

## MEMORANDUM – CRIME PREVENTION & CONTROL COMMISSION

TO:	City Council
FROM:	Mayor's Office of Boards & Commissions
DATE:	03/25/2025
PURPOSE:	Crime Prevention & Control Commission
NEXT STEPS:	City Council Confirmation

**Staff Liaison:** Jeffrey Holiday – Chief of Staff, DOS

### CURRENT BOARD STATUS

**Scope of Board/Commission:** The Crime Prevention and Control Commission (CPCC) was formed by ordinance in 2005 in partial response to the overcrowded and unsafe conditions at the jails at the time. According to the ordinance, “the legislative intent of this division is to implement an evidence-based, accountable, and efficient public safety strategy to reduce crime, including juvenile delinquency, and to increase neighborhood safety. To that end, the council establishes a crime prevention and control commission which shall have the following purposes:

1. To reduce crime, partly by reducing criminal recidivism;
2. To facilitate coordination among justice system agencies;
3. To support the development of a data-driven criminal justice system that offers a range of evidence-based sanctions and programs;
4. To facilitate the development of information technology and data necessary for effective criminal justice policy development, jail population management, and evaluation of sanctions and programs to hold offenders accountable;
5. To facilitate efficient use of jail space by encouraging alternatives, where appropriate; and
6. To recommend expenditures from the crime prevention and control fund” (§ 2-255.48)

**Appointment Process:** All candidates must be from the following: Defense Bar, Offender Services Providers, Denver Public Schools, Juvenile Services Planning Committee, City/County Juvenile Justice System, Academia, Homeless and Mental Health Services Providers and 3 Victims Advocates. The appointees are a mix of ‘appointed by position’ from various agencies and departments, city council and 15 Citizen appointments by Mayor.

### BOARDS & COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Reappointment Candidates



**Jonathan McMillan** - Director of Firearm-Related Harm & Violence Prevention, Trailhead Institute

**BIO:** As a third generation Denverite he believes he has a duty to ensure there is authentic representation and inclusion of his community in every part of the safety plans, economic development, education equity and overall prosperity of our City. He recently served the City and County of Denver’s office of Public Safety as a gang intervention specialist. In this role he mentored current and former gang members. He also co-facilitated the “Safe Summer Safe Eastside Project” which resulted in no gang related deaths in the 80205 area during the 2017 summer break and he assisted in the implementation of the Safe Haven Project which provided immediate community

support in the aftermath of gang related violence. Jonathan is currently very involved with My Brother's Keeper - Denver (MBK), an initiative launched by President Obama. He is also an active participant and facilitator in ongoing roundtables and forums called Kids & Cops : Bridging the Gap, designed by the City of Denver's Office of the Independent Monitor, intent on improving the relationship between young people of color and law enforcement. In 2018 he was elected as the chairman of the Denver African American Commission where he works to be an authentic advocate for disenfranchised citizens by crafting programs and recommending legislation for the mayor to back. Additionally, Jonathan also sits on Near Northeast Trauma Informed Practices Committee and on the advisory boards of Park Hill Strong and Steps to Success, two youth violence prevention projects partnered with University of Colorado and Center for Disease Control.

**Term:** 01/01/2025 – 31/12/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed



**Jennifer Gafford** - Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Denver

**BIO:** Dr. Jennifer Gafford is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Counseling Psychology Department at the University of Denver, where she also serves as the Training Director for the Master's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. She earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Denver in 2008, with a dissertation focused on the impact of suicidal individuals in group therapy. Dr. Gafford has extensive experience in correctional mental health, having worked in roles such as Director of Correctional Behavioral Health for the Denver Sheriff Department and Psychologist Supervisor for the City and County of Denver. Her research interests include trauma, mental health in correctional settings, and the intersection of mental illness and substance abuse. Dr. Gafford is active in professional organizations, currently serving on multiple boards, including the Master's in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC) and the Crime Prevention and Control Commission, appointed by Denver's mayor. She has published and presented widely on topics related to trauma, behavioral health in justice-involved populations, and correctional mental health. Dr. Gafford is licensed as a psychologist in Colorado and certified as a Correctional Health Professional.

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**Lisa Thompson** – Chief Operating Officer, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

**BIO:** Leading the charge at Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, her focus has been on pioneering innovative integrated health care programs and delivering strategic leadership to a dedicated team. Lisa's efforts have been central to transforming the approach to end homelessness through comprehensive integrated health care and supportive housing services. Collaboration and trauma informed care have been a cornerstone of our success, enabling her Team to empower individuals and foster a supportive community network. With a deep commitment to social justice, her mission is to advocate for and implement solutions that address the complexities of homelessness and challenges of accessing health care for those most in need.

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**Orlando Salazar** - Business Owner, Tha MooVment

**BIO:** Orlando F. Salazar III is an entrepreneur, and advocate for change, drawing on his personal experiences to influence positive transformation in his community. Raised in West Denver, Salazar overcame significant adversity, including the loss of close friends, personal struggles with the criminal justice system, and a challenging youth marked by homelessness and violence. As a two-time felon, a high school dropout, and a survivor of suicide attempts, he understands the deep systemic issues facing disenfranchised individuals.

Now a homeowner in Northfield, Salazar is the proud owner of a catering and food trailer business, @ThaMooVment, and an active investor in cryptocurrency, virtual real estate, and NFTs. His journey to success has been rooted in the belief that education—whether formal or self-taught—can transform lives, a perspective he gained through his own experiences, including a year spent reading in jail. Salazar's life is a testament to the power of redemption and the transformative potential of practical knowledge. He is committed to bridging the gap between disenfranchised communities and opportunities for success, focusing on practical skills such as homeownership, credit management, and entrepreneurship. A passionate advocate for equality, Salazar believes that the generational

shift towards equity can be achieved through access to knowledge and opportunity. With a deep understanding of the country's historical injustices, including land theft, slavery, and systemic inequalities, Salazar brings both empathy and firsthand knowledge to his work. He believes in empowering others to overcome systemic challenges, fostering an environment of hope, education, and progress. He is driven by the conviction that real change begins with individuals who take action, as quoted by Bobby Kennedy: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal... he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope... those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Salazar's unique perspective and personal commitment to creating positive change make him an invaluable voice for reform, particularly in the context of criminal justice and community empowerment.

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CURRENT BOARD	TERM END DATE
Lisa Gafford Rep of the Behavioral Health Service System	Up to reappointment
Jonathan McMilan Rep of the Juvenile Justice System	Up to reappointment
Lisa Thompson Rep of the Homeless Service Providers	Up to reappointment
Orlando Salazar Rep of Denver Community	Up to reappointment
Taj Ashaheed A previous justice-involved Community Representative	Up to reappointment
Judge Laurie Clark Rep of the Juvenile Justice System	09-01-2025
Kara Napolitano Victim Advocate	09-01-2025
Thomas Hernandez Victim Advocate	09-01-2025
Anthony Pfaff Representative of Denver Community	09-01-2025