

Mayor Mike Johnston
Denver City Council
City and County of Denver



RE: Support for Ordinance Requiring Visible Identification by Federal Law Enforcement Operating in Denver

Dear Mayor Johnston and Members of Denver City Council,

Better Together Denver writes in strong support of the proposed ordinance establishing clear transparency and identification standards for how government authority is exercised in public spaces, particularly when federal law enforcement operates in Denver.

At its core, this is about upholding justice and the transparent rule of law. When government authority is exercised over the people in public, it must be visible, identifiable, and accountable. These standards protect community safety, preserve civil liberties, and strengthen public trust – making law enforcement interactions safer for everyone involved.

Across the country, enforcement practices involving masked or unidentified agents have escalated fear, increased the risk of misunderstanding and harm, ultimately undermining confidence among both immigrant communities and the general public. That erosion of trust makes public safety harder to achieve.

This policy is a statement about how authority should be exercised in a free society: with transparency, clear identification, and basic accountability. While there may be legitimate safety needs for protective equipment in specific circumstances, anonymity should not be the default posture for exercising federal authority in Denver, or anywhere.

We urge the City Council to adopt this ordinance and respectfully call on the Mayor to uphold its intent, so that public authority exercised in Denver aligns with constitutional values, transparency, and community safety.

At a moment when trust is fragile, and fear is high, Denver can lead with clarity, balance, and accountability. This is an important step toward a safer and more unified city and nation.

Respectfully,
Better Together Denver (BTD)

Signed by:

Uriel B. Espinoza, *Board Member, BTD*
Rico Gomez, *Board Member, BTD*
Rachel Marion, *Board President, BTD*
Nigel Daniels, *Board Vice President, BTD*
Kwon Atlas, *Board Treasurer, BTD*
Kara Powell, *Board Secretary, BTD*
Teddy Weiss, *Board Member, BTD*

Lizzy Lee, *Board Member, BTD*
Rachel Romer, *Board Member, BTD*
Matthew Stratton, *Board Member, BTD*
Meghan McNamara, *Board Member, BTD*
Sam Scanlon, *Board Member, BTD*
Conor Hall, *Board Member, BTD*



DENVER CLERK & RECORDER

CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING

HON. PAUL D. LÓPEZ

February 9, 2026

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street, Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

Honorable Councilmembers,

As Denver's Clerk & Recorder and Chief Elections Official, I am fiercely committed to protecting the integrity of the ballot box and ensuring that every eligible voter can exercise their constitutional right to vote without fear, intimidation, or interference. I am writing today to express my full support for the ordinance proposed by Councilwoman Flor Alvidrez and Councilwoman Shontel Lewis (26-0125) to amend Chapter 28 of the Revised Municipal Code, which will ban the use of identity-concealing masks by law enforcement agents, including federal ICE agents, within our city.

Earlier this week, former White House strategist Steven Bannon called for the Trump administration to deploy ICE agents and military troops to voter service and polling centers for the 2026 midterm elections. This rhetoric fuels reckless and categorically false conspiracy theories regarding widespread voter fraud including non-citizen voting. Undeniably, it is a tactic of voter intimidation and suppression designed to terrorize communities. We take these threats very seriously.

While federal law prohibits military or federal agents from interfering in elections and Colorado recently passed the *Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act* (HB25-1225), we have seen the current administration continue to take action that violates the law, infringes on Constitutional rights, and perpetuates a climate of fear and retaliation.

For 2026, Denver Elections is preparing to operate 17 voter service and polling centers for the June 30 primary, which will increase to 38 locations for the November 3 midterm election. There will also be 46+ 24-hour ballot drop-off box locations across Denver. It is my responsibility to ensure that each of these locations is secure, accessible, and safe for voters, elections workers, and employees.

The potential presence of masked, unidentified federal agents near voting centers and polling places serves no legitimate public safety purpose and, on the contrary, creates a chilling effect on the democratic process. Prohibiting the use of masks by all law enforcement within the City & County of Denver is proactive approach to thwart federal overreach of our elections, protecting Denver voters from intimidation and strengthening transparency and accountability.

