



**POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
DENVER PUBLIC SAFETY

Denver Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police
1331 Cherokee Street #402
Denver, CO 80204

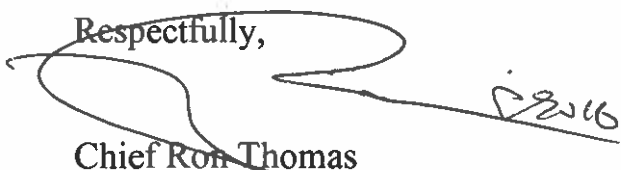


To whom it may concern,

It is with tremendous respect that I offer my personal recommendation and strong support for Al Gardner as the nominee for Denver's Executive Director of Safety. I have known Al Gardner for several years in multiple capacities to include his time with Denver's Citizen Oversight Board, Denver Civil Service Commission, and his most recent role with the city as the General Services Executive Director. In each of these roles, I found Director Gardner to be a willing collaborator and partner in achieving both citywide and community-focused goals. Al Gardner has established himself as someone who clearly understands the needs of Denver's Safety agencies, particularly DPD, and those of the communities we serve, never shying away from difficult conversations and accountability. His ability to listen, clearly understand stakeholder concerns, and his willingness to engage community makes Al Gardner a prime candidate for the role of Executive Director of the Department of Safety. Further, having worked closely with Director Gardner in his role with General Services, I was able to see evidence of his strong leadership and collaborative capacity while working jointly to secure All in Mile High sights and various city-owned facilities, quickly addressing problems and working toward effective solutions for persistent and unforeseen challenges.

In addition, I have absolutely no concern that Al Gardner does not possess direct experience with any Safety agency, though I'd submit his experience with the Citizens Oversight Board and Civil Service Commission have allowed him the ability to understand our challenges and opportunities for growth. Additionally, throughout my DPD career including the last 10 years as a member of DPD's senior leadership team, I am very familiar with numerous Safety Directors, many of whom did not have experience in any particular safety discipline. Additionally, I believe the fact that Al Gardner does not come with any level of expertise within one of the Safety agencies provides him with the opportunity to provide perspectives that might otherwise not be considered. Al Gardner has also earned a great level of trust with me, my other Safety partners, and all the communities within which we both engage. I would be honored to serve alongside Al Garner as the new Executive Director of Safety.

Respectfully,


Chief Ron Thomas
Denver Police Department