



**CITY OF BOULDER  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE: December 15, 2022**

**AGENDA TITLE**

Consideration of a motion to approve Selection Committee recommendations for members of the Police Oversight Panel, as outlined in Title 2, Chapter 11, "Police Oversight," B.R.C. 1981, pertaining to the composition, duties and powers of the city organization related to civilian oversight of the police and setting forth related details.

**PRESENTER(S)**

Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, City Manager  
Aimee Kane, Equity Officer  
City of Boulder Police Oversight Selection Committee

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this item is to request City Council approval of the Police Oversight Panel members and alternates selected by the City of Boulder's Police Oversight Selection Committee. On November 10, 2020, Council passed a motion to adopt Ordinance 8430 amending Title 2, Chapter 11, "Police Oversight," B.R.C. 1981, pertaining to the composition, duties and powers of the city organization related to civilian oversight of the police, and setting forth related details. Additionally, on July 21, 2022 Council passed a motion to adopt Ordinance 8543 amended section 2-11-6 "Police Oversight Panel – Qualifications and Appointments," B.R.C. 1981, Increasing the number of Panel members to eleven and alternates to four; and setting forth related details.

The ordinances call for the formation of a Selection Committee to interview and select six new panel members and four alternates. Consistent with the ordinances, the Selection

Committee consisted of two current members of the Police Oversight Panel along with a representative from two non-profit organizations that serve the Boulder community. El Centro Amistad and the NAACP of Boulder County were the two non-profits selected by the Police Oversight Panel to serve on the Selection Committee.

### **Process**

Applications to serve on the Police Oversight Panel were accepted from September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A total of 57 individuals applied. The Selection Committee members reviewed all application materials and selected 19 applicants to interview and interviewed 18 applicants. Interviews occurred from November 9-20, 2022. The Selection Committee then met on November 20, 2022 to discuss the interviewed applicants and select the six panel members and four alternates.

### **Recommendations**

The six applicants chosen by the Selection Committee are:

1. Danielle Aguilar
2. Maria Soledad-Diaz
3. Madelyn Strong Woodley
4. Sam Zhang
5. Lisa Sweeney-Miran
6. Talithia Cason

The four alternates chosen by the Selection Committee are:

1. Mylene Vialard
2. Kristen Drybread
3. Lizzie Friend
4. Jason Savela

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Suggested Motion Language:**

Staff requests council consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion:

Motion to approve Selection Committee recommendations for members of the Police Oversight Panel, as outlined in Title 2, Chapter 11, "Police Oversight," B.R.C. 1981, pertaining to the composition, duties and powers of the city organization related to civilian oversight of the police and setting forth related details.

## **ATTACHMENT**

A – Nominated Panel Members’ Bios and Video Interview Links

## Attachment A

Selected Panel Member	Bio	Interview Date & Time of Interview
Danielle Aguilar	<p>Danielle identifies as a Chicana Woman who is a PhD student in education policy at CU Boulder. Originally from Southern California, she moved to Boulder in May of 2021, she witnessed various interactions between family/friends and police and incarceration.</p> <p>Within her academics, Danielle wants to focus on how girls of color intersect and are intersected by carcerality, but first wants to get to know the reality of her own community.</p> <p>Because she uses community informed and participatory action processes for her research, she is also looking to build more ties with Boulder personally and academically. The transition to Boulder as a Chicana has been unique. Although Danielle has predominantly lived in white spaces such as Burlington VT, she has found her experience in Boulder to be quite different from experiences in the northeast.</p> <p>Danielle is interested in being more civically engaged and feels her participation and experiences will contribute to the panel in a meaningful way.</p>	<p>November 9, 2022 – morning interview Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/I1rMljhPTb4">https://youtu.be/I1rMljhPTb4</a></p> <p>Starts – 40:00 Ends – 58:00</p>
Maria Soledad-Diaz	Maria identifies as a Hispanic Woman who is bi-lingual in Spanish and English.	<p>November 9, 2022 – morning interview Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/I1rMljhPTb4">https://youtu.be/I1rMljhPTb4</a></p>

