

Creation of Peace Force

WHEREAS it has become evident that certain members of our community face disproportionate policing and violence based upon the color of their skin; and WHEREAS our police force is more reactive to crime than it is proactive in preventing crime; and WHEREAS there is a lack of trust between the community and the police force; and WHEREAS there are insufficient resources dedicated to underlying causes of violence and crime such as job insecurity, transience, homelessness, food insecurity and other such causes, BE IT THEREFOR DECIDED THAT:

1. There shall be a Department of Peacekeeping Services as follows:
 - a. The Denver City Council will create and adequately fund a Department of Peacekeeping Services which will have, as its guiding mandate, the maintenance of public safety for all individuals by proactive means. This department is charged with responsibility to actively implement strategies to prevent conflict, reduce violence, and strengthen security and is to do so prioritizing a holistic, anti-racist, public health-oriented approach.
 - b. Director of the Peacekeeping Service.
 - i. The Director shall be appointed by the City Council.
 - ii. The Director shall be a part of the Mayor's Cabinet.
 - iii. Individuals eligible for appointment to the position of Director shall have non law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health or restorative justice approaches, and shall have significant ties to the community or work experience with similar communities.
 - c. Duties of the Peace Force
 - i. Proactive. This department is specifically tasked to take a proactive approach regarding public safety with the aim of preventing criminal behavior. The department will develop a coherent peacebuilding strategy in consultation with the community it serves. The department will develop reactive capabilities that focus on de-escalation of situations and the protection of residents or individuals.
 - ii. Law Enforcement priorities will be set transparently, with public input that prioritizes the experiences of those disproportionately impacted by law enforcement, and will be assessed for impact on all parts of the community.
 - iii. The specific duties of this Department will include:
 1. Coordinating all first-response calls.
 2. Developing appropriate responses to all situations of violence, unrest, mental health crisis, public health disturbance, domestic strife, major infractions of the law and those minor infractions of the law that are deemed related to peacekeeping; and
 3. Creating and staffing specific outreach teams to deal with underlying problems that can lead to unlawful and or violent behavior before it happens.
 - iv. This department will specifically subsume the current Police Department but will also subsume all relevant functions of existing departments that more properly should be under the Department of Peace Services.

- v. In all its functioning, the Department of Peacekeeping Services shall have, as its foremost priority, the wellbeing of all residents or individuals. It shall specifically adopt a policy that every person shall be treated equally, with respect, and with dignity; the preservation of life shall be the agency's highest priority.
- d. Funding. This department shall be funded adequately. It shall subsume all funding currently allocated to the Police Department. Similarly, for any function that this department takes over that was previously administered by a different department, all funding for such services will be transferred to the department of Peacekeeping Services. For any service that is novel, the Council in coordination with the Department of Finance, will work together to appropriate the necessary funds to support such service.
- e. Training. This peace force shall offer developmentally appropriate policies, procedures, and practices created in collaboration with minority groups who have traditionally been underserved by the current peace keeping structure. These policies, procedures, and practices will be designed by the Citizen Oversight Board as prescribed by section 2.6.7 (B) of the Denver Charter.
- f. Time Period for Creation of the Department of Peacekeeping Services.
 - i. Committee. From the adoption of this ordinance, a committee will be struck comprised of: three members of the public appointed by the Council; two members of City Council to be elected from amongst the Council; a specifically retained expert to advise on community safety strategies appointed by the Council; an appointee of the current Police Department; an appointee of the Department of Human Services; and two community leaders to be determined by the City Council to represent minority groups who have traditionally been underserved by the current peace keeping structure.
 - ii. Duties of the Committee.
 1. Within one calendar year, the Committee is charged with making final recommendations regarding creation of the Peacekeeping services;
 2. The Committee is to draft the charter and necessary ordinances to create the Department of Peacekeeping Services, reconciling all statutory changes with existing law to include the repealing of those laws as appropriate;
 3. In formulating these recommendations the committee will identify and work with all representative community groups and stakeholders in this endeavor;
 4. The committee will conduct extensive public meetings to allow input from the community at large, prioritizing the input of groups who have been disproportionately impacted by the current law-enforcement structure; and
 5. The committee will contract with such outside experts as may be advisable to be guided by the latest public research and knowledge.
- g. Transition.

- i. The Peacekeeping Service will adopt a comprehensive policy on safety that force will be used only as a last and least favored resource.
- ii. To underscore this, most officers in the Peacekeeping service will not have arrest powers or be licensed to bear or use arms as part of their duties.
- iii. In particular, triage systems will be developed so that situations involving non-violent, addiction, minor accidents and infractions, mental health crises and any situations that do not require it, are not responded to with armed officers unless a specific assessment is made that an armed response is warranted.