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Colorado Village Collaborative Announces Shay-La Romney as COO
First chief operating officer will lead local nonprofit’s growth

DENVER — Colorado Village Collaborative (CVC), a local nonprofit that exists to bridge the gap between the streets and stable housing, announces Shay-La Romney as its first chief operating officer beginning Feb. 1.

“I am excited and honored to join such an impactful organization,” Romney said. “I look forward to partnering with the CVC team as we strengthen and grow in a way that will allow us to serve even more of Denver’s unsheltered population.”

Romney, who has more than a decade of experience working with vulnerable populations and another decade working in operations and finance roles, joins a growing team that’s expanding its services through its Tiny Home Villages and Safe Outdoor Spaces programs. Romney was hired to guide this growth and oversee daily operations.

“We conducted a thorough search for our first COO and I’m confident that Shay-La is the leader who can shepherd our local nonprofit as we grow our services for the community,” said CVC Executive Director Cole Chandler. “We provide a critical and transformational pathway into more stable housing and with Shay-La leading our team, we’re well positioned to meet our expanded service goals.”

Romney, who was raised in Denver and returned a few years ago to be near family, was the senior regional partnerships director for College Track, a college access and completion program. Prior to this role and while living in the Washington, D.C. area, Romney was the executive director for the Banneker Foundation, where she developed the foundation’s strategic plan and oversaw fundraising, community outreach, and marketing and development. She also was responsible for program administration.

The Banneker Foundation was started by Banneker Ventures, where Romney served as the vice president of operations for seven years. She helped grow the minority-owned construction company from two to 50 employees and from working in two to 11 states. She led the company’s expansion into the federal
government marketplace, winning more than $100 million in contracts and $300 million in contract vehicles, which is a streamlined governmental purchasing practice for buying goods and services.

At Banneker Ventures, Romney managed a $2 million annual operations budget and all technical proposals. She oversaw human resources and recruitment, information technology, payroll, administration, business development and security.

Romney served in the Peace Corps for three years – two years in Paraguay and one year in the Dominican Republic. Afterward, she worked for ChildFund International providing emergency relief work in communities devastated by natural and man-made disasters. She obtained a Master of Education in Research Methodology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Howard University.

CVC currently operates two Tiny Home Villages and three Safe Outdoor Spaces. Both programs are scheduled to expand in 2022.

**Colorado Village Collaborative** (CVC) exists to bridge the gap between the streets and stable housing. CVC is working to advance dignified solutions that significantly reduce Denver’s unsheltered homelessness population. Since its founding in 2017, CVC has provided more than 54,815 nights of safe, dignified shelter in partnership with people coming from homelessness.

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