



April 27, 2017

Denver City Council Members  
1437 Bannock Street  
Denver, CO 80202  
c/o Skye Stuart and Debra Bartleson

Dear Esteemed Members of City Council:

I am writing to ask for your support of the proposed municipal sentencing reform ordinance. Under the current ordinances, defendants convicted of park curfew violations and petty theft can receive the same sentences as defendants convicted of municipal crimes against at-risk adults and individuals over 60. The disparity of such convictions does a disservice to our community's most vulnerable adults.

There is a misconception that all crimes involving at at-risk adult or elder as the victim automatically get misdemeanor or felony charges. In fact, many of the defendants of these crimes are charged with municipal ordinance violations. Crimes against this population are often perpetrated by those who are in positions of trust and who have immediate, easy access to the victims. Clearly, this puts the victims at increased risk of subsequent and escalated harm. Victims who rely on caregivers for their daily activities and well-being face unique challenges and barriers to safety: they are more isolated, be targeted because of their different abilities, and may not have the language skills to describe the abuse.

I appreciate the work done by the City Attorney's Office to rectify the inequities in Denver's municipal sentencing in such a way that better protects older and at-risk victims. I encourage City Council members to adopt this sentencing reform ordinance on behalf of victims and all members of our community.

If you have any questions regarding my recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me at 720.944.2860

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Homlar", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Joe Homlar,  
Deputy Executive Director, Protection and Prevention  
Denver Human Services

Joe Homlar, Deputy Executive Director  
Denver Human Services  
1200 Federal Blvd. | Denver, CO 80204  
Office: 720.944.2860 or joseph.homlar@denvergov.org  
[www.denvergov.org/humanservices](http://www.denvergov.org/humanservices)  
General Assistance: 720.944.3666 | Report Child Abuse: 720.944.3000

311 | POCKETGOV.COM | DENVERGOV.ORG | DENVER 8 TV