

Elias A. Diggins, MPA, CCE

Summary: Experienced law enforcement and correctional executive with a demonstrated history of working in public safety. Skilled in crisis management, public policy, employee/union relationships, community affairs, political strategy and emergency response. Servant leader with a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Colorado-Denver.

EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION/TRAINING

Master of Public Administration – University of Colorado • Denver
Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice – Metropolitan State College of Denver
Certified Jail Manager – American Jail Association
Certified Correctional Executive – American Correctional Association
Certified Auditor – American Correctional Association (ACA)
National Institute of Corrections – Executive Excellence Program Graduate
Instructor for the following organizations:

- American Jail Association
- Department of Justice/National Institute of Corrections – Large Jail Network
- Denver Sheriff Department – Training Academy – Various courses during career

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

President – American Jail Association (2019-2020)

- Board Member (2012 – 2021)

Commission on Accreditation for Corrections – ACA (2013 – 2017)

- Chair of the Commission (2015 – 2017)

National Institute of Corrections – Large Jail Network Advisory Board (2016 – Present)
City of Denver – Deferred Compensation Committee Board Member (2010 – 2014)
Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives – Board Member (2009 – 2015)

EXPERIENCE

Denver Sheriff Department – Denver, CO (1994 – Present)

Sheriff – City and County of Denver (July 2020 – Present)

- Responsible for the overall administration, operation and business practices of the largest Sheriff Department in the State of Colorado, with a \$170+ million budget.
- Servant leader of over 1,000 personnel; sworn, civilian staff members and contract staff.

Chief of Operations (January 2018 – July 2020)

- Responsible for the administration, operation and business practices of the:
 - Denver County Jail
 - Downtown Detention Center
 - Court Services Unit
 - Civil Processes Unit
 - Fugitive Detail
 - Correctional Care Medical Facility
 - K-9 Unit
 - Emergency Response Unit
 - Gang Intelligence Unit
- Accountable for the Operations Division portion of the budget, which represented approximately \$110 million of the overall \$151+ million Department financial resources.

Division Chief – Reform Project Administrator (October 2015 – December 2017)

- Responsible for leading, guiding and assisting senior level personnel in the creation, refinement, implementation and execution of Reform Recommendation Plans related to jail operations.
- Worked with internal and external stakeholders to help shape a new culture within the Denver Sheriff Department related to recommended changes.

Interim Sheriff – City and County of Denver (July 2014 – October 2015)

- Served as the Chief Executive Officer of the largest Sheriff Department in the State of Colorado.
- Led the Department through a period of several external reviews and heightened media scrutiny.
- Provided strategic direction and helped shape the vision for the Agency.
- Implemented change in many practices within the Agency with the assistance of staff from all levels and ranks along with external stakeholder input.
- Created the Denver Sheriff Department – Gender Equity Committee, which became a national model for jails in the U.S.

Division Chief – Denver County Jail (April 2009 – July 2014)

- Responsible for the overall administration and operation of a large jail, housing both male and female offenders (2,200 beds) prior to the opening of the Downtown Detention Center.
- Set the mission, vision and direction of the facility which included both indirect and direct supervision housing units.
- Served as the delegate for litigation against the Department in local, state and federal matters to include acting as the 30(b)(6) representative, working alongside the Denver City Attorney’s Office on numerous cases.
- Led a \$25million demolition and construction project on the campus while maintaining an active facility with a count of 850 inmates.
 - Demolition included 6 inmate housing buildings on the campus.
 - Construction included a 6-story direct supervision building.

Major - Office of the Director/Undersheriff (April 2008 – March 2009)

- Worked with the Director of Corrections/Undersheriff to assist with various projects and convey the Directors interests in various meetings.
- Worked with Denver’s Road Home Project and the Mental Health Center of Denver to explore and secure housing for released offenders with Axis I mental health disorders.
 - Served as the Departments representative on the National Institute of Corrections/Urban Institute - Transition from Jail to Community Project.

Major - Denver County Jail (February 2006 – April 2008)

- Served as second-in-command of the facility, which was the largest jail in Colorado at the time with 2,250 inmates at its height.
- Assisted the County Jail Division Chief with:
 - Creating expansion proposals.
 - Represented the interests of the Division in Budget and Planning processes.
 - Determined staffing levels throughout the facility.
- Responsibility for leading Work Release and Community Corrections Programs, Food Service and Facility Maintenance.
- Project manager for the DSD Cook-Chill Production Kitchen Project (Budget-\$12,500,000.00).
- Oversaw the implementation of the Objective Classification System.
- Coordinated the response to facility emergencies and critical incidents including inmate suicides/attempts and the death of an officer while on duty.

Captain - Denver Sheriff Department Training Academy (January 2004 – January 2006)

- Responsibility for all aspects of the Training Academy.
- Oversaw the pre-service training of recruit classes, to include 9 Academies and the annual in-service for all current staff.
- Provided instruction and guidance for Field Training Officer program and new Sergeant Academy training.
- Reviewed and approved all training curriculum material.
- Served as the Departments' representative on the "Regional Public Safety Academy" Project.
- Coordinated the implementation of new and innovative ideas and techniques to benefit the Department and improve officer safety. These implementations included:
 - The C-4 Defensive Tactics Program.
 - The change to the First Defense MK III O.C. Spray.
 - Introduction of Tasers to the DSD.

Captain - Emergency Response Unit (ERU) (January 2004 – January 2006)

- Supervised the ERU to include 6 Sergeants and 33 Deputies.
- Directed a Team of highly trained individuals skilled in tactical operations, specialized weapons, advanced vehicle maneuvering, court service protection, and mass arrest response procedures.
- Coordinated with the Internal Affairs Bureau to provide personnel and lead teams to respond to inmate escapes with 100% success in recapture.
- Organized the ERU response to various deployments to include:
 - Columbus Day Protests.
 - 2005 NBA All-Star Game Weekend in Denver.
 - National Disaster Medical Systems Exercise.

Special assignments while serving as a Captain

Project Manager – In-direct Supervision Building Remodel

(Project budget-\$902,054.00)

- Coordinated the modification of 3 housing tiers in the Denver County Jail.

Co-Project Manager-Video Visitation Project

(Project budget-\$455,861.00)

- Managed the installation of the Video Visitation system at the Denver County Jail.

Denver Justice Center Project

- Attended groundwork meetings for the Denver Justice Center Proposal and conducted listening sessions at Department rollcalls to gather feedback from rank-and-file deputies and civilians on the project.
- Campaigned for the measure in neighborhoods around Denver and facilitated many community meetings prior to the election.
- Represented the Department in City Council meetings on the project in the absence of the Director of Corrections.

Assignments from 1994 - 2003

Sergeant-Training Division

Sergeant-Court Services Division

Sergeant-Internal Investigations and Civil Liabilities Unit

Sergeant-Pre-Arrestment Detention Facility (PADF)

Sergeant-Emergency Response Unit

Deputy Sheriff-Denver County Jail