

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

CANDIDATES MEMORANDUM-Denver Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (DHA)

To	Denver City Council
From	Mayor's Office of Boards & Commissions
Date	06/12/2026

BOARD PURPOSE

The purpose of the housing authority board is to provide strategic oversight, ensure compliance with applicable laws and policies, and steward public resources to support safe, affordable housing. Board members must exercise a duty of care by making informed, prudent decisions; a duty of loyalty by acting in the best interests of the authority and avoiding conflicts of interest; and a fiduciary duty to responsibly manage assets and uphold public trust.

APPOINTMENT CANDIDATE PROFILES

Term Dates: July 20, 2026 – July 20, 2031 (2nd Term)



Fernando Sergio Ferrufino
 Broadcaster, KBNO Radio
 Community Leader
 He/Him
 Hispanic/Latino
 Male

Bio:

Fernando Sergio Ferrufino is one of Colorado's most recognized and respected Spanish broadcasters. Through his highly rated radio show, "La Voz Del Pueblo," on KBNO Radio, Fernando has had the opportunity to interview celebrities, experts, and political leaders, including a sitting President of the United States. Additionally, Fernando has been the subject of coverage by various news outlets, featured in the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and CNN, among others. Fernando is a Veteran of the United States Army and attended Lawton University and the University of Colorado where he pursued a degree in Business, Communication, and Political Science. Fernando is the proud son of immigrants and a strong advocate for his community.

Statement of Support:

Fernando Sergio Ferrufino has been a highly respected and engaged member of the board throughout his term, bringing a strong commitment to community service, inclusive engagement, and public leadership to his role. Through both his professional and personal efforts, he has consistently worked to uplift and connect individuals, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and represented in board discussions and decision-making. His background and experiences reflect a deep understanding of community needs and a genuine dedication to public service.

As Vice Chair, Sergio has demonstrated thoughtful leadership, integrity, and a collaborative approach that has contributed meaningfully to the board's effectiveness and responsiveness. He approaches his service with professionalism and a strong commitment to fostering inclusive and productive dialogue, helping ensure the board remains connected to and reflective of the communities it serves.

Sergio's continued service through reappointment would provide valuable continuity, institutional knowledge, and experienced leadership to the board. I fully support his reappointment and am confident he will continue to serve with dedication, professionalism, and a deep commitment to the community.

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

About a year ago, in my role as co-chair of the DHA Board, I was asked to deliver the keynote address at the Sol Apartments ribbon-cutting ceremony. My remarks were intended to be both concise and inspirational, highlighting the significance of this remarkable development in Denver's historic Sun Valley neighborhood and the tremendous value it brings to our community through 169 affordable housing opportunities. The central theme of the event was that "affordability meets inspired living."

In preparation for the event, I worked closely with DHA's media director as well as the executive director to coordinate my remarks and ensure the program reflected the collaborative effort behind this achievement. I made certain that DHA employees received recognition for their dedication and hard work, and that all distinguished guests — including representatives from the regional HUD office — were properly acknowledged. The event was a tremendous success, due in no small part to the outstanding contributions of DHA staff.

It is truly an honor to serve on the DHA Board of Directors and contribute to an organization whose mission of promoting affordable housing makes a meaningful and tangible difference in the lives of so many people.

Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.

One of the primary goals of Mayor Johnston’s administration has been addressing Denver’s housing crisis. From the beginning of his campaign for mayor, through his inauguration, and most recently in his last State of the City address, he has consistently emphasized the urgent need for a housing market that is viable, thriving, and accessible to all residents of our city.

This is no easy task given the enormous challenges of confronting a crisis that is national in scope and partly the result of policy failures at both the federal and local levels over many years. We are facing a severe housing shortage, rising affordability concerns, and skyrocketing rents. Here in Colorado alone, the housing deficit exceeds 106,000 units.

I strongly support Mayor Johnston’s agenda to expand the supply of affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and encourage the construction of entry-level “tiny homes.” The Denver Housing Authority (DHA) plays a fundamental role in bridging this “affordability gap” by helping create and preserve affordable housing options for a broad segment of our population, while also creating the means toward greater stability and self-sufficiency.

Reappointment? Yes
 For New Appointments:
 Filling an Open Seat? No
 Replacing an Expiring Seat: NA

Term Number: Second

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: July 20, 2026 – July 20, 2031 (2nd Term)



Bio:

Melinda Pollack serves as Managing Director, Portfolio Strategy & Management at Blue Meridian Partners, where she leads strategic initiatives, philanthropic investment opportunities, and catalytic support efforts. Previously, she served as Senior Vice President for National Initiatives at Enterprise Community Partners, overseeing strategic planning, fundraising, and programs focused on affordable housing, economic mobility, racial equity, health, and environment. She has also held leadership roles at Mercy Housing and The George Washington University Neighbors Project.

Melinda Pollack

Managing Director, Blue Meridian Partners

Melinda is a recognized leader in affordable housing policy, with articles published in outlets including The New York Times, Denver Post, and Huffington Post. She earned a BA from George Washington University and an MPA from the University of Colorado Denver.

She/Her

White
Female

Statement of Support:

Melinda has been a highly respected and impactful member of the board throughout her first term, bringing deep expertise in affordable housing, community development, and strategic philanthropy to her service. Her professional experience and leadership have contributed valuable insight to board discussions and decision-making, particularly around issues related to housing access, equity, and long-term community investment.

As board treasurer from 2023–2026, Melinda demonstrated strong fiscal stewardship, thoughtful leadership, and a collaborative approach that has strengthened the board's effectiveness. Her extensive background in affordable housing policy and program development aligns closely with the mission of the Housing Authority and the priorities of the City and County of Denver.

Melinda's continued service through reappointment would provide continuity, institutional knowledge, and experienced leadership to the board. I fully support her reappointment and am confident she will continue to serve with professionalism, integrity, and dedication.

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

During my first term on the DHA board, I sought to bring both my experience as a north Denver resident and my career long experience in affordable housing development and finance. I will continue to do the same if appointed for a second term, including focusing on supporting the DHA development team in their ambitious plans for mixed-income redevelopment at Westridge and at Quigg Newton. Both neighborhoods are a part of my community and include tremendous opportunities to demonstrate Denver's commitment to not only affordably housing as many families as possible but ensuring that our neighborhoods are paths to economic mobility for the children we raise. I approach my role as a steward and as a coach or extra set of critical eyes on the real estate pipeline inside our public meetings and beyond if or when helpful.

Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.

Mayor Johnston continues to place affordable housing development at the top of his agenda. With 20 years of experience in affordable housing finance, development and policy in Colorado, there's no better way for me to serve our city while we continue to need to develop and preserve, than continuing to serve on the DHA board.

Reappointment? Yes

Term Number: Second

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? No

Replacing an Expiring Seat: NA

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation