal consistency. It is important to note that crime statistics contain many variables attributing to the increases or decreases in statistics. Specifically, the social, economic, and human elements make the data difficult to control. Therefore, staff is cognizant that there will always be uncertainty in relating statistical changes directly to an operational change. However, significant changes help us in drawing conclusions from the data. The following data, including both baseline and pilot phases, was gathered and monitored as potential indicators of encryption impact:

- Overall calls, arrests and summons.
- Overall calls, arrests and summons for *crimes in progress.*
- Crimes in progress / priority 1 "Unable to Locates" (UTLs), an indicator of our ability to apprehend suspects.
- Calls, arrests and summons for specific property crimes such as robbery, burglary, theft, automobile theft, auto break-in, and shoplift.

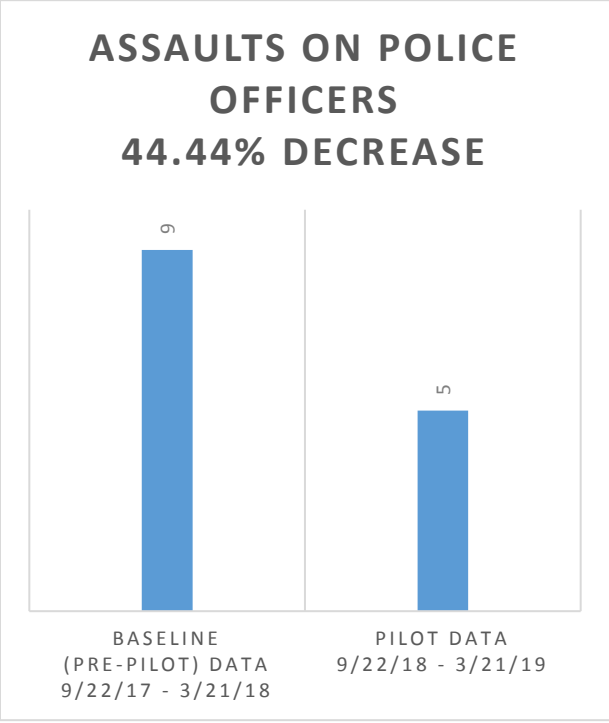
- Curfew tickets, an indicator of crime prevention for auto break-ins and other crimes.
- Assaults on police officers.

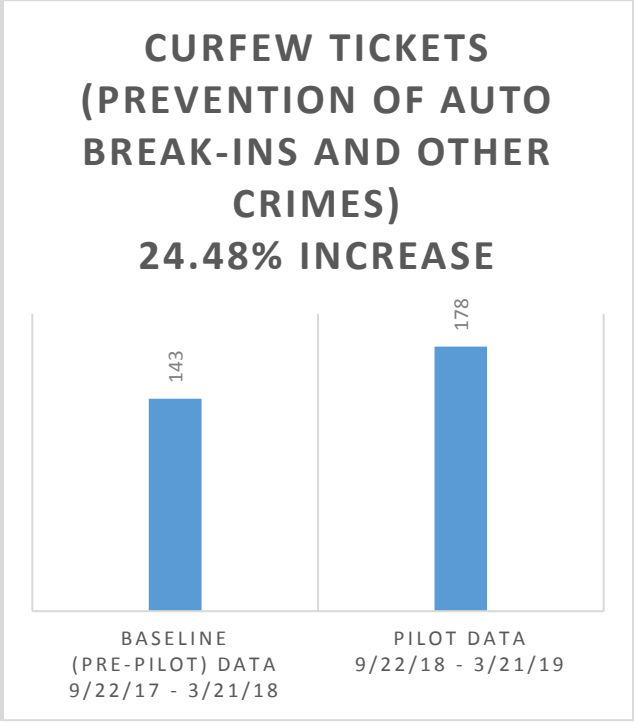
**Priority 1 calls for service are typically "crimes in progress," which means the situation occurred within 5 minutes or less of the 911 phone call. An increase in arrests and summons for crimes in progress is one potential positive indicator related to the shift to encryption. Unable to Locate (UTL) is a call disposition that, in many cases, means the suspect could not be located. A decrease in UTLs (i.e. the number of times a suspect could not be located) means that more suspects were located and is another possible positive indicator of encryption.*

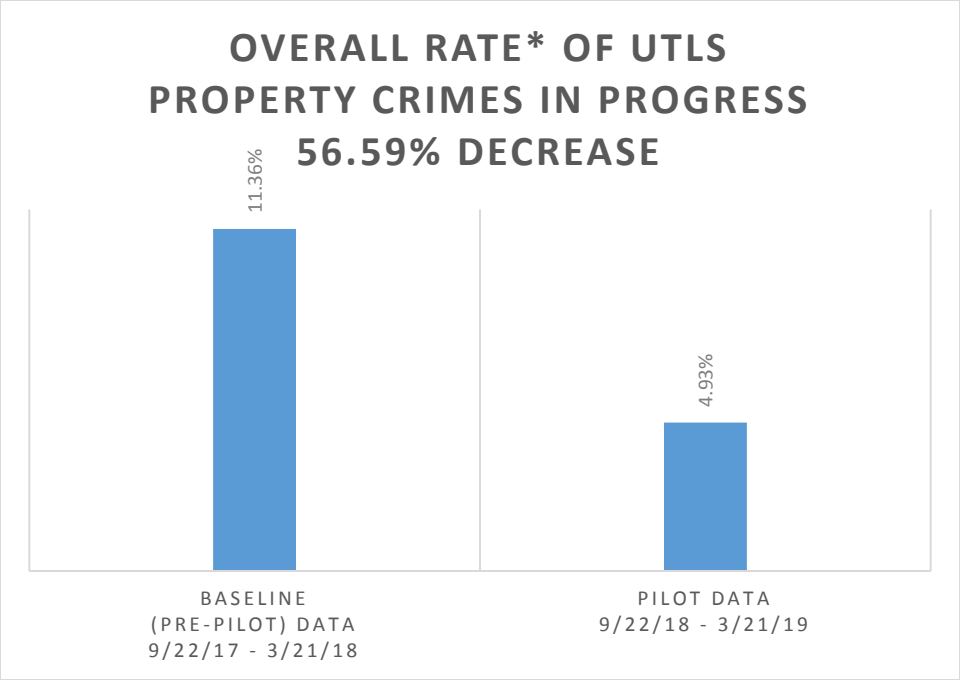
Totals along with corresponding subtotals were tracked. The baseline data was compared to pilot data in order to measure increases and / or decreases and the following is what was found.

