

Marion Penn
Commander District Five
Denver Police Department

September 8, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my full support for Al Gardner in his newly appointed position as Director of Public Safety. I have had the pleasure of working with Al and have consistently been impressed by his exceptional professionalism, strategic thinking, and commitment to excellence.

One of his most defining strengths is his exceptional communication skills. Whether working with internal teams or engaging external stakeholders, he consistently conveys ideas with clarity, listens attentively, and fosters open, constructive dialogue that builds trust and mutual understanding. This ability has been key to driving collaboration, advancing shared objectives, and resolving challenges effectively. A recent example of this was during a series of burglaries at a city-owned property in District 5. At the time, he was serving as Executive Director of City Services. Al met with our team, facilitated open information sharing, and encouraged the exchange of ideas. Al's providing of specific information related to the problem, directly contributed to an arrest and a significant reduction in criminal activity at the location.

Additionally, is his ability to collaborate effectively across a wide range of organizations and sectors. Al strives to build strong, productive relationships that enhance the success of every initiative he led or support. His collaborative efforts were especially impactful during our District's Place Network Investigation (PNI), where he played a key role in coordinating services. He was instrumental in assisting with securing lighting and other non-police resources, as well as facilitating support from various city departments. These contributions were not only impressive but are expected to have a lasting, positive impact on the community and local businesses in the area.

I am confident that Al will bring vision, dedication, accountability, and a high standard of excellence to this new role. He is well-prepared to meet the demands of the position and will no doubt make a positive and lasting impact.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,
Commander Marion Penn
District Five, Denver Police Department