

Thank you for reaching out to our office. Since the murder of George Floyd, my inbox has been flooded with thousands of messages about policing in Denver. **I have heard your cries and I agree: Black lives matter, and we can no longer accept the status quo.**

My family has joined peaceful demonstrators in seeking justice, and I am honored to be in office during this transformational movement. As an elected official, I also have a responsibility to act. To that end, I want to address just a few of the things I have been doing to work toward change in our community:

- I have asked the City Council to put a charter amendment on the November ballot that would require Council approval of 14 mayoral appointees, including the Manager of Safety, the City Attorney, the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, and the Sheriff. (Read the [coverage](#) in the *Denverite*). **Please attend the public comment hearing on June 22nd at 5pm and email the Council at dencc@denvergov.org to ask for their YES vote.**
- As a member of the City Council's Safety Committee, today I asked a number of questions of Denver's Manager of Safety and the Chief of Police. We will also be speaking with Denver's Independent Monitor and our District Attorney to discuss the police department's early use of force. I am particularly concerned that officers dispersed tear gas and dangerous projectiles on peaceful protesters, bystanders, and journalists -- some of whom suffered serious bodily harm.
- City Council has also unanimously requested that the Office of the Independent Monitor conduct an official investigation of the DPD's use of force during the demonstrations. If you have a complaint you'd like to see investigated, please use [this form](#) and send a copy to my office at DenverCouncil5@DenverGov.org.
- In the coming weeks, I will also be seeking answers to many of the questions that remain about the decisions that were made during the first days of the protests. Who made the decision to call in the National Guard and other support agencies? How much money will the city spend on the demonstrations and settlements while facing a severe economic shortfall? And what kind of training on Denver's use-of-force policies was provided to outside law enforcement agencies that were invited into our city?
- As the Mayor prepares to present his budget to the Council, **I'm calling for an increase in funding for social and health care supports desperately needed by our community.** This includes more funding for our co-responder and [STAR programs](#), providing officers with no-cost mental health benefits, an increase of grant funding to our nonprofit neighborhood partners, investing heavily in addiction treatment services, an all-hands-on-deck effort to prevent homelessness, and the creation of new city programs that focus on uplifting our city's youth.

Like many of you, I have friends and family who work in law enforcement, and some of these conversations have been incredibly painful. I do not want to demonize the police officers who seek to do good and serve our community with compassion. But at the same time, I will not ignore the systemic racism that exists in our criminal justice system or fail in my duty to seek justice for the wrongs that may have been committed in our community.

Why do we spend so much money to put people in jail? Taxpayer dollars should be focused on *preventing police encounters in the first place*. We ask our police officers to be social workers, psychologists, parking enforcers, and various other roles that our law enforcement agencies were not trained to handle. In addition to a police culture that needs changing, we put our officers in situations they shouldn't be in and ask them to enforce laws that shouldn't be on the books. That also needs to be changed.

It is important to recognize that the police are enforcing the laws, rules, and regulations that policymakers created. We are *all* responsible for how we got here, and we must all commit to change.

When I ran for office, I did so with the intent of bringing community voices to government. My

office works seven days a week in engaging with constituents and community leaders. We look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to reach out any time by emailing DenverCouncil5@denvergov.org or calling 720-337-5555.

Yours in public service,
Amanda

***This is a one-time transactional email** in response to an inquiry over the use of force in the Denver Police Department. If you would like to subscribe to my newsletter, [click here](#). If you would like to contact my office again directly, simply respond to this email or call 720-337-5555. You have not been added to any email lists.*