Note: *Please see Appendix A for all data and comparisons.*

<u>General</u>

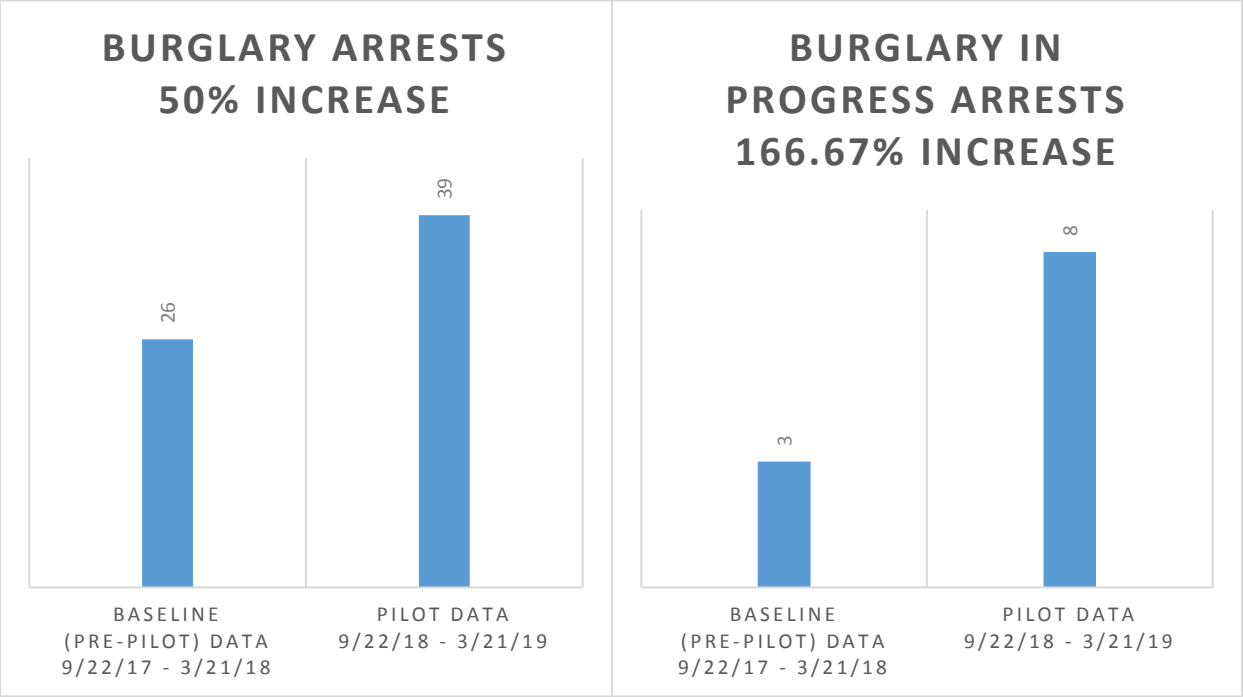






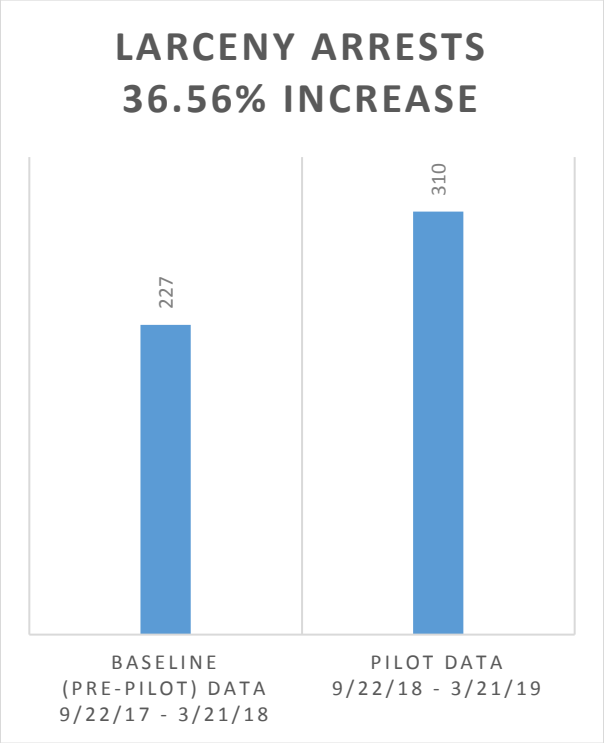
Since calls for crimes were up during the pilot phase, we measured the **rate of arrests and UTLs compared to the overall calls for each date range in order to determine comparative increases / decreases. A decrease in UTLs (i.e. the number of times a suspect could not be located) means that more suspects were located*

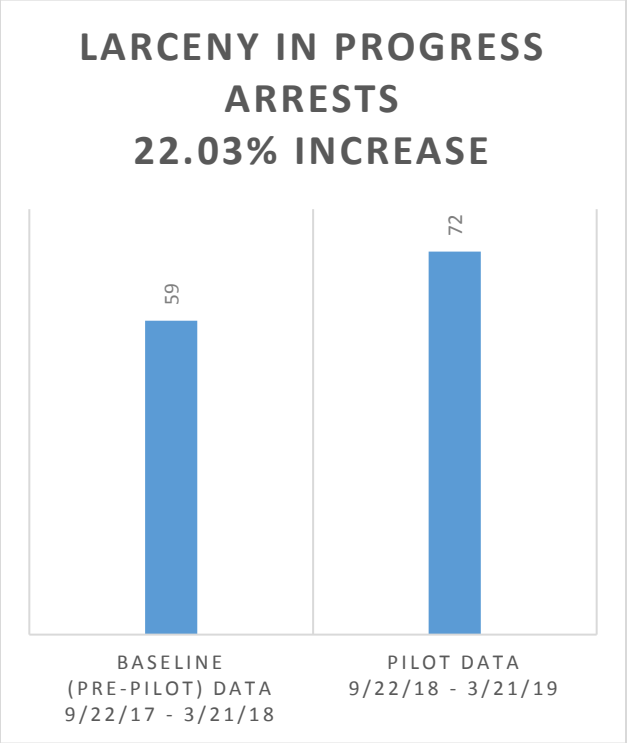
<u>Burglary</u>

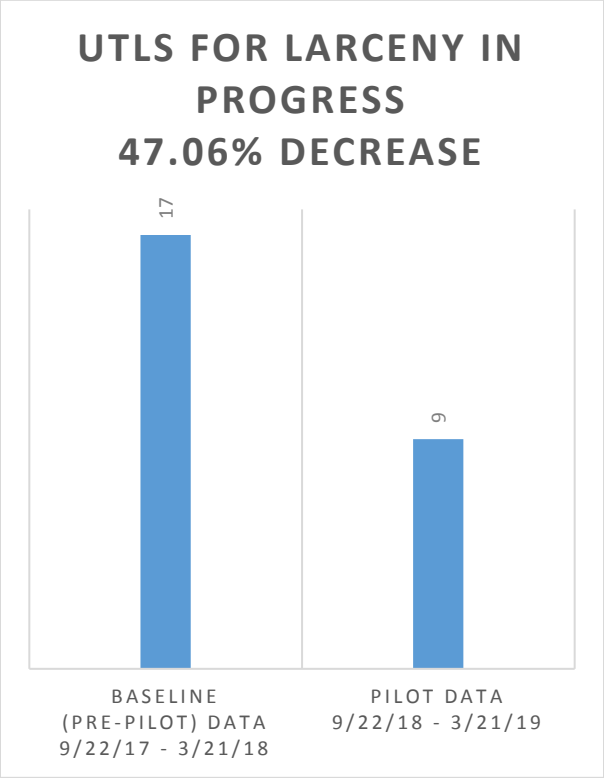


Larceny

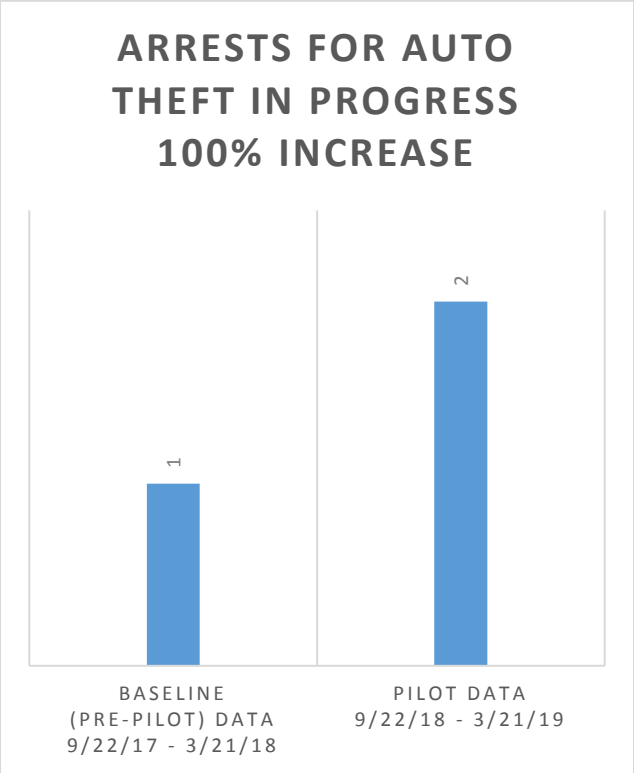
Larceny includes crimes such as thefts, auto break-ins, shoplifts, etc.

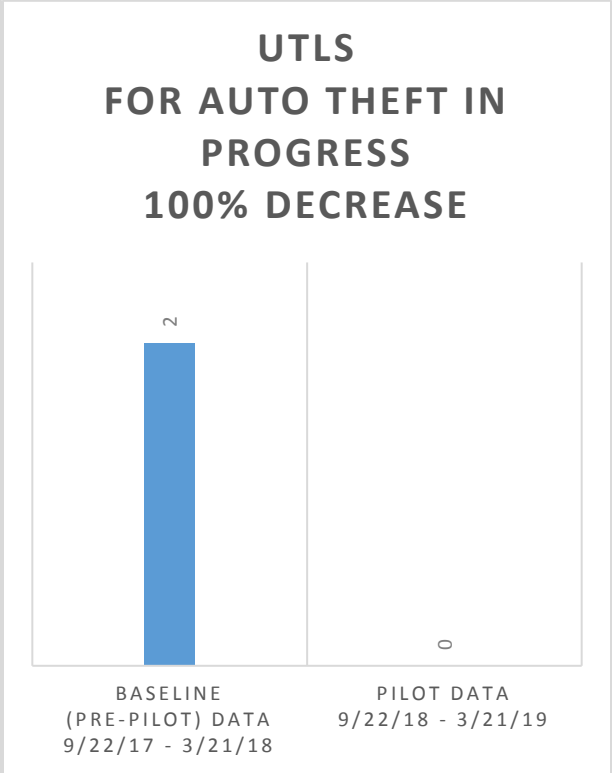






Auto Thefts


ARRESTS FOR AUTO THEFT IN PROGRESS 100% INCREASE
1
2
BASELINE (PRE-PILOT) DATA 9/22/17 - 3/21/18
PILOT DATA 9/22/18 - 3/21/19


UTLS FOR AUTO THEFT IN PROGRESS 100% DECREASE
2
0
BASELINE (PRE-PILOT) DATA 9/22/17 - 3/21/18
PILOT DATA 9/22/18 - 3/21/19

Community Member Privacy

The protection of the private information of our community members is imperative. Radio encryption provides a mechanism for protecting the privacy of victims, family members, and witnesses of crimes. Personal information such as names, dates of birth, and addresses that could potentially be associated with victims and other innocent community members was aired over the radio, and, as such, available to all who were listening prior to utilizing the encrypted channel. Publicly broadcasting such sensitive information may result in further harm to the individuals involved. The Pilot metrics tracked data for calls that are of a particularly private nature such as child abuse, domestic violence, sex assaults, restraining order violations, medical assists, suicide attempts, and death investigations. Baseline data from September 22, 2017 through March 21, 2018 was included along with data from the pilot period of September 22, 2018 through March 21, 2019. The impact of encryption to community member privacy was measured based on the number of calls where private information was exposed pre-pilot along with the number of times it was prevented from being shared post-pilot.

Baseline (Pre-Pilot) Data Compared to Pilot Data

The baseline (pre-pilot phase) data show that at least 1,721 incidents occurred where information of a private nature was aired over the unencrypted channel.

The pilot data show that at least 1,749 incidents occurred where information of a private nature *was prevented* from being aired over the *encrypted* channel.

Calls of a Private Nature	Baseline (Pre-Pilot) Data 9/22/17 - 3/21/18	Pilot Data 9/22/18 - 3/21/19
Domestic violence	587	508
Death investigations	45	51
Sex assault	127	141
Child abuse	139	186
Suicide attempts	207	173
Restraining order violation	168	202
Medical assist	448	488
Total	**1,721**	**1,749**

Officer Safety

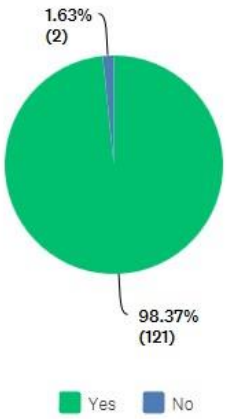
Officer Safety is among our most highly regarded values. Similar to other tools we use to avoid the potential for harm to our officers, such as body armor and equipping our vehicles with ballistic protection, radio encryption is another powerful prevention and safety strategy. It reduces the risk of an ambush on officers whereas use of unencrypted channels gives individuals who seek to harm officers the advantage of monitoring police activity and response in real time. In addition, a sense of safety among our officers is crucial to effective policing.

As part of the pilot, we measured officer sense of safety through a sampling of in person interviews and a short anonymous online survey of our officers. The survey was administered to

163 officers including all officers assigned to patrol and any who are in a position to cover patrol. Of those surveyed, 123 officers responded. Of those who responded:

Do you feel safer now that the police radio channel is encrypted?