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	<p>A member of the Gunbarrel Community, Maria works as the Shelter Program Director for SPAN and serves as the Chair for the Community Advisory Board for the Downtown Boulder Partnership.</p> <p>She has three daughters who attend CU Boulder and work for CU, Brewing Market Café Downtown and SPAN as a Youth Advisor. Her youngest son is a student at Fairview High School.</p> <p>Highlights of her education and training include a Certificate in Business Administration and Management from Universidad del Pacifico, Santiago de Chile and a BS School of Law from Universidad Catolica de Chile.</p> <p>She is personally committed to Racial Equity, Justice, Diversity and Inclusion and is eager to offer her expertise and support to the community through her participation on the Police Oversight Panel.</p>	<p>Start – 1:13:19 End – 1:33:02</p>
Madelyn Strong Woodley	<p>Madelyn identifies as an African American/Black woman, and she served as one of the original members of the Boulder Police Oversight Task Force as well as the Implementation Team. Her participation allowed for contribution to the ordinance which governs the monitor and panel's work.</p> <p>She is a longtime resident of Longmont and an active member of Second Baptist Church,</p>	<p>November 10, 2022 – morning interview Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY">https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY</a></p> <p>Start – 45:01 End – 1:07:32</p>

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	Boulder as well as a Lifetime Member of the NAACP Boulder County. Her advocacy work extends throughout the Boulder Community.	
Sam Zhang	<p>Sam identifies as an Asian-American Man who is bi-lingual speaking English and Mandarin.</p> <p>Sam is a PhD student in Applied Mathematics at the University of Colorado, Boulder where he studies social inequality in different social systems such as academia and faculty hiring.</p> <p>He is an elected leader of the University of Colorado's employee union, United Campus Workers as well as an elected officer (Treasurer of the Local, Communications Workers of America 7799), which includes other unions such as the public defender's union and Denver Public Library workers.</p> <p>Sam founded the Boulder Data for Democracy meetup, where they consulted with the city's previous Innovation and Technology Officer around the open data available around police stops and racial bias, which helped inform recommendations the team put to Boulder City Council. Currently, Sam is a Human Rights and Data Science Fellow with the Human Rights Data Analysis Group, which does statistical research on human rights violations including from police in the U.S.</p>	<p>November 10, 2022 – morning interview Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY">https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY</a></p> <p>Start – 1:46:24 End – 2:06:12</p>

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	Sam is eager to continue the work he has been doing in the activist and non-profit communities around criminal justice and more specifically looking forward to bringing his scientific and quantitative lens to the discussion on policing in Boulder.	
Lisa Sweeney-Miran	<p>Lisa identifies as a white woman and grew up in Boulder where she attended school from Kindergarten through law school and then left to live overseas (Cambodia, Egypt, Iraq) before returning to Boulder in 2013 to raise her family.</p> <p>She has two children in Boulder schools who are white Jewish/Christian on her side and Iraqi Muslim on their father's side.</p> <p>Lisa runs a network of unhoused shelters in Boulder – Mother House and The Lodge – that serve unhoused women, trans folks, and their children. As part of Lisa's work, she is engaged in regular advocacy at the city, county and state level around the needs of the unhoused community.</p> <p>Lisa is the Vice President of the Boulder Valley School Board, where she worked to organize and initiate a movement in 2020 around rethinking school policing that ultimately succeeded in removing SROs from all BVSD schools and replacing them with restorative justice programs and in-house safety programs to minimize the number of students who have contact with police</p>	<p>November 10, 2022 – morning interview Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY">https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY</a></p> <p>Start – 2:27:21 End – 2:46:43</p>

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	<p>officers, helping to mitigate &amp; pathways to the school-to-prison pipeline.</p> <p>Lisa is a plaintiff in the ACLU suit against the city that seeks to motivate police reform around encampment enforcement and BPD interactions with the unhoused community.</p> <p>Lisa believes police oversight is a meaningful and important part of creating a Boulder that works for everyone and wants the community to be as strong and vibrant and connected as it possibly can be for herself and children, but also for the clients and families at Mother House and The Lodge as well as for the students and families of BVSD and other folks in the community.</p>	
Talithia Cason	<p>Talithia identifies as a Black Woman and lives in the Boulder. She works with older adults in the community and is self-described as a patient person who sees the challenges of policing in the Boulder Community while at the same time has had her own challenging experiences with individuals within the department.</p> <p>Her hope is to bring accountability to the department and help to minimize injustices in the community.</p>	<p>November 10, 2022 - afternoon video Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/hu5vyiCVc8M">https://youtu.be/hu5vyiCVc8M</a></p> <p>Start – 42:34 End – 1:03:09</p>

