

Les Perry
Retired DPD Commander



September 5, 2025

Denver City Council
City and County Building
1437 Bannock Street, Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

Subject: Endorsement of Al Gardner for Executive Director, Manager of Safety

Dear Members of the Denver City Council, I am writing to express my wholehearted endorsement of **Al Gardner** for the position of **Executive Director, Manager of Safety** for the City and County of Denver.

In my experience working with Mr. Gardner, I have found him to be a leader of exceptional integrity and vision. What sets Al apart is not only his ability to articulate a clear and strategic vision for public safety, but his unwavering commitment to putting that vision into action. His words and thought processes are best verified in his *walk* — the way he consistently leads by example, engages directly with stakeholders, and demonstrates the values he expects of others.

Denver needs a leader who understands both the operational complexities and the human aspects of public safety. Mr. Gardner has shown an extraordinary ability to build trust, foster collaboration, and guide teams through challenging situations with a steady hand. His approach balances accountability and compassion, ensuring that decisions serve both the public interest, and the professionals tasked with protecting our community. As a retired Denver Police Commander with more than three decades of service, I take great pride in the future leadership and direction of Denver's public safety. This critical role requires a unique set of intrinsic skills, along with proven management tools — qualities that Mr. Gardner embodies and consistently demonstrates.

I am confident that Mr. Gardner will bring a results-driven, principled approach to the Office of the Manager of Safety. His proven track record, combined with his commitment to transparency and fairness, makes him uniquely suited to address the pressing public safety challenges facing Denver today and into the future.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support Al Gardner's appointment as Executive Director, Manager of Safety. Denver will be well-served by his leadership, dedication, and steadfast commitment to diligence.

Thank you for your consideration of this endorsement.

Les Perry, (Ret.) Commander