



DENVER FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 858

775 MARIPOSA ST. DENVER, CO 80204

9/17/2025

Dear Esteemed Members of the Denver City Council,

It is my honor and privilege to offer this letter of strong support for Mr. Al Gardner's appointment as the next Executive Director of Safety for the City and County of Denver. As President of Denver Firefighters Local 858, representing the dedicated men and women of the Denver Fire Department, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the qualities of leadership, collaboration, and integrity that Mr. Gardner embodies.

What stands out most about Al Gardner is his ability to bring people together across different perspectives, always centering his leadership on service to the community. He has consistently demonstrated that public safety is not only about operational effectiveness, but also about building trust, fairness, and accountability with the people we serve. His calm and principled approach to problem-solving, even in the most challenging circumstances, reflects the type of leader Denver needs in this critical role.

Mr. Gardner's vision for public safety aligns with the values of our firefighters: dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to the greater good. He leads with integrity, listens with humility, and acts decisively when the moment calls for it. Importantly, he has earned the respect of labor, management, and community stakeholders alike—an accomplishment that speaks volumes to his ability to unify and guide.

As a labor leader and firefighter, I know the importance of having a Manager of Safety who not only understands the operational challenges of public safety but also respects the voices of those on the frontlines. Al Gardner has proven time and again that he values those voices, and he has shown the courage to make decisions rooted in fairness and service rather than convenience.

For these reasons, I strongly and wholeheartedly endorse Al Gardner as Denver's next Executive Director of Safety. I am confident that under his leadership, Denver will continue to advance public safety in a way that is transparent, accountable, and deeply connected to the community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Ferguson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Ferguson
President
Denver Firefighters Local 858