



October 23, 2025

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Endorsement of Al Gardner for Confirmation as Public Safety Director

Dear Members of the Denver City Council,

I am writing to each of you to enthusiastically endorse Al Gardner for confirmation as the next Public Safety Director for the City and County of Denver. I have known, and worked with, Mr. Al Gardner in my role as both President/CEO of Servicios de La Raza and a community activist for many years.

The position of Public Safety Director was established to ensure civilian oversight and accountability over our city's public safety agencies. Over its history, the role has evolved with the times, requiring different kinds of expertise to meet the challenges of each era. At its core, however, the position has never required a traditional public safety background—it has always required strong management skills, operational excellence, and the ability to lead with accountability and vision. It requires a deft administrator who is also well versed in DEI. Director Gardner is that individual.

Today, Denver needs a leader who can understand and dissect the operations of each department, drive operational efficiency, and ensure the office is firmly grounded in community focus. This is exactly the type of leader Al Gardner has proven himself to be. With a distinguished background as a technology executive and senior leader in the private sector, Al brings a results-driven management approach that aligns perfectly with the current needs of our city.



www.serviciosdelaraza.org
info@serviciosdelaraza.org



303.458.5851



[serviciosdelaraza](https://www.serviciosdelaraza.org)



Main Office

3131 W. 14th Ave, Denver, CO 80204
200 S. Sheridan Blvd, Denver, CO 80226
140 Sheridan Blvd, Denver, CO 80226
805 W. 4th St, Pueblo, CO 81003
7190 Colorado Blvd, Commerce City, CO 80022

Satellite offices

Adams County Office
11860 Pecos St, Westminster, CO 80234
Glendale, Mexican Consulate
5350 Leetsdale Dr, Glendale, CO 80246



Even more so, Al has always been active in our Denver community. For 26 years, Al has contributed to the healthy fabric and positive direction of Denver and in particular communities of color. He has supported and led significant efforts to improve equity, promote diversity, inclusion, expand opportunities, and build bridges between residents and institutions. He has consistently shown the courage to make tough decisions while keeping people at the center of his leadership philosophy.

At this moment in Denver's history, we need a Public Safety Director who can blend operational discipline with community accountability—who can modernize systems while also strengthening trust. Al Gardner embodies these qualities. His proven record of leadership in both the private sector and community arenas makes him the right choice for this pivotal role.

Most important to me as a community organization of color leader, as a strong and effective Chicano community activist, as a Denver native who has supported and leads a lifelong effort in service to others to effect change in our Latino communities toward the wellbeing and goodwill of said community, and all communities in need of social justice, I strongly and wholeheartedly recommend that the Denver City Council confirm Al Gardner as the next Public Safety Executive Director of the City and County of Denver.

Al possesses the two critical characteristics I look for in electees, appointees and all who sit in positions of government power: responsiveness and accessibility.

I am confident that under his leadership, our city will not only meet the challenges of today but also prepare for the future with integrity, efficiency, and community partnership.

Rudolph "Rudy" Gonzales
President/CEO



www.serviciosdelaraza.org
info@serviciosdelaraza.org



303.458.5851



[serviciosdelaraza](https://www.serviciosdelaraza.org)



Main Office

3131 W. 14th Ave, Denver, CO 80204
200 S. Sheridan Blvd, Denver, CO 80226
140 Sheridan Blvd, Denver, CO 80226
805 W. 4th St, Pueblo, CO 81003
7190 Colorado Blvd, Commerce City, CO 80022

Satellite offices

Adams County Office
11860 Pecos St, Westminster, CO 80234
Glendale, Mexican Consulate
5350 Leetsdale Dr, Glendale, CO 80246