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**Renée Millard-Chacon, Co Founder of Womxn from the Mountain**

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**RECEIVED**

*By Dylan Gibson at 1:45 pm, Jan 04, 2023*

January 3rd, 2023

Dear Commerce City Council

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the vacancy for Ward III! Below is a sworn statement I am eligible to apply as a resident of Commerce City. I am a citizen of the United States, 37 years of age, residing in Commerce City for 4 years preceding this appointment and a resident of Ward III. I am a registered voter, and not currently serving, or ever served a criminal sentence, including probation or parole, for a felony or an offense comparable to a felony in the military.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information herein is true and complete. I understand this statement is made for use as evidence and is subject to penalty.

Sincerely,

Renée Millard Chacon



# Renée M. Millard-Chacon

11016 Lima St, Henderson, CO. 80640 |(720) 224-4204| [reneemchacon@gmail.com](mailto:reneemchacon@gmail.com)

## Education

### **Bachelors of Science in Communications in Journalism News Editorial**

- University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado | **May 2007**
- News Editorial/ Chicano Studies
- National Association of Hispanic Journalists, UMAS Y MECHA, CU Lead Scholar, Diversity Commission Member at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Multi-Ethnic Media Organization

### **Masters in Educational Leadership and Administration**

- Northern Arizona University, Arizona | **May 2018**
- Transformative Education with Cultural Relevance
- Veteran Support of Standing Rock, One Nation Earth, Indian Voices

## Experience

### **Campaigned for Commerce City Council Ward 3 |May- Nov 2021|**

Ran for Commerce City Council this past fall 2021. Still work in rule making, DIC representation, and restorative justice. [www.ReneeforRenewingCO.com](http://www.ReneeforRenewingCO.com)

### **Environmental Justice Action Task Force Member |CDPHE|Commerce City, CO.|Feb 2022-Nov 2022 |**

Co Chair of the Equity Analysis Subcommittee

### **Family Readiness Group President | US Navy U.S.S. Alexandria 2015-2017|**

Supported navy families for the boat to find health and human resources, counsel, and networking opportunities for employment and family support through, during, and after deployments.

### **Head Media Consultant for One Nation Earth|July 2016-2018|**

Worked as a Cultural Educator with One Nation Earth and Veteran Support of Standing Rock in documenting the Oregon Eclipse Ceremony of 81 elders around the world as well as teaching in programs about conservation, respecting Native traditions and rights, and sustainable education.

**Youth Program Coordinator at Spirit of the Sun/Americorps VISTA 3years|March 2020- October 2021|**

Helped increase the capacity of curriculum development, program expansion, and transformative cultural resilience education for mixed indigenous disproportionately impacted communities in the Denver and surrounding areas. We work with native housing circles, houseless outreach, food shares, indigenous education collective, and environmental justice with several local and national organizations for social and climate justice.

**Womxn from the Mountain Indigenous 501c3/501c4 with March On |January 2019- now|**

**Co-Founder/ Executive Director-** [www.womxnfromthemountain.com](http://www.womxnfromthemountain.com)

Our goal is to empower our individual, spiritual, physical, emotional, and educational needs through equity, transformative education, and culturally responsive healing arts for Colorado indigenous and disproportionately impacted communities from the transformative lens of decolonization. Currently we are working as climate change organizers and cultural educators for disproportionately impacted communities to create protections and safety with cultural and trauma sensitivity from cumulative impacts of environmental racism.

[www.Suncorsundown.org](http://www.Suncorsundown.org)

## **References-**

**Micaela Iron Shell- Dominguez**  
Co- Director of Womxn from the Mountain  
Candidate for Denver City Council District 1  
[mmironshell@gmail.com](mailto:mmironshell@gmail.com)  
(720)341-3089

**Debora Montoya**  
30 year teacher in DPS  
Azteca Danza Cultural Educator at 6th Sun Calmecac  
[deborademontoya@gmail.com](mailto:deborademontoya@gmail.com)  
(303)870-0825

**Lucy Molina**  
Adams 14 District School Board Member  
[lalucylok@gmail.com](mailto:lalucylok@gmail.com)  
(720) 275-5479

Dear Commerce City Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the vacancy in Ward III for Commerce City Council!!! I understand the importance of supporting, educating, and creating community through countless acts of community service and this is why I am applying for Commerce City Council Ward III. I come from local indigenous communities and know how crucial representation and equity with analysis is to my community impacted by local state and federal agencies balancing modern solutions and compassionate leadership as a priority. Equity priority is needed to analyze local projects, investments, and planning for current and future generations, learning from the past generations impacts to Commerce City, and Colorado.

Colorado is the land of the Ute, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and 48 tribes, including mine that still live, work, go to school, and thrive in what is now Commerce City. We know the old names of rivers and landmarks on the front range before Colorado was a state. Colorado has been the intersection of our continent for generations of trade, development, and cultural exchanges, that should still and always work with prioritizing equity and analysis of historical, economic, and social contexts to help enrich and expose the front ranges important history to help future generations establish a foundation to build with real diversity and inclusion where our state has developed these natural connections.

Challenges crucial to address, is the misdