



August 22, 2023

Council President Torres
Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Council President Torres:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed Council legislation to allow non-citizens with work authorization to be eligible to become Denver police officers. As you know, the Colorado State Legislature passed, and Governor Polis signed into law, House Bill 23-1143, allowing Colorado POST to develop rules and regulations to provide a pathway for individuals who are non-citizens to serve their community as certified peace officers. However, current City ordinance precludes us from welcoming these individuals into our ranks.

Since my appointment as Chief, I have led efforts to ensure our police department reflects the diversity of our city. However, our neighbors who are non-citizens with work authorization, including those who fall under the federal DACA program, are currently excluded from serving their community. The proposed city ordinance change and the already passed state legislation are legislative updates I have long advocated for and am pleased to see are on the verge of becoming a reality.

I look forward to welcoming the experiences and unique talents of all of those who call Denver home into our department; these individuals will truly make us a better agency. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

Ron Thomas
Chief of Police