

Dear Mayor Johnston and Members of Denver City Council,

The Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition writes in support of the proposed legislation establishing clear standards for how government authority is exercised in public spaces, particularly in light of recent events that have raised serious concerns about safety, accountability, and public trust.

At its core, this legislation reflects a basic constitutional principle: when government power is exercised over people in public, it must be visible, identifiable, and accountable. These standards are essential to community safety and to maintaining trust between residents and the institutions meant to protect them.

Across the country, enforcement practices lacking clear identification have escalated fear, increased the risk of harm, and undermined confidence—not only among immigrant communities, but among residents broadly, including citizens, veterans, and long-standing Denver families. That erosion of trust makes public safety harder to achieve, not easier.

This legislation does not oppose the rule of law or legitimate enforcement. It recognizes how laws are enforced matters. Transparency and accountability strengthen public safety, and they protect both communities and officers. While we acknowledge real concerns around officer safety, harassment, and doxing, anonymity should not be a prerequisite for exercising public authority.

We urge City Council to adopt this legislation and respectfully call on the Mayor to enforce it consistent with its intent—by ensuring that public authority exercised in Denver aligns with constitutional values, transparency, and community safety.

At a moment when trust is fragile, Denver has an opportunity to lead with clarity, balance, and accountability. We believe this legislation is an important step toward a safer and more unified city.

Respectfully,

Kym Ray, Denver Campaign Coordinator

Colorado Criminal Justice Coalition