

Orlando F. Salazar

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Objective

To continue serving the citizens of Denver through meaningful participation on the Crime Prevention and Control Commission, leveraging firsthand experience within the criminal justice system, lived reformation, and a deep commitment to equitable, community-based solutions that foster rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

Professional Summary

Dedicated community advocate and entrepreneur with over four years of experience serving on Denver's Crime Prevention and Control Commission. Brings a unique and personal perspective to justice reform through lived experience, hands-on community work, and a deep understanding of how effective rehabilitation and opportunity can change lives. Skilled in program development, budgeting for municipal systems, and partnership building across diverse organizations and disciplines.

Relevant Experience

Crime Prevention and Control Commission — City and County of Denver

At-Large Member | 2020–Present

- Contributed to strategic planning and policy recommendations addressing rehabilitation, reentry support, and offender reintegration.
- Advocated for practical, human-centered programs pairing formerly incarcerated individuals with entrepreneurs, investors, and training opportunities.
- Collaborated with elected officials, law enforcement, and nonprofit representatives to promote equitable outcomes and systemic fairness.
- Promoted initiatives to teach financial literacy, homeownership, and digital skill development (including crypto and decentralized finance awareness) to returning citizens.
- Emphasized restorative models over punitive measures to increase motivation, reduce recidivism, and create pathways to economic independence.
- Applied strong interpersonal and listening skills to represent underheard perspectives, contributing personal insight alongside professional and academic expertise.

City and County of Denver

Public Employee | Date – Present

- Gained extensive experience with municipal systems, performance evaluation, and budget management.

- Utilized creative problem-solving to achieve goals amid fiscal constraints while maintaining service quality.
- Received and provided performance-based evaluations in alignment with city standards.

Community Volunteer Work

Various Organizations | Ongoing

- Volunteer with **Denver Collaborative Partnership**, delivering essential items to families in need.
- Assisted in collecting and distributing donations to Native American reservations.
- Youth sports coach for both youth football and girls' softball teams, fostering mentorship and positive development.

Entrepreneurial and Leadership Experience

Owner, Small Business and Investments Portfolio | Denver, CO

- Founded and manage a small business, developing skills in financial management, goal-setting, and sustainable growth.
- Use entrepreneurial insight to advocate for economic alternatives for returning citizens—empowering them to become self-sufficient through ownership and enterprise.

Skills & Areas of Expertise

- Criminal Justice Reform & Community Reentry
- Budgeting & Resource Allocation
- Collaboration with Government & Nonprofits
- Program Evaluation & Development
- Economic Empowerment for Returning Citizens
- Community Engagement & Mentorship
- Strategic Communication and Conflict Resolution

Personal Statement

As someone who has lived through the challenges of incarceration and successfully transitioned into community and professional leadership, I bring knowledge that cannot be taught in classrooms. My goal is to continue using this experience to help others see that change is possible — to build bridges, not barriers, and to ensure that Denver's policies and programs reflect both justice and compassion.