



For Immediate Release
Denver Foote for the People
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Community Organizer Denver Foote Announces Candidacy *Denver Foote is officially running for Des Moines Mayor*

DES MOINES, IOWA — Denver Foote (*they/them*), community organizer and activist is running for Des Moines Mayor. They were born and raised in Iowa. Currently living in Ward 1 in the Drake neighborhood, they are a renter, hairdresser and an advocate. Denver has been organizing their communities since 2016 by getting involved with movement politics, specifically alongside Iowa CCI. Denver organizes locally with Des Moines Peoples Town Hall, a grassroots organization that holds our current council accountable and was born out of the 2020 protests. They also sit on the Iowa Abortion Access Fund board of directors. After Denver experienced police brutality in Des Moines, they started taking organizing more seriously and became a community leader.

“I moved to Des Moines with high hopes of experiencing diversity I never had before. I moved to Des Moines with the hope that my future would be brighter. But I was met with something much more sinister. Things that my younger self would never think that I would experience. Brutality at the hands of police officers. Marginalized folks being pushed further to the sidelines. their voices shut down, their actions and cries for help silenced. That is why I keep showing up to council meetings. I know what it feels like to be silenced, to be hurt and to be forgotten.

We need transformative social justice, we need transparency, accountability and better care systems within our communities. We are done picking up crumbs”

- Denver Foote during the Feb 22, 2022 Des Moines Council Meeting

This campaign platform includes but is not limited to:

★ **Creating an Accessible City**

- **Transit:** We need to connect our neighborhoods with safe and reliable transportation. Ensuring accessibility and improving pedestrian infrastructure.
- **Addressing the Houslessness Crisis:** We must not have another death due to the weather in Des Moines. We need real 24/7 warming and cooling centers and nonjudgmental, accessible houseless centers.
- **Des Moines- A Safe Haven for All:** Fighting to protect the right to bodily sovereignty for all. Creating and expanding local farms and gardens. Addressing food deserts and creating more green jobs. Supporting and funding our public schools better.
- **Tackling Climate Change Locally:** Holding MidAmerica accountable to the people. Creating more green jobs by winterizing homes, building solar panels, ReMitrating land.

★ **Reimagining Community Safety**

- **Refunding our Communities:** Receiving more input from communities on the Des Moines city budget. Relocating funds from the bloated police budget, which takes up almost 40% of the budget, and putting funding back into structures our communities need.
- **Decriminalizing Marijuana:** Marijuana should be the lowest enforcement priority of the current policing system in place. Creating more pathways for folks to access medicinal marijuana and eventually the legalization of marijuana.
- **Make Policing Public:** More community input on what real community safety looks like. Creating a third party to investigate into the Des Moines Police force. No more unmarked police cars, pretextual stops, officers in 'civilian' clothing- especially during community events including patrolling.

Denver is committed to their community, Des Moines and Iowa. They have proven they have been and are willing to be on the frontlines for a better city.

In solidarity,

We deserve care. We deserve safety.

Power to the People.