



**DENVER**  
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**News Release**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Denver City Council Passes Bill that Strengthens Denver’s Office of the Independent Monitor and Expands the Citizen Oversight Board**

**Denver, Colorado – (February 20, 2019)** Last night, Denver City Council unanimously voted to pass Bill 19-0029, which amended Denver’s Revised Municipal Code regarding the Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM) and the Citizen Oversight Board (COB). Among other things, the bill:

- Clarifies that the OIM has jurisdiction to monitor misconduct investigations, if any, into the Chief of Police and Sheriff;
- Expands the COB to nine members, and splits responsibility for appointing COB members between the Mayor and the City Council; and
- Explicitly prohibits retaliation for reporting misconduct to or cooperating with the OIM.

“These changes will help to ensure that the OIM has the tools necessary to provide effective oversight of the Denver Police and Sheriff Departments,” said Nick Mitchell, Denver’s Independent Monitor. Katina Banks, Chair of the COB, said, “I applaud Denver City Council leaders Kniech, Kashmann and Lopez for their commitment to independent oversight in Denver. Community organizations were the catalyst for these critically important ordinance changes, and their work on this bill will help to improve public safety for all of Denver.”

The OIM is Denver’s independent civilian oversight agency and is charged with monitoring investigations into alleged misconduct in the Denver Police and Denver Sheriff Departments (“DPD” and “DSD,” respectively), making policy recommendations to those departments, and conducting outreach to communities throughout Denver. The COB is a volunteer board of appointed community leaders who oversee the work of the OIM, make policy recommendations to the DPD, DSD, and Denver Department of Public Safety and address issues of concern to the community.

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