We cannot let fear deter Denver voters from full participation in our democracy. I strongly urge you to support the ban on face-concealing masks for all law enforcement officers – local, state, and federal – operating within the City & County of Denver.

In Solidarity,

Hon. Paul D. López
Denver Clerk & Recorder

CC: Councilwoman Flor Alvidrez and Councilwoman Shontel Lewis

200 W. 14th Ave. Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 311 | 720-913-1311 | denverclerkandrecorder.org

Dear Mayor Johnston and Members of Denver City Council,

The Office of the Denver Independent Monitor writes in support of legislation establishing clear standards for how government authority is exercised in public spaces, particularly in light of recent events that have raised serious concerns about safety, accountability, and public trust.

At its core, legislation reflects a basic constitutional principle: when government power is exercised over people in public, it must be visible, identifiable, and accountable. These standards are essential to community safety and to maintaining trust between residents and the institutions meant to protect them.

Across the country, enforcement practices lacking clear identification have escalated fear, increased the risk of harm, and undermined confidence—not only among immigrant communities, but among residents broadly, including citizens, veterans, and long-standing Denver families. That erosion of trust makes public safety harder to achieve, not easier.

Such legislation does not oppose the rule of law or legitimate enforcement. It recognizes how laws are enforced matters. Transparency and accountability strengthen public safety, and they protect both communities and officers. While we acknowledge real concerns around officer safety, harassment, and doxing, anonymity should not be a prerequisite for exercising public authority.

We urge City Council to adopt legislation and respectfully call on the Mayor to enforce it consistent with its intent—by ensuring that public authority exercised in Denver aligns with constitutional values, transparency, and community safety.

At a moment when trust is fragile, Denver has an opportunity to lead with clarity, balance, and accountability. We believe legislation is an important step toward a safer and more unified city.

Respectfully,



Lisabeth Pérez Castle

Denver Independent Monitor

Denver Office of the Independent Monitor.



February 9, 2026

Denver City Council
Health and Safety Committee
City and County Building
Denver, CO

RE: Denver Bill 26-0125

Dear Committee Members,

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Denver (LWVD) writes in support of proposed Bill 26-0125 to ensure transparency in the identification of law enforcement personnel during interrogation, detention, or arrest of an individual within Denver. This bill concurs with Denver League's government-related policy position to support a "governmental system that is open.... accountable, fair in its treatment of all citizens, and in which responsibilities are clearly defined and assigned."

This bill's prohibition for law enforcement personnel operating within Denver to wear opaque facial covering when performing their duties addresses public safety fears that can result from the lack of identity between officers and members of the public. We encourage your committee to vote in favor of Bill 26-0125.

Thank you for your service and for considering our request.

Sincerely,
Susan Stark and Sarah O. McCarthy
Co-Directors of Program and Advocacy

On behalf of the Board of Directors
League of Women Voters of Denver

Reference #
16338032



DENVER CITY COUNCIL

I am giving testimony on / Tema sobre el que le gustaría comentar

26-0125: An ordinance amending Chapter 28 of the Revised Municipal Code concerning law enforcement identification. / Ordenanza que modifica el Capítulo 28 del Código Municipal Revisado sobre la identificación de las fuerzas del orden.

First Name / Nombre

Sue

Last Name / Apellido

Kilgore

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

Council District 8 / Distrito 8

I am / Estoy

For the item / a favor del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

We've all seen the brutality inflicted on the City of Minneapolis by ICE and CBP agents who hide behind masks and refuse to identify themselves. I believe that, at a minimum, if federal agents are going to exert their power and threaten the civil liberties of anyone in our city, at the very least, they should not be allowed to do so anonymously. Therefore, I strongly urge you to pass Bill 26-0125.

Thank you!

Finish Time

2026-02-06 11:26:03

Reference #
16343609



DENVER CITY COUNCIL

I am giving testimony on / Tema sobre el que le gustaría comentar

26-0125: An ordinance amending Chapter 28 of the Revised Municipal Code concerning law enforcement identification. / Ordenanza que modifica el Capítulo 28 del Código Municipal Revisado sobre la identificación de las fuerzas del orden.