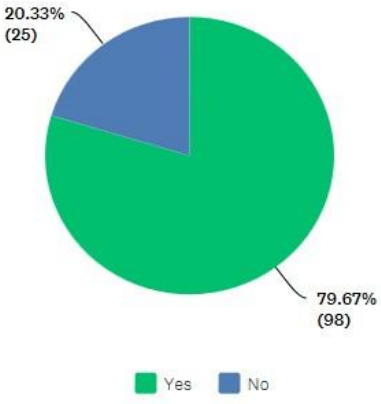
Answered: 123 Skipped: 0



- 98.37% (121) shared that they feel safer now that the radio channel is encrypted.
- 1.63% (2) shared that they do not feel safer now that the radio channel is encrypted.

Are you aware of any specific incidents in Longmont where use of the unencrypted channel increased risk to police officers?

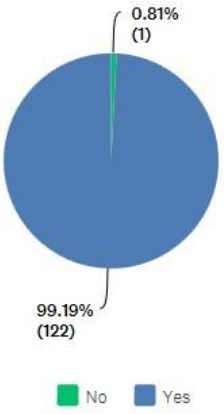
Answered: 123 Skipped: 0



- 79.67% (98) shared that they are aware of specific incidents in Longmont where use of the unencrypted channel increased risk to police officers.
- 20.33% (25) shared that they were not aware of specific incidents in Longmont where use of the unencrypted channel increased risk to police officers.

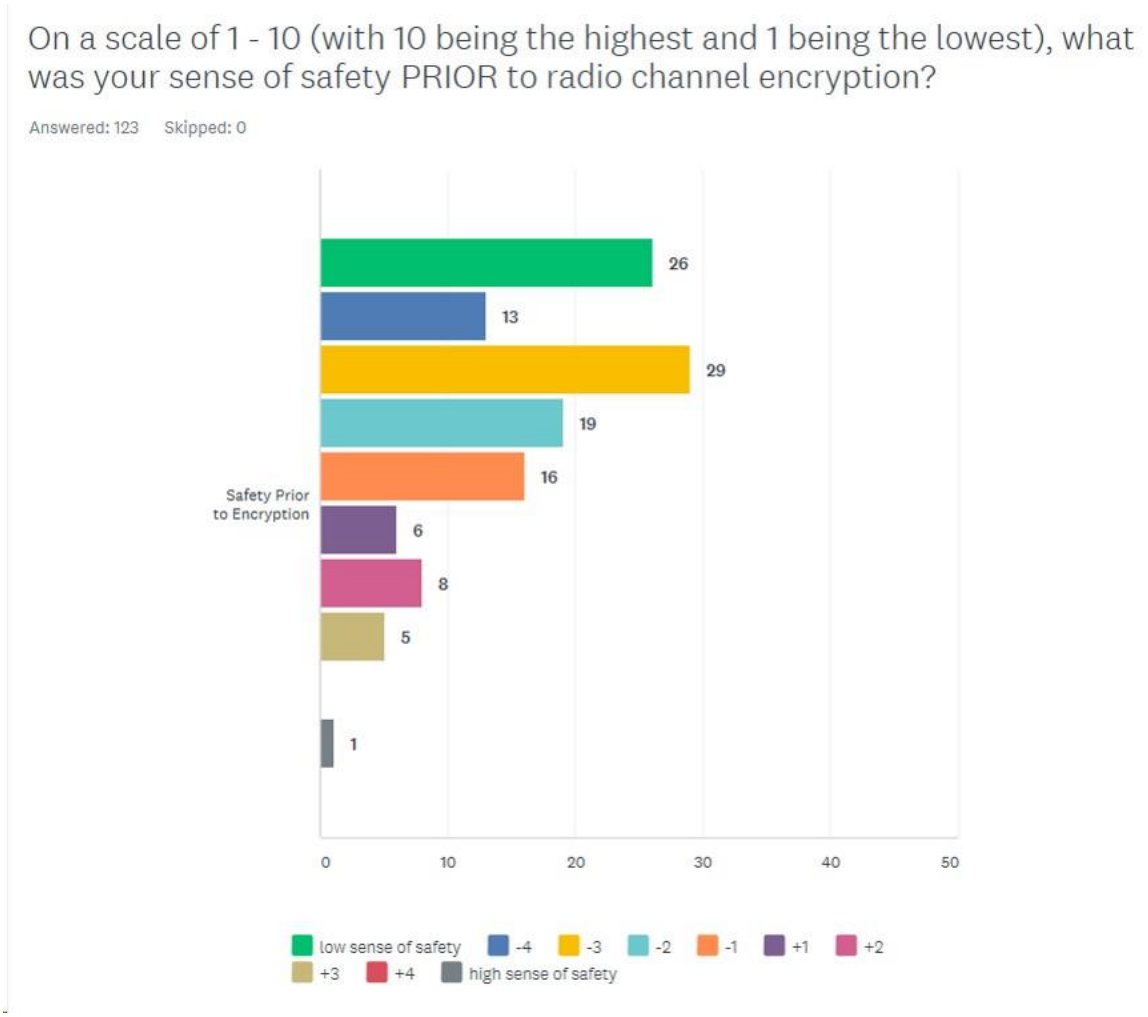
Do you support use of our encrypted radio channel?

