



Colorado Association of
Chiefs of Police



February 10, 2022

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado
State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

On behalf of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, Colorado Fraternal Order of Police, and County Sheriffs of Colorado and our members across Colorado, we thank you for including us in the dialogue about crime and public safety in our state. We look forward to being an active participant in the ongoing conversations at the Capitol, and we look forward to getting to a point where our organizations can support legislation that will make positive impacts on crime, officer wellness, recruiting and retention, and other key issues affecting law enforcement and public safety.

However, at this time, our organizations do not have an official position of support on your public safety budget package in its entirety due to its failure to advance policy changes alongside ongoing budgetary proposals. Because of that, our organizations cannot accept your request to participate in this morning's press conference.

CACP, Colorado FOP and CSOC are working together as a unified voice on public safety and law enforcement policies. We believe that it is critical in the wake of past legislative changes and the anti-law enforcement sentiment over the past few years that we hold elected officials accountable for their decisions affecting community safety.

We ask that elected officials, such as yourself and state legislators, recognize how recent legislation and policy changes have directly contributed to rising crime rates and struggles to recruit and retain officers. The General Assembly has passed several bills, which you have signed into law, that make crime prevention more difficult, and prioritize offenders over victims and public safety.

The inability to arrest and hold offenders results in offenders continuing to commit criminal acts, often escalating the severity of their crimes, and putting victims in fear of becoming revictimized. Further, confusing and rapidly changing legislative standards on policing have caused officers to question what they can and cannot do to address a threat, protect victims and the community, and protect themselves in violent situations.

As we move forward and work together on our state's public safety, we ask you and the legislature to consider both policy modifications and budgetary needs. These are not mutually exclusive. When reviewing legislative and budget proposals, our organizations will utilize the following consideration as we consider our support:

- Elevating a review, based upon data, of the policies that are contributing factors to increased crime rates in communities across the state
- Addressing policies and narratives that have resulted in a climate that discourages public service in law enforcement, hindering recruitment and retention of qualified and seasoned professionals

- Supporting budget proposals that provide sustainable, ongoing funding commitments to address core needs like training, recruitment, and wellness programs
- Opposing unfunded mandates on policing procedures, reporting, equipment, and other issues that effectively remove funding from law enforcement and reduce the ability to have officers in the community
- Ensuring approaches to address crime and policing factor in the unique needs of Colorado's urban and rural communities

Once again, we appreciate your desire to address crime and law enforcement needs for our state. We are committed to working with you and the General Assembly to start the process of returning balance to the dialogue and policy decisions impacting public safety in Colorado.

Please feel free to contact us at anytime to discuss these issues.

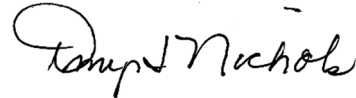
Sincerely,



Gregory M. Knott
President, CACP



Stephen Schulz
President, Colorado FOP



Amy J Nichols
Executive Director, CSOC