

April 14, 2026

Hon. Amanda Sandoval, District 1, City Council President
Hon. Kevin Flynn, District 2
Hon. Jamie Torres, District 3
Hon. Diana Romero Campbell, District 4
Hon. Amanda Sawyer, District 5
Hon. Paul Kashmann, District 6
Hon. Flor Alvidrez, District 7
Hon. Shontel M. Lewis, District 8
Hon. Darrell Watson, District 9
Hon. Chris Hinds, District 10
Hon. Stacie Gilmore, District 11
Hon. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, City-at-large
Hon. Sarah Parady, City-at-large

Denver City Council
City & County of Denver
1437 Bannock St, Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Municipal Sentencing Ordinance

Dear City Council members:

In *People v. Camp* (2025), the Colorado Supreme Court held that for identical offenses under state and municipal law, municipal penalties may not be greater than state penalties. The bill currently before City Council goes far beyond addressing that issue, and seeks to enact a sweeping reduction of penalties on almost all city ordinances, even those not covered by the Supreme Court's decision. It does so without discussion with stakeholders regarding public policy with respect to those ordinances individually, and without considering the collateral consequences of those changes. Those consequences include potentially increasing the caseload of the Denver District Attorney's Office by limiting the remedies currently available at the City level.



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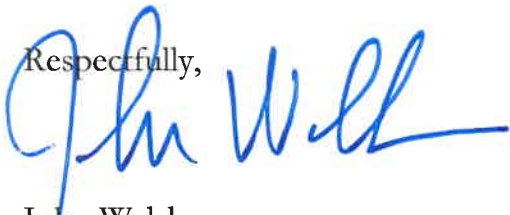
Municipal Sentencing Ordinance

In addition, the bill makes changes not only to penalties, but to the substance of many municipal offenses, changes that are not required by the *Camp* decision. Among other things, those changes would negatively impact both domestic violence survivors and stalking victims by limiting the effectiveness of charges for violations of protective orders.

For these reasons, the Denver DA's Office opposes the proposed bill in its current form. If changes are to be made to ordinances beyond those changes directly required by the Supreme Court's decision, a careful process to consider those potential changes individually would be appropriate.

Thank you for your work on these important issues. I am always happy to discuss them if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



John Walsh
Denver District Attorney

CC: Hon. Michael Johnston, Mayor
Michiko Brown, City Attorney
Ron Thomas, Denver Police Chief