Answered: 123 Skipped: 0

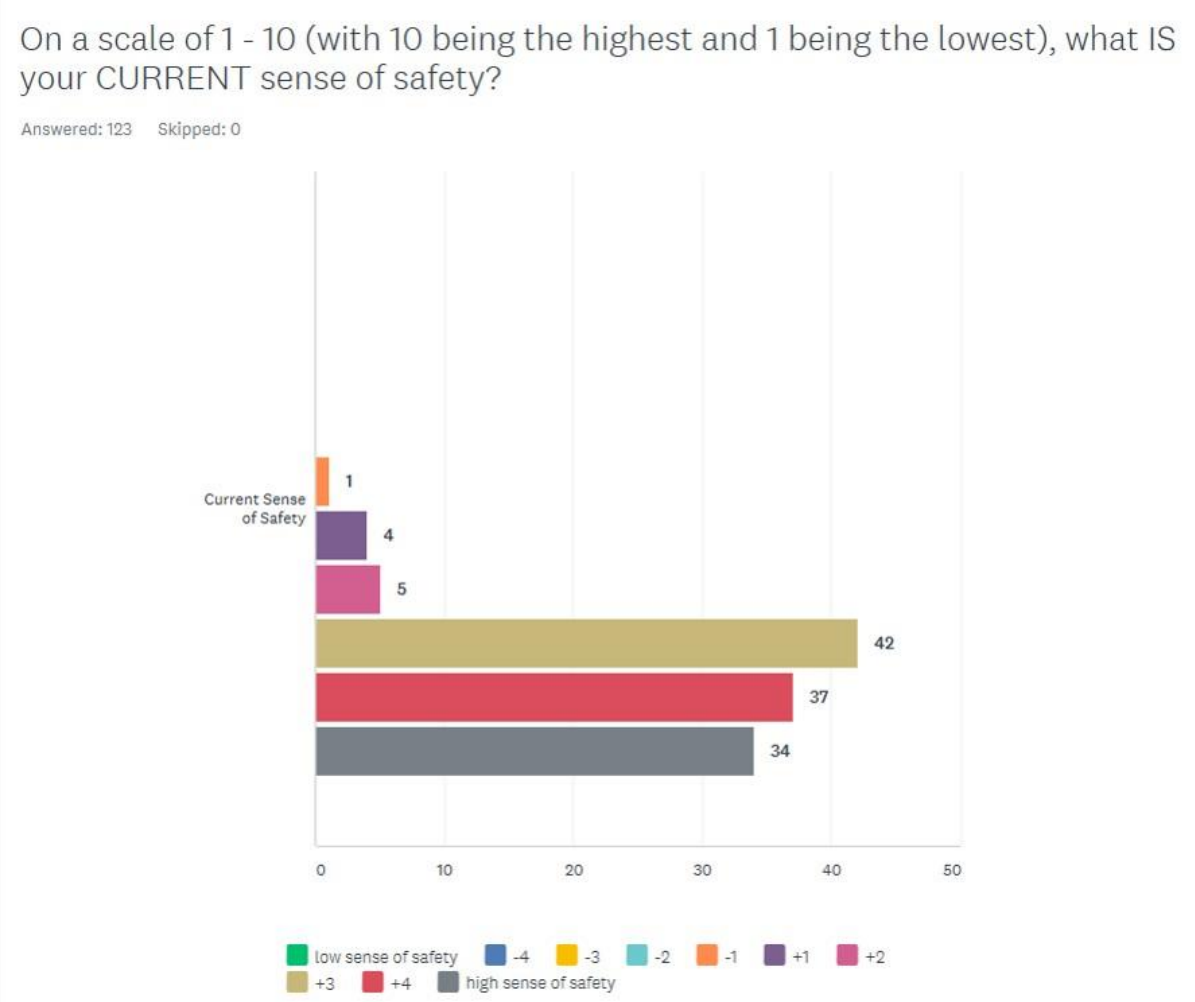


- 99.19% (122) responded that they support use of the encrypted channel.
- 0.81% (1) reported that they do not support use of the encrypted channel.

The weighted average sense of safety prior to encryption was 3.55.



The weighted average sense of safety after encryption was 8.72, representing a 145.63% increase.



Officers shared specific incidents where use of the unencrypted channel increased risk to police officers, along with their general feedback. Following is what they shared. (Any names and addresses associated with incidents have been removed.)

Comments on Specific Incidents Where Use of the Unencrypted Channel Increased Risk to Officers

There have been a hand full of calls I have been on where the suspect was using an app on his phone to get the radio information.

Many times when responding to calls for service, outcomes were different on arrival due to many folks having scanners. This is creates officer safety issues as well as situations opportunities for criminals to take advantage of our response.

Due to the unencrypted channel, a suspect listening to a scanner was able to get out of the residence and avoid being arrested. This created an officer safety issue as the suspect knew the location of all officers on scene.

There are far too many to list.

General ATL calls regarding warrants and learning later they had scanners. Responses to residence with Code 0 people.

I have heard people talking in the street when I am dispatched to calls that they knew I was coming or the obvious loud music complaint.

Many numerous occasions where people have showed up on calls after hearing about it on a scanner. Every time this occurs places an officer in increased risk.

Contacted people in cars who literally had a scanner on and active on their phones.

I have had multiple instances where arrestees or informants have stated that they either eluded arrest by listening to a scanner or were listening to a scanner during an arrest.

I've had instances where fugitives or drug users were using scanners which is concerning especially when approaching a house. This gives them the tactical advantage and the ability to escape or destroy evidence.

Multiple cases shared by other officers. One case specifically (i don't remember CR# off top of my head) however death scene, notification for the coroner was made by officers. Neighbors to the VIC knew their neighbor’s husband was deceased upon arrival due to radio scanner traffic, which they were listening to upon our approach at VIC's request.

Officers dispatched to an intruder in a house and that someone was shot. When the officers arrived the media was already there and the person with the gun was aware officers were on

their way. Fortunately the suspect was cooperative and the media and officers were not put into a hostage situation or a deadly force situation.

We have gone on several ATLs where they had scanners and ran or barricaded themselves.

Pharmacy Robbery whereby the robber had our channel on live during our response. This was shared with Command staff. Good example.

Over the years we have found police scanners running in homes where we had to serve high risk search warrants.

Burglary suspects who had a scanner during their spree. Multiple lookiloo inicidents. Multiple drug dealers who carried scanners.

Suicidal subject in his home in the 900 block of XXXX St that was known to listen to police scanner.

There have been multiple cases where suspects have been monitoring police channel. It is very easy to get an app on phones now.

It's been some time ago but I remember several instances of suspects knowing we were enroute to their residence before we got there. Back then, we were aware of some of those who had scanners; we would coordinate on our cell phones before we attempted contact.

Following officer involved shooting 9/2018, family making social media threats to police. Being encrypted didn't expose locations of officers to enraged family.

I have over several occasions where I have gone into a house or made a traffic stop and have heard myself on the suspect’s phone as they are using an app to monitor our channel. This is a big officer safety issue along with the fact of why does the public need to know where I am going and what I am doing in real time. I am all for transparency, but not in real time.

Specific incidents... About 90,000 per year when those who don't like the police knew where we were.

I cannot remember specific case numbers but there have been a number of times I have talked with arrestees who have stated they had been listening to our radio channel trying to out run their warrants or outstanding charges.

I don't remember the specific call, but there have been times when media is sharing officer location high risk calls.

Many calls where people were actively listening to PD radio traffic on cell phone based apps.

I was on a noise complaint with another officer and as we walked back towards our vehicles, a maroon sedan drove past us slowly loudly playing our radio traffic. There was a delay but it gave us a bad feeling with the way the vehicle rolled by then sped off rapidly once we saw it.

The mall shooting aftermath.

On every call, prior to encrypted channel, I would have to be very strategic in airing important safety information to other Officers knowing people were listening that included potential suspects. I have had several dangerous cases involving, Attempted Murder in 2015 suspect had scanner, Walmart Homicide 2017 suspect had associated with scanners, Homicide 2018. Most recently an Armed Robbery 2018 where the suspect had a scanner on his person listening to officers setting up perimeter for his apprehension. Luckily, the suspect threw his handgun on the ground just prior to officers coming around a barrier.

Several incidents where suspects were monitoring our channel who either fled, or prepared for our arrival with either weapons/barricade.

