

2014-2015

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February 2, 2015

Honorable Paul D. Lopez  
Denver City Council

Dear Councilman Lopez,

The Colorado Criminal Defense Bar fully supports the proposed Ordinance to strengthen the Denver Independent Monitor's investigatory and oversight authority over local law enforcement.

The Office of the Independent Monitor was established to provide civilian oversight of law enforcement and to work with the departments to enhance public safety. The proposed amendments are necessary to streamline cooperation and allow the Independent Monitor to fulfill his responsibilities.

CCDB is acutely aware of many of the problems in law enforcement that stem from lack of oversight and insularity -- the clients that CCDB's members represent are often the individuals subjected to improper force accusations by the Denver Police and Sheriff's Departments. Increased accountability and transparency which will result from this Ordinance is sorely needed to restore public trust in the Denver Police, Sheriff, and Fire Departments

The Colorado Criminal Defense Bar is a professional association of nearly 1,000 attorneys, investigators and paralegals statewide who are dedicated to protecting the rights of Coloradans.

Sincerely,



David M. Beller  
President  
Colorado Criminal Defense Bar

CC: Nicholas E. Mitchell