First Name / Nombre

Susan

Last Name / Apellido

Torfin

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

Council District 1 / Distrito del consejo 1

I am / Estoy

For the item / a favor del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

Given the chaos we are observing created by ICE and Border Patrol agents operating in cities across the country, it seems to be a common sense proposition to require all immigration enforcement personnel to clearly identify themselves and to make their faces visible. I'm glad to see that there is a plan how to enforce this regulation if it is passed.

Immigration officers, seemingly badly trained or untrained in appropriate law enforcement standards, are behaving in a lawless manner and causing fear and confusion. Clarity of identification of officers could go a long way in reducing that fear and confusion, and offers some chance of holding officers accountable when they are operating outside the law.

Finish Time

2026-02-09 15:49:06

Dear Mayor Johnston and Members of Denver City Council,

Together Colorado writes in support of the proposed legislation establishing clear standards for how government authority is exercised in public spaces, particularly in light of recent events that have raised serious concerns about safety, accountability, and public trust.

At its core, this legislation reflects a basic constitutional principle: when government power is exercised over people in public, it must be visible, identifiable, and accountable. These standards are essential to community safety and to maintaining trust between residents and the institutions meant to protect them.

Across the country, enforcement practices lacking clear identification have escalated fear, increased the risk of harm, and undermined confidence—not only among immigrant communities, but among residents broadly, including citizens, veterans, and long-standing Denver families. That erosion of trust makes public safety harder to achieve, not easier.

This legislation does not oppose the rule of law or legitimate enforcement. It recognizes how laws are enforced matters. Transparency and accountability strengthen public safety, and they protect both communities and officers. While we acknowledge real concerns around officer safety, harassment, and doxing, anonymity should not be a prerequisite for exercising public authority.

We urge City Council to adopt this legislation and respectfully call on the Mayor to enforce it consistent with its intent—by ensuring that public authority exercised in Denver aligns with constitutional values, transparency, and community safety.

At a moment when trust is fragile, Denver has an opportunity to lead with clarity, balance, and accountability. We believe this legislation is an important step toward a safer and more unified city.

Respectfully,

Together Colorado



Reference #
16346257



DENVER CITY COUNCIL

I am giving testimony on / Tema sobre el que le gustaría comentar

26-0125: An ordinance amending Chapter 28 of the Revised Municipal Code concerning law enforcement identification. / Ordenanza que modifica el Capítulo 28 del Código Municipal Revisado sobre la identificación de las fuerzas del orden.

First Name / Nombre

Amy

Last Name / Apellido

Engelman

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

Council District 1 / Distrito del consejo 1

I am / Estoy

For the item / a favor del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

I am immensely appreciative of Council members Shontel Lewis and Flor Alvidrez putting forward the bill to change the current ordinance around any law enforcement agent being able to wear a face mask. This war zone tactic does not belong in our country, let alone Denver. I implore you all to do what we can at the local level to protect every human in our county from this inhumane level of fear and harassment. Federal agencies are remaking our norms with this practice, and we must resist to maintain our democracy and agency as individuals. Please protect Denver in anyway possible from these aggressive and authoritarian practices. Thank you.

Finish Time

2026-02-10 14:35:42

Reference #
16346827



DENVER CITY COUNCIL

I am giving testimony on / Tema sobre el que le gustaría comentar

26-0125: An ordinance amending Chapter 28 of the Revised Municipal Code concerning law enforcement identification. / Ordenanza que modifica el Capítulo 28 del Código Municipal Revisado sobre la identificación de las fuerzas del orden.

First Name / Nombre

Bryce

Last Name / Apellido

Dickson

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

Council District 6 / Distrito 6

I am / Estoy

For the item / a favor del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

It's important to me that law enforcement identify themselves, because it is unfortunately all too common that civil rights of citizens or non-citizens are infringed upon. Ensuring that individuals are held accountable when this occurs is key to preventing it in the first place. Also, it matters for maintaining the feeling that Denver is a safe place to exist, where your coworkers and neighbors won't be abducted by masked agents. If a situation calls for an arrest or similar, it should be conducted properly, and holding any government agents accountable for how they do this is important for our trust in law enforcement and more broadly the feeling of safety in this city.

Finish Time

2026-02-10 18:32:23