

## “Denver Mayor Calls for a New Department of Housing”

We can agree that housing and homelessness are two vital issues facing Denver today. I am encouraged to see Mayor Michael Hancock moving forward with his plans to create a Department of Housing and Homelessness. This move will focus the resources and funding we need to adequately get more people into attainable and stable housing.

As the previous chairman of Denver’s Housing Advisory Committee, and as the current executive director of the Denver Metro Fair Housing Center (DMFHC), I have worked with many folks who have struggled to keep up with Denver’s tremendous economic success. The city has launched some incredible programs under Mayor Hancock’s leadership — including the city’s first ever dedicated affordable housing fund, programs to place those experiencing homelessness into jobs, hiring resource navigators, building shelters and addressing the opioid crisis — there’s more we can do.

The proposed Department of Housing and Homelessness will combine and coordinate the efforts happening by Denver Economic Development & Opportunity’s Housing Division and Denver’s Road Home under one roof to make adjustments and really invest in the multifaceted solutions that will create more equity for everyone. This new department will connect the full housing spectrum — from housing for those experiencing homelessness to affordable

homeownership, to fair housing and everything in between — while better aligning and leveraging the city’s resources to tackle affordability challenges.

As a 41-year Denverite, I am proud of what this city has become under Mayor Hancock’s leadership, and this department will help ensure that no one gets left behind.

**Kevin E. Marchman**, *Denver*