Dear Governor Polis:

We have an emergency situation in Denver. People experiencing homelessness are

camped near downtown Denver in part because they feel it is safer than living in a

shelter with hundreds of others. For months, Mayor Hancock has refused to provide

them with bathrooms or hand-washing facilities. This week, Denver Homeless Out

Loud and Mutual Aid Denver came up with funding and placed 4 portable toilets and

hand-washing stations near these encampments. On Wednesday, April 22, 2020, this

same area was posted for a large multi-block Sweep to take place on Thursday, April

30, 2020. The Sweep could affect as many as 300 people.

The CDC guidance clearly states the following,

&quot;Unless individual housing units are available, do not clear encampments during

community spread of COVID-19. Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse

throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases

the potential for infectious disease spread.&quot;  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-

ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html   The planned

Sweep directly violates CDC guidance to cities, and it will separate these neighbors

from the toilets and hand-washing stations, which provide a minimum amount of safety

for them.

We have heard nothing about the City providing an apartment or hotel/motel room to

each of the people affected by the Sweep. According to CDC guidance, this is what

needs to be done for our neighbors living on our streets so they, too, can shelter at

home.

Please use your influence or emergency regulatory authority to prevent this Sweep and

any others in Denver or across the State until the pandemic is over, unless individual

housing - hotel/motel/apartments - is provided to the people surviving on the street

before the Sweep. An Executive Order should be issued from the Governor’s Office

prohibiting Sweeps until this pandemic is declared over.

Thank you for acting to stop the imminent Sweep in Denver and those of other

homeless encampments across Colorado. You may contact Terese Howard, DHOL, at

(415) 517-5603 or terese.act@gmail.com .

Urgently,