Selected Alternate Member	Bio	Interview Date & Time of Interview
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1. Mylene Vialard	<p>Mylene identifies as a White Woman who is bi-lingual in French and English.</p> <p>Mylene has been a Boulder resident for the last 15 years where she has also raised her daughter in the BVSD school system.</p> <p>Over the past two years, Mylene has been an active member of the Boulder chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice (BSURJ) where she has been delving into the intricacies of life, culture and policies in Boulder through the lens of engaged antiracism, conversations about racial justice and building relationships with accountability partners such as NAACP, Right Relationship Boulder, and other organizations in Boulder County and Denver.</p> <p>As a single mother, a freelance translator, and a concerned member of the community, Mylene feels it is her duty to be more involved in ensuring that all voices in Boulder are heard and included. She has worked for years as a cultural and language ambassador for francophone countries, but also for other countries around the world. Most recently, she has shifted her attention to a deeper level of civic and local engagement and is looking forward to bringing her experience to the panel.</p>	<p>November 10, 2022 – morning video Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY">https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY</a></p> <p>Start – 20:53 End – 45:00</p>
2. Kristen Drybread	<p>Kristin identifies as a multi-racial and ethnic, but white presenting woman. She is bi-lingual speaking both English and Portuguese.</p>	<p>November 10, 2022 – morning video Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY">https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY</a> Start – :04</p>

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	<p>She studies prisons and policing for a living and teaches a class on the history and practice of policing through the anthropology department at CU Boulder. Kristen holds a PhD in socio-cultural anthropology from Columbia University. Her research looks specifically at the ways local understandings of race, crime, and punishment intersect to direct policing efforts towards some communities rather than others.</p> <p>Kristen has lived and worked in Boulder for seven years and is a mother of two mixed-race children who identify as Black. During part of her time living in Boulder she resided in Boulder Housing Partners' affordable housing program which has given her a first-hand perspective of living in multi-racial and ethnic community that is visited by the Boulder Police Department on a regular basis.</p> <p>She believes Boulder is an amazing place to live, but also believes that economic inequality and the relative lack of racial and ethnic diversity in the city can impose impediments to equity and inclusion.</p> <p>She is eager to help the city do its best to make all residents feel safe and welcome.</p>	End – 20:44
3. Lizzie Friend	Lizzie identifies as a White/Not Hispanic or Latine Woman.	November 10, 2022 – morning video Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY">https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY</a>

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	<p>Recently, Lizzie finished serving as the Director of Performance Management &amp; Strategy for the Denver Sheriff Department. A role she held from 2019-July 2022 where she managed all analytics, research, strategic planning, and data reporting for the agency, including monitoring uses of force and crisis incidents within Denver jails and using data to evaluate policies affecting safety and wellbeing of individuals in custody.</p> <p>She worked extensively on implementing, tracking and evaluating reform recommendations, including those recommended by the 2020-2021 Denver Task Force to Reimagine Public Safety and Policing. Recently she has been promoted to a similar role at the Denver Department of Public Health &amp; Environment where she now supports behavioral health programs, Denver Animal Protection, the Office of the Medical Examiner, air and water quality programs, public health investigations and citations, and the epidemiology team.</p> <p>Lizzie lives in Boulder and looks forward to bringing her experience and service to her home community.</p>	<p>Start – 2:06:27 End – 2:27:05</p>
4. Jason Savela	<p>Jason Savela identifies as a white man and been a criminal defense lawyer in Boulder for 20 years. He stays up to date on newer police tactic trainings and does not feel he sees it deployed regularly enough. He believes that</p>	<p>November 10, 2022 – morning interview Video Link: <a href="https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY">https://youtu.be/SAzi2suyBdY</a> Start – 1:29 End – 1:46</p>

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	<p>change will take time and effort and wants to be an active part of that change.</p> <p>Jason feels he has a positive relationship with Boulder prosecutors, judges, public defenders, and some officers. He wants to work with the panel and other players to find outcomes that are just and will foster better relationships between officers and community members.</p> <p>Jason's continued education over the last 10 or so years has primarily been about communication, connection, and empathy. He feels he is better able to work on this type of panel with these skills.</p> <p>Jason has lived and practiced law in the Boulder area for 20 years. Prior to law school in 1993, he lived on the Hill in Boulder for 8 months while working at a restaurant. He has also lived in many parts of the country, including growing up in South Louisiana, early years in Northern Michigan, and law school in Washington, DC. Jason has practiced law all over Colorado, with over 3 years as a Public Defender in Colorado Springs and 2 years in Adams County, including handling and trying cases in Hugo, Durango, Georgetown, Ft. Collins, Holyoke, Meeker, Greeley, Denver.</p>	
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