False reports of dangerous situations requiring a police response has occurred numerous times in the past.

I think if leaving the channel open to the public regarding where the officers are going in real time is the measure of transparency it is also the best way to allow a person with bad intent to hurt the officer. We as officers are already behind the curve because the bad intent person can call in false reports to get the officer where they want them for an ambush. All reports taken by officers are public record and if the public wants to know where we are going they can read the report or CAD notes after proper request. In this way transparency is achieved.

XXXX Ave, suspects were listening to a scanner and we could hear them scanning as we approached.

Threats to officers and when people can just listen to know where you are and where you are going.

I had personally responded to a domestic in progress on South Pratt Parkway where upon arrival, the family was listening to LPD radio traffic and knew we were en route to their residence. I heard the scanner in real time as I was on scene. The suspect left due to this information, but could have set up an ambush for officers.

While responding to a repeat noise complaint with uncooperative people who were not law enforcement friendly, another officer and I overheard a radio scanner on approach, and the group was discussing how to get officers firearms. Both from their vehicle and from their person. I have been on numerous calls where a scanner was being utilized to listen to officer location, evade police and potentially assault officers.

I do not carry a firearm, and twice I have experienced people nearby listening to my radio traffic. One time was parking violations and as I told dispatch my location I heard the echo of my traffic coming from their garage, house windows were barricaded and I felt very unsafe. Another time, I was investigating a hit and run, and the run vehicle driver later confessed he was listening on a scanner and heard me respond to the hit and run location, and then called in a traffic complaint against the victim vehicle, basically, he was toying with us and knew my ins and out.

It’s an everyday thing.

I responded to a domestic incident in progress and as I was walking up to the building and coordinating with other officers, I could hear a police scanner echoing all radio traffic. This made it very dangerous for us due to the type of call we were responding to.

I was dispatched to a shoplift in progress at Safeway on N Hover St. The shoplift turned into a physical disturbance and the dispatcher stated they could hear the police radio in the background with the caller. Upon my arrival, because the suspect was holding a handheld scanner, he knew which entrance the police were coming in and he set up on the south entrance in order to ambush officers into a fight as soon as officers entered. Because we suspected he had a scanner, we radioed Detroit traffic that we were going in the north entrance. When the suspect turned to run across the front of the store we entered from the south entrance and he was taken into custody. Suspect was holding a small handheld scanner. There are several other examples but that is the one that sticks out the most in my mind where a scanner was in use by the bad guy during the call.

Dispatched to a disturbance and heard the police radio inside a garage so I entered because I thought the other officer was there. It turned out to be a scanner and because of the type of call if was not safe for one officer to be inside alone.

I once showed up to arrest someone on a warrant. I called out on the radio and by the time I walked to the front door someone called the suspect because they were monitoring the radio. I also investigated bank robbery where the suspect robbed three banks with a handgun and used a police scanner to aid in his escape. I've heard of people activating intrusion alarms and monitoring the police response prior to committing a burglary.

Too many to count.... Robbery where suspect was actively monitoring. Kidnapping where suspect timed crime based on observing police activity.

I've responded to several calls where upon arrival I heard the sound of a police scanner. This an unsettling feeling. In 2018, there was a male involved in an investigation who lived at XXXX who was believed to be armed and have prior military and police training and access to the scanner. Whenever we responded anywhere in the immediate area, we were having to switch to a tac channel for safety as it was believed he may try to ambush officers. It's nice not having to worry about switching channels for the time being while primary is encrypted.

XXXX Ave - Attempt to locate on a restraining order in progress. Could hear the police radio coming from the garage of the suspect on how officers were planning their entry into the area. Shooting at Loomiller Park where as I was clearing someone, I heard my radio traffic coming out of the person's pocket from his cell phone. Pharmacy robbery with gun, arrestee had the radio app on his phone as he was fleeing on foot from responding officers. During a robbery at Western Convenience gas station with a shotgun, a family showed up to the perimeter to watch the activity because they were at home and heard it on their scanner.

I have multiple examples here are two. One was responding to a shoplift who had an unknown lookout waiting in a vehicle. Sus inside store was told we were coming. They stayed on the phone with each other and gave our exact response plan. Another one I contacted a wanted person in a car. By the time I got the clearance back her family had been listening to our radio and arrived on scene starting an argument with us trying to give the female a chance to run.

All swat or tactical related incidents which were operated over law

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Officers responding to disturbances or noise complaints or any calls increase risks when citizens have the ability to listen to channels that are not encrypted.

I have been on several calls where I suddenly heard my voice on a scanner. Nothing bad happened, but they knew we were coming and could have set up an ambush.

Officer involved shooting at the mall. Due to being able to scan allowed family and other individuals to show up on scene and take officers attention away from the scene.

I can't name a specific incident in Longmont but at another agency I had a family member come to a traffic stop and confront me while I was still engaged in the stop.

I attempted to arrest an adult male on a felony warrant at his residence. Upon calling out at the location, the suspect's father walked outside before I even had the opportunity to knock on the door, which was roughly 20 seconds after I aired my location. He asked me what I wanted, as he was listening to the scanner. He refused to tell me if his son was there or not and would not cooperate. I have numerous examples like this.

While an intern, about 2 years ago my mentor officer and I responded to a call at 66/Main St reference a domestic in a vehicle. When we were on scene, my mentor officer utilized his radio in front of the suspect. The suspect exclaimed "oh! You're PXXX! I listen to the radio all the time and listen to what all the officers are doing and where they are. It's so good to be able to put a face to the number and know you're OFC XXXX". While it was a minor incident, and we weren't put in further danger in that moment, the suspect was easily able to identify MPO XXXX and further track him while he was on duty. This made MPO XXXX an easier target for the future if the suspect wanted to harm him.

I have contacted violent felons that were waiting for me or knew when and where I was coming from.

Being that I do a lot of criminal interdiction, I can personally attest to countless interactions with criminals that were driving around with a police scanner app on during the contact. They could hear me request a cover officer, set up perimeters, and anything that may have been done on channel 1. Since we stopped using the unencrypted channel, I haven't seen one suspect on the street using a scanner.

On graveyard, got a call to a common flophouse on a disturbance. House was known for drugs, fights, and wanted people. During an interview of someone at the house they advised they knew officers were on their way there, and from what area. One person in the house openly considered setting up on us to flank us as we entered the house but was talked out of it by others in the home. No, I don't have a CAD or report number as it was years ago, and not something I thought of setting aside.

Not necessarily a specific incident but on several occasions someone would air that it was a code zero house. If that house had a scanner they know we are coming. Also during Watch one, the main channel was not encrypted so whenever a party was cleared their name, date of birth and sometimes there address was aired for anyone to hear.

I have walked up on several residences while working the street where I was able to hear radio traffic coming from the house or garage. This take a lot of the surprise out of contacting suspects and is a huge concern with officer safety. The brothers who were living at XXXX Ave, and were an officer safety issue every time we showed up, had scanners and cameras on the homes.

