

Mayor Announces Nominations for Director of Safety, Police Chief

Published on November 14, 2023

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston has announced the nomination of two cabinet positions, pending City Council approval. Armando Saldate is nominated to continue as Executive Director of the Department of Safety, and Ron Thomas is nominated to continue leading the Denver Police Department. Their nominations signify an commitment to public service, safety, and emergency response in the City and County of Denver.

“Public safety is one of my top priorities as Mayor,” said Mayor Mike Johnston. “We laid out a big vision for w possible in Denver, and we’re delighted that Armando and Chief Thomas share this vision. Together, these p leaders can help deliver a safer city for Denverites. Thank you to the team members of Safety and DPD for t hard work, passion, and dedication to keeping our community safe.”

Armando Saldate – Executive Director, Department of Safety

Armando Saldate III was first nominated as the Executive Director of Public Safety in January 2022 and confirmed by City Council in February 2022. Since then, he has led the Denver Police Department, Denver Fire Department, Denver Sheriff Department, Denver 9-1-1, Community Corrections, Public Safety Youth Programs, and the Office of Community Violence Solutions.

Saldate is a career law enforcement professional. He started his career in public safety as the top police recruit with the Phoenix Police Department in 1993. While in that position, he was a member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and completed assignments with the Counter Terror



Information Center, Organized Crime Bureau Intelligence Unit, FBI Violent Gang Task Force, Dignitary Protection Unit, and others. He retired from Phoenix PD in 2014 with honors after more than 20 years of service.

After relocating to Colorado, Saldate joined the Denver Sheriff Department as a senior investigator, and later served as a supervisor in Denver's Sheriff Department Data Science Unit and as the Civilian Commander in the Internal Affairs Bureau. He then accepted a position in the Department of Safety as a Performance Improvement Manager.

In his free time, Director Saldate enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, volunteering with schools and faith-based organizations, and spending time in the Denver community.

Ron Thomas – Chief, Denver Police Department

Chief Ron Thomas began his career in law enforcement as a Denver Department of Safety Cadet shortly after graduating from Denver's Thomas Jefferson High School. In 1989, Chief Thomas joined the Denver Police Department, continuing a family tradition of public service to the Denver community. Since then, Chief Thomas has held numerous assignments in Patrol, Investigations, Police Administration, and Special Operations, to include assignments as Commander of Police District Two, Police District Five, and the Internal Affairs Division.



In 2018, Chief Thomas was selected as the Division Chief of Patrol, leading patrol and district-level investigation efforts citywide, and he served in this role until his appointment as Chief of Police for the Denver Police Department in October of 2022.

As Chief of Police, Thomas maintained a well-established reputation as a collaborative leader and consensus builder, developing and sustaining lasting partnerships with neighborhood organizations, community leaders, and other city agencies. His strategic priorities include lowering crime, improving response times, and increasing