

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS CANDIDATES MEMORANDUM

Denver Convention Center Hotel Authority

To	Denver City Council
From	Sterling Simms sterling.simms@denvergov.org
Date	May 26, 2026

BOARD PURPOSE

Seven-member Board (one non-voting city member and six private citizens) oversees ownership of the Hyatt Regency at the Colorado Convention Center through a tax-exempt financing, with Bank of New York/Mellon serving as Trustee. The Board oversees Hyatt Corps’ daily operations of the hotel, including monitoring on-going financial performance, marketing activities supportive of the hotel and Visit Denver’s marketing of the Colorado Convention Center, and investing in required capital improvements to maintain the hotel as a first-class venue supporting the Colorado Convention Center.

APPOINTMENT CANDIDATE PROFILES

Term Dates: Finish term ending Dec 31, 2026, and new 3- year term ending Dec 31, 2029



Kate Barton
 Chief of Staff, Continuum
 Partners
 She/Her/Hers
 White

Bio:
 Serves as a strategic advisor to the CEO at Continuum Partners and helps drive organizational alignment, governance, and execution across the firm’s real estate and development platform. Her work focuses on advancing complex projects at the intersection of private investment, public policy, and community impact. Kate brings more than a decade of civic and economic development leadership in Denver. She previously served as Chief of External Affairs and Managing Director at the Downtown Denver Partnership, where she led strategy, operations, and

Female

external engagement, and helped advance major public-private initiatives shaping the city's urban core. She currently serves on the boards of Judi's House, Girls Inc. of Metro Denver, and Colorado Startup Week. She was named to the Denver Business Journal's "40 Under 40" and is an Emerging Leader Fellow of the International Downtown Association.

Statement of Support:

Kate Barton Long is a well-known civic leader active in Downtown Denver and with multiple city administrations. As an employee of a downtown based enterprise, Kate will continue to promote Denver as a destination and Downtown as an active and vibrant place.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

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

I spent 12 years at the Downtown Denver Partnership, where I worked closely with downtown businesses, property owners, employees, civic partners, government leaders, and nonprofit organizations to advance downtown's economic vitality and long-term competitiveness.

Most recently, I helped lead the effort, alongside the City, to reopen 16th Street and support the Mayor's 16th Street retail strategy, focused on strengthening one of downtown's most important corridors and improving the experience for businesses, residents, workers, and visitors. That work required collaboration across sectors, careful attention to public and private priorities, and a focus on practical strategies that drive activity and investment.

I would bring that same approach to the Hotel Authority: collaborative, strategic, and grounded in the understanding that the Hyatt, the Colorado Convention Center, and Denver's tourism economy are critical assets for downtown and the broader city.

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

Downtown's continued vibrancy has been central to my professional work, and I personally bring a deep love for Downtown Denver and strong urban centers.

During my time with the Downtown Denver Partnership, and now in my role with a downtown-based real estate development company, I have focused on strengthening downtown as an economic engine, civic gathering place, and destination for residents, workers, visitors, and businesses.

The Mayor's focus on downtown revitalization, including the future of 16th Street, public safety, economic development, and tourism, strongly aligns with my priorities. I believe tourism and the Colorado Convention Center are cornerstones of downtown's vibrancy and are critical to the City's financial health. A strong downtown supports hotels, restaurants, retail, arts and culture, conventions, and the broader ecosystem that makes Denver a dynamic and competitive city.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? No

Replacing an Expiring Seat: Traci Lounsbury

Appointment Process for Seat: (b) Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 3-Year term starting Jan 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2028



Bio:

Derek Longwell has been with FirstBank, now a part of PNC, for 21 years and currently serves as the Market Executive for Downtown Denver and Cherry Creek. He oversees a large portfolio of commercial clients that includes over \$2.5 billion in loan balances, \$2.6 billion in deposits, and seven retail offices in central Denver. Derek's responsibilities and experience include commercial and consumer lending, business

development and relationship management, financial analysis, bank operations and customer service, personnel management, and bank growth and profitability. Derek is a voting member of FirstBank's Loan Committee and Conceptual Review Credit Committee. Derek currently serves

Derek Longwell

Market Executive, Downtown Denver & Cherry Creek
He/Him/His

White
Male

on the board of trustees for Mile High United Way, the MSU Denver Foundation Board, and the Downtown Denver Partnership. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation and is an active member of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Statement of Support:

Derek Longwell is a highly regarded banker responsible for the downtown market for First Bank/PNC. Derek will replace Scott Wylie, a long-term member of the Hotel Authority board, who has offered his banking and professional financial management skills to the board. The Hotel Authority is primarily responsible for monitoring and improving Hyatt's operating performance at the hotel in conjunction with efforts to attract conventions and tourism into the downtown market. Derek's financial background will assure continued presence of board member expertise in evaluating and contributing to the hotel's on-going financial performance.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

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

I serve as Market Executive for FirstBank/PNC and am responsible for our downtown Denver Market. As an employer and employee in downtown, I care deeply about the vibrancy and prosperity of downtown, and the businesses, residents, and community that it supports. As a 20+ year banker that has spent the last 3+ years in person in the office downtown 5 days a week, I feel that I can lend both a financial perspective in overseeing the Hyatt's performance, as well as a "boots on the ground" perspective related to the Hyatt's support of the Convention Center, downtown retail business, and tourism/entertainment activity, all of which contribute to the city's tax base.

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

As a Colorado native and someone who works downtown in person 5 days a week, I fully support the city's efforts to improve the overall vibrancy of downtown Denver. The improvement over the last several years is significant and continues to improve every day. We need more activity on our streets, more residents and office workers downtown, and our downtown businesses need more customers and a friendly and safe work environment. The Convention Center and the Hyatt play critical roles in our tourism economy and our business/convention economy, both of which are key drivers of people into downtown and dollars to our tax base.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes (Scott Wylie)

Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Appointment Process for Seat: (b) Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

BOARD COMPOSITION REQUIREMENTS

If your board's governance documents specify requirements for board composition (ex. # of seats nominated by X entity, etc.) describe the requirements here.

7-member board includes one non-voting city representative