High risk traffic stop/ Atl. Driver and passenger were both armed and scanning police radio traffic. Police attempted a traffic stop which resulted in vehicle fleeing and police being involved in a foot pursuit with an armed male.

I've conducted multiple traffic stops or been to multiple houses where the unencrypted channel was actively being scanned.

Many cases! Many citizens have police scanners and are listening to our calls for service. Many are high risk calls, specifically dv cases, and the information the public is hearing, could jeopardize the safety of officers. I can't even tell you how many calls I have gone on where the suspect knew we were coming and was waiting outside or right inside the home.

There have been a few over the years. The most recent was an incident where a citizen called in a shots fired incident, and before officers on another channel could put together a response plan due to the location of the call being an officer safety flag, another anonymous person called in asking why the cops had not been dispatched yet. Another incident several years ago, officers responded on an attempt to locate a wanted subject. We later learned the subject was at the location listening to Officer's radio traffic on a scanner app on his phone. In a more recent incident officers were working a barricaded suspect and the media, who had been provided a police radio was tweeting the location of officers in a breaking news fashion, compromising officer safety as they were trying to safely encourage the suspect to leave the residence.

Multiple incidents where officers were looking for a dangerous suspect who could have been scanning our channel.

Turner Kidnapping.

We were on an attempt to locate, and the suspect, along with others, were monitoring our radio traffic on a smart phone app.

Several case in SEU, we have identified the use of scanner apps. When contacted they were listening to channel 1.

I cannot recall the details, but I do remember times when suspects have known we were coming to the location at which they were hiding and position themselves accordingly.

I have provided examples before. I personally have stopped several cars of criminals where they were monitoring our traffic in the car, or responded on calls at residences/places where they knew we were coming due to the radio apps. I felt jeopardized in safety as they knew I was going to stop them or responding to their house which put me at tactical disadvantage.

Lots of examples of people fleeing after the incident is broadcast on the radio.

A few years ago, I was on a physical domestic call. I was in the living room speaking with the male suspect and I could hear our radio traffic very loudly in the house. I realized the suspect had a scanner in his living room, apparently playing at all times. This was unnerving, knowing he had listened to the call being dispatched, including our arrival at his house. Obviously, this could have presented a huge tactical problem, and of course a grave officer safety concern.

Attempting to arrest a high risk fugitive with a gun, he fled in a vehicle. Found the vehicle abandoned within moments, gun inside and heard our radio traffic echo from the vehicle. Found phone inside with scanner app broadcasting our radio traffic. One of several similar incidents over the years.

Numerous times where wanted subjects have fled addresses just prior to police arrival due to scanner apps. FDC suspects used these often as well and avoided detection.

No specific details, however I have heard scanners in homes and cars, of which I was in, investigating or otherwise on scene for.

General Comments from Officers

The radio communications need to remain encrypted.

I believe very strongly in the use of encrypted channels. The safety to officers and emergency personnel I believe has increased over time and this is just another way to help add a little more safety to our job.

The most recent issue is the Times-Call has our radio and have put in the paper on our last swat call out where they were staging and what was going on. It is still a safety issue. I understand that we want to be transparent but at what cost to officer safety?

I feel like providing a radio to local media maintains transparency.

Not only is Officer Safety of upmost priority in making this decision, which it is clear to me, and frankly obvious, encryption increases Officer Safety. However, Vic and Wit sensitive information is aired over primary channels during WI and WIII hours, often putting valuable VIC and WIT information into public hands, which affects officer safety as well as overall well being of the public.

As noted before, this also is good for private information (Names, DOBs, addresses, domestic arguments, medical info) not going public.

Please keep up the encryption. Thanks!

In these times of officer assassinations, it would be safer if the general public did not have information on our locations.

As an employee who mainly works inside the building I still believe our safety has improved greatly since encryption. I have been on the receiving end of incoming phone calls where the caller has stated (prior to encryption) they were scanning the radio and wanted more information about the call. I have also been on the receiving end of callers (prior to encryption) who were mocking the police response because they were scanning the calls. Since encryption, those calls have stopped for the most part. Only one or two calls were concerned callers wanting to know why they could no longer scan calls. When provided with the answer of officer safety there was no further pushback.

This needs to be done. The public doesn't need access to our radio channel in real time.

I may not be aware of specific incidents regarding the pre-encrypted channel but why give suspects the upper hand? I also believe the media does not need access to our encrypted channel. I am not aware they do background checks on their employees and sensitive information could fall into the wrong hands.

It is an officer safety and public safety issue. Our citizens can be better served by allowing the police to do their jobs and not allowing criminals to hear what we are doing.

Hopefully we can reorganize out channels soon to decrease the current confusion about DATA=LAW and Tac4=DATA.

It should have been encrypted a long time ago when first available. Fortunately, no tragedies occurred during that time. I know the press is an entity against encrypted radios as they use their scanners to listen to calls for service so they can get a "jump" on things. With today's security issues, one cannot fully entrust media personnel to keep sensitive information from being released to those who can cause harm. Thank you for listening to those who are actually on the front line engaging danger on a daily basis.

We all understand the need for a well informed public. However, our first priority is to protect the public. Our ability to effectively conduct police operations is directly related to our operational security.

Having the encrypted channel not only increases officer safety but it helps protect our citizen's privacy and gives us a tactical advantage.

Keep it encrypted. I’ve not heard one officer complain about the channel being encrypted. But I have heard, and have been an officer who has questioned the intent of calls we have been sent to regarding the possibility of bad intent.

The fact we have to consider the media’s concern of wanting to know what’s going on over officer safety is concerning.

If the ability is there then why not provide an extra layer of safety.

Law enforcement needs to be able to operate under protection of encrypted radio. The world is different. Crime is different. Suspects are different. More and more people are willing to cause harm to officers. Encrypted radio is one way police can be protected and a little of the ball gets put back into their court.

I think police channels should be encrypted and not used outside of emergency services.

Our safety is paramount. Please do not go back to unencrypted channels. Being ambushed because someone knows where we are and what we are doing because of the newspapers hurt feelings is not with an officer's safety.

Having all channels encrypted has created a very strong sense of security and has taken a good amount of stress off of my plate personally with having to worry about potential threats knowing exactly where and when we are all at within the city.

There have been countless times I've heard sensitive information over the radio. People have a right to be safe (police included) but now with reverse 911 we CAN keep people even safer.

Necessary in today's modern world with tech that is available to anyone anywhere and given social climate re: ambush style attacks on Police.

Thanks for adding a layer of safety by encrypting the normal day to day traffic.

Our safety should be #1. Criminals should not have access to hear our plans and responses.

You have to first and foremost look after the safety of our officers vs the transparency to the community. We do not often come across upstanding citizens who monitor our radio channels. This channel is mainly used by those who are wanted to avoid law enforcement. Officer safety must be paramount.

