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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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# Mayor Johnston Announces Two Appointments to Drive Denver's Future Growth and Development

**DENVER** – Mayor Mike Johnston today announced two appointments to vital positions within the City and County of Denver. Adeeb Khan has been named as the new Executive Director of the Department of Economic Development and Opportunity (DEDO), and Jolon Clark has been named the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation.

These appointments will support the City and County of Denver's continued commitment to growth, sustainability, well-being and future progress for its businesses, residents and visitors.

"Adeeb and Jolon are dynamic leaders who will drive our city forward," Mayor Mike Johnston said. "Their commitment to economic development, community engagement, and improving the quality of life for Denver's residents aligns with our vision for a thriving, equitable, and sustainable city."

### **Adeeb Khan – Executive Director, DEDO**

Adeeb Khan most recently served as the chief brand & impact officer for Delta Dental of Colorado, the state's leading dental benefits company, and as the executive director of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, one of the state's largest corporate foundations. Prior to serving at Delta Dental, he was the senior director of corporate social responsibility at TIAA and the senior director of volunteer engagement at Mile High United Way.

In 2020, Khan was appointed by Governor Jared Polis to serve as a commissioner for the Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) and is now co-chair of the commission. He played important roles during the state's response to the COVID pandemic and the establishment of the Governors COVID Relief Fund. Adeeb also served as a leader in the development of universal preschool in Colorado and the formation of the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.

Khan is the son of immigrants, raised in rural Wyoming and a first-generation high school and college graduate. He holds an MBA with honors and a concentration in corporate responsibility from the University of Denver and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Southern California. He has been recognized as a Downtown Champion by the Downtown Denver Partnership, a Chamber Champion by the Denver Metro Chamber, one of Denver's 40 under 40 by the Denver Business Journal, a top 25 under 40 professional by ColoradoBiz Magazine, the Community Change-maker of the Year by Colorado Youth for a Change, and a 9NEWS Leader of the Year Finalist.

In his new role, Khan will lead the fiscal and operational strategy of DEDO to promote economic growth and help local businesses thrive. He will also set the vision and direction to create job opportunities in order to drive high impact and equitable outcomes for our city.

### **Jolon Clark – Executive Director, Denver Department of Parks and Recreation**

Jolon Clark was born and raised in Denver and grew up with Denver Parks and Recreation Centers as the backdrop to his childhood. A Denver Public School graduate, Clark earned a degree in Natural Resources from Colorado State University when he trained to be an environmental educator.

Clark was elected to the Denver City Council in 2015 to represent District 7 in south central Denver. He was elected to serve as the President Pro Tem of the council in 2016 and served as Council President from 2018-2020. While on council, Jolon was a strong advocate for parks, the environment, and multimodal infrastructure. He was the architect behind the \$40 million dollar a year Parks Legacy Fund, the creation of the new Office of Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency, and the \$40 million dollar a year Climate Action Fund. Clark also ran legislation to repeal the city sales tax on menstrual hygiene products, require all single stall restrooms to have gender neutral signage, fund proactive treatment and tree planting to combat Emerald Ash Borer, and create a new permanent funding source for public libraries.

In his new role, Clark will continue to champion Denver parks, ensuring that residents have access to safe and inclusive spaces for recreation and relaxation. Clark will replace Happy Haynes who earlier this month announced her retirement.

The City and County of Denver is excited to welcome Adeb Khan and Jolon Clark to their new roles. Khan will assume his role on Nov. 6, and Clark will start on Oct. 30.

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