

Federal Law Enforcement Masking Policy



Councilwoman Flor Alvidrez,
District 7



Councilwoman Shontel M. Lewis,
District 8



DENVER
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

The Problem

- Federal law enforcement agents operating in Denver have increasingly worn opaque face coverings that obscure identity while conducting arrests and detentions.
- This practice raises serious concerns about transparency, accountability, and public safety—particularly when individuals are being physically restrained or removed from public spaces.
- Masking is an intimidation tactic , not a safety measure.
 - "ICE goes masked for a single reason – to terrorize Americans into quiescence" - U.S. Judge William J. Young



DENVER
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL



Photo Credit:
(Nicole Neri/Minnesota Reformer)



DENVER
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

The Problem

- Masked Law enforcement erodes public trust
 - Cuts against local trends to promote transparency
 - Can lead to a decrease in reported crimes
- Lack of identification makes it difficult for residents to verify authority and increases fear and confusion while allowing for "imposters" to pretend to be enforcement
- Encourages vigilante behavior
- These practices cut against Denver's long-standing commitment to transparency and constitutional policing.



DENVER
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

The Solution

Establish clear minimum standards for visible identification during enforcement actions in Denver.

- Prohibit law enforcement from wearing a facial covering while detaining, arresting, or otherwise restraining the physical movement of an individual.
- Prohibit law enforcement from wearing a facial covering to conceal their identity within a city facility.
- Definition of Facial Covering:
 - "An opaque mask, garment or headgear that conceals or obscures the identity of the agent of office such as balaclavas, gator masks, and ski masks"



DENVER
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

Exemptions

This bill will not restrict law enforcement from carrying out:

- Undercover Operations
- SWAT duties
- Tactical Operations

This bill will not prevent law enforcement from wearing or using:

- Helmets
- Transparent face guards
- Medical masks
- Protective Eye gear



DENVER
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

Questions ?



DENVER
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL