



Citizen Oversight Board

101 Colfax Ave., Suite 101
Denver, CO 80202
(720) 913-3306
www.denvergov.org/COB

August 1, 2025

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Members of the Denver City Council,

The Citizen Oversight Board fully supports the proposed changes to Denver Revised Municipal Code Sec. 2-390 that Councilmembers Gilmore and Torres recently introduced (Bill # 25-1117). The proposed changes would require the City Attorney's Office to provide us with copies of any final settlement agreements related to the Department of Public Safety (DOS) that include non-monetary terms or commitments. These non-monetary provisions are often critical to making structural changes that can help prevent future harm, and the proposed ordinance changes will allow us to monitor the extent to which these important commitments are complied with.

Over the years, there have been several examples of non-monetary settlement terms that have driven large and lasting improvements. Unfortunately, as we described in our November 2023 letter, there have also been examples of terms that the City has either not fully complied with or has only done the bare minimum to comply with, denying potential benefits to our community and increasing the chances of another tragedy.

We are grateful that the DOS has voluntarily taken the significant step of beginning to proactively disclose any settlements containing these terms. Even so, we believe that giving us the ability to independently verify those disclosures will demonstrate the City's commitment to accountability and strengthen the foundation upon which community trust is built.

Thank you for taking our concerns about this issue seriously and investing the time and energy to draft this language and consider this bill.

Sincerely,
The Denver Citizen Oversight Board

Julia Richman, Chair
Tymesha Watkins, Vice-Chair
Karen Collier
Rufina Hernández

Dawn Holden-Hale
David Martinez
Larry Martinez
Alfredo Reyes