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Former Deputy Mayor & Director of Public Safety, City and County of Denver Former Deputy City Manager, Englewood, CO / Brighton, CO

September 2, 2025

Denver City Council 1437 Bannock Street Denver, CO 80202

Re: Endorsement of Al Gardner for Confirmation as Public Safety Director

Dear Members of the Denver City Council,

It is with great respect and conviction that I write to endorse Al Gardner for confirmation as the next Public Safety Director for the City and County of Denver. Having had the honor of serving as Denver's Director of Public Safety, Deputy City Manager, and General Services Director, I know firsthand the weight, responsibility, and potential of this role.

The position of Public Safety Director was established to ensure civilian oversight and accountability over our city's public safety agencies. Over its history, the role has evolved with the times, requiring different kinds of expertise to meet the challenges of each era. At its core, however, the position has never required a traditional public safety background—it has always required strong management skills, operational excellence, and the ability to lead with accountability and vision.

Today, Denver needs a leader who can understand and dissect the operations of each department, drive operational efficiency, and ensure the office is firmly grounded in community focus. This is exactly the type of leader Al Gardner has proven himself to be. With a distinguished background as a technology executive and senior leader in the private sector, Al brings a results-driven management approach that aligns perfectly with the current needs of our city.

Equally important, Al has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the community. His leadership extends beyond boardrooms into neighborhoods, where he has led initiatives to

improve equity, expand opportunities, and build bridges between residents and institutions. He has consistently shown the courage to make tough decisions while keeping people at the center of his leadership philosophy.

At this moment in Denver's history, we need a Public Safety Director who can blend operational discipline with community accountability—who can modernize systems while also strengthening trust. Al Gardner embodies these qualities. His proven record of leadership in both the private sector and community arenas makes him the right choice for this pivotal role.

I strongly and wholeheartedly recommend that the Denver City Council confirm Al Gardner as the next Public Safety Director of the City and County of Denver. I am confident that under his leadership, our city will not only meet the challenges of today but also prepare for the future with integrity, efficiency, and community partnership.

Respectfully submitted,

Murphy Robinson III
President & CEO

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