



**FIRE
DEPARTMENT**
DENVER PUBLIC SAFETY



Denver Fire Department
Office of the Fire Chief

745 West Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80204
p: 720.913.3438
f: 720.913.3597
www.denvergov.org/fire

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

TO: Denver City Council

RE: Support letter of Mr. Al Gardner's appointment as next Executive Director of Public Safety

Esteemed Members of the Denver City Council,

It is with great respect and sincere conviction that I submit this letter in strong support of Mr. Al Gardner's appointment as the next Executive Director of Public Safety.

Over the course of my career, I have had the distinct privilege of working alongside six individuals who have held this esteemed position. Each brought unique strengths—some with deep roots in specific areas of public safety, others with legal acumen that enhanced procedural clarity and accountability, and still others whose community ties fostered meaningful engagement and trust. Mr. Gardner embodies the best of all these qualities. His breadth of experience, principled leadership, and unwavering commitment to public service make him exceptionally well-suited to carry forward the legacy of excellence in this role.

In my time working with Mr. Gardner during his tenure as Executive Director of General Services, I have witnessed firsthand his collaborative spirit and steadfast leadership. He is a visionary who leads with integrity, humility, and a deep sense of purpose. He does not shy away from challenges but instead approaches them with thoughtful resolve and a commitment to partnership.

The Executive Director of Safety must be more than an administrator—they must be a leader who inspires, who listens, and who acts with compassion and courage. Mr. Gardner exemplifies these traits. He understands the vital importance of community connection, transparency, and accountability. He leads from the front, with both heart and conviction, and he holds himself and others to the highest standards of service.

Denver has been fortunate to have had many outstanding leaders in this role. I am confident that Mr. Gardner will not only uphold that tradition but elevate it. His appointment would be a testament to our city's continued commitment to safety, equity, and excellence.

It would be my honor to call Mr. Al Gardner our next Executive Director of Public Safety. I wholeheartedly and unequivocally endorse his appointment.

With respect and gratitude,

Desmond G Fulton
Chief of Fire, Denver Fire Department