There are a lot of agencies which have encrypted primary radio channels. The safety of officers is more important with the use of encrypted channels than a sense of transparency without encrypted channels. Our agency can be transparent through the controlled release of pertinent information.

None

Encryption allows for officers to communicate more efficient. It also protects the citizens' information when they do come into contact with them.

There are scanner apps / websites where people can listen to our radio traffic. I'm guessing through this survey you will get accounts where arrestees have been listening to our radio traffic while committing crimes.

I was able to catch some kids breaking into cars this winter, who I believe were trying to use a scanner, but were not able to monitor our traffic because we were on an encrypted channel from the get-go.

By not encrypting our channels you are putting us and our families at risk. In the grand scheme of things it's not worth it. Our job is dangerous enough.

My safety is paramount. Everything we do is public record and if citizens want to hear it, they can request it. Nothing is being hidden because of encryption. They can still get the information after the fact and hear it all. We have nothing to hide. Me telling other officers my location and armed suspects on the street hearing the same information almost real time is very dangerous. My family deserves better.

The only reasons I can think of to leave the channel open is for media and general public curiosity. Neither of those things (media one has been addressed) should overpower Officer safety. Ever. Yes people are entitled to information. But that doesn't mean they are entitled to it right now.

Something to consider is that radio communication is considered evidence, especially in felony cases, so is this something that should be available to the public.

The entire nation has seen an increase in ambushing officers. When people know we will respond, that makes it easier for people to "set up" officers. Having UNECRYPTED channels makes it that much easier for the assaulter to know way too much information about our response (how many, arrivals, where we are, when additional help is coming, etc) and completely removes what little advantage we could have in those situations. The safety of officers far outweighs the public's curiosity.

At this day and age with threats becoming a regular occurrence with law enforcement and public safety in general. Radio traffic needs to be encrypted. It is not a right to the general public to hear the radio traffic.

Not only increases officer safety, it allows quicker communication between dispatch and officers and officer to officer since sensitive information can now be aired on the encrypted channel.

None

I understand the public's interest in listening to police radio traffic, and I have even used one of the most popular applications to listen to a metro area officer involved shooting incident. Obviously I had no ill intent against the officers, but I could see how a person on the run could use this technology to maintain an upper hand on officers. In the past a scanner was a radio that looks like a walkie-talkie and an officer could be suspicious of a person with such a device if the situation was of moderate or high risk. However having this capability on a cell phone, everyone walking around with earbuds in is a potential officer safety issue and could be a lookout for the suspect.

Victim Privacy is also very important. Encryption protects officers, and ensures victim privacy.

Using the data channel has worked so far, let's make it permanent.

I support transparency, but not at the expense of our safety. Also, there are times when juveniles are being contacted and cleared (in the past) on unencrypted channels, which should not be available to anyone to scan.

Our effectiveness in apprehending criminals is absolutely benefited by encrypting channels, with such things as area checks for car break ins. It's also extremely beneficial to be able to air everything on one channel rather than trying to switch to different channels for specific calls that may need encryption... officers lose awareness of where other officers are or what they are doing which is a significant safety issue. There are also many calls I've been on that we're dispatched as something mundane but turned out to be very different / more serious.

Please continue the encryption.

There is no reason to go back to having our primary police channel be unencrypted. I think 99% of the department would agree that having our primary channel be encrypted is much safer for our employees and also victims/witnesses of crimes.

Long time coming.

Please continue the encryption. It helps us do our jobs better and more safely.

Fire should do the same: https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/denver-fire-department-plans-to-encrypt-radio-traffic

Appendix A

Encryption Pilot Metrics						
General Data	**Total 9/22/17 - 3/21/18**	**Total 9/22/18 - 3/21/19**	**% Increase / Decrease**			
Total Calls of a Criminal Nature	8,900	8,918	0.20			
Total Arrests & Summons	3,066	2,958	-3.52			
Assaults on police officers	9	5	-44.44			
Curfew tickets (prevention of auto break-ins and other crimes)	143	178	24.48			
Property Crimes by Type	**Total Calls 9/22/17 - 3/21/18**	**Total Calls 9/22/18 - 3/21/19**	**% Increase / Decrease**	**Total Arrests & Summons 9/22/17 - 3/21/18**	**Total Arrests & Summons 9/22/18 - 3/21/19**	**% Increase / Decrease**
Robbery	12	18	50.00	9	7	-22.22
Burglary	212	238	12.26	26	39	50.00
Auto Theft	162	183	12.96	39	20	-48.72
Larceny (theft, auto break-in, shoplift, etc.)	966	1,134	17.39	227	310	36.56
Total	1,352	1,573	16.35	301	376	24.92
*Rate of Arrests to Calls (limited to above crime types)				22.26%	23.90%	7.37

Priority 1 / Crimes in Progress Data									
Total Priority 1 / Crime in Progress Calls	3,490	3,440	-1.43						
Total Arrests & Summons Priority 1 / Crime in Progress	492	500	1.63						
*Rate of Priority 1 Arrests & Summons to Priority 1 Calls	14.10%	14.53%	3.10						
Total UTLs Priority 1 / Crime in Progress	298	234	-21.48						
*Rate of Priority 1 UTLs to Priority 1 Calls	8.54%	6.80%	-20.34						
Priority 1 / Crimes in Progress by Property Crime Type	**Total P1 Calls 9/22/17 - 3/21/18**	**Total P1 Calls 9/22/18 - 3/21/19**	**% Increase / Decrease**	**Total P1 Arrests & Summons 9/22/17 - 3/21/18**	**Total P1 Arrests & Summons 9/22/18 - 3/21/19**	**% Increase / Decrease**	**Total P1 UTLs 9/22/17 - 3/21/18**	**Total P1 UTLs 9/22/18 - 3/21/19**	**% Increase / Decrease**
Robbery	10	17	70.00	2	2	0.00	0	1	N/C
Burglary	34	36	5.88	3	8	166.67	1	1	0.00
Auto Theft	13	15	15.38	1	2	100.00	2	0	-100.00
Larceny (theft, auto break-in, shoplift, etc.)	119	155	30.25	59	72	22.03	17	9	-47.06
Total	176	223	26.70	65	84	29.23	20	11	-45.00
*Rate of P1 Arrests to P1 Calls (limited to above crime types)				36.93%	37.67%	1.99			
*Rate of P1 UTLs to P1 Calls (limited to above crime types)							11.36%	4.93%	-56.59

Total arrests & summons include calls in addition to the highlighted property crime types. For example, calls such as disturbance, DV in progress, DUI, narcotics related calls, hit & run accident, child abuse, sex assault, among others.

**Since calls for property crimes were up during the pilot phase, we measured the rate of arrests and compared to overall calls for each date range in order to determine comparative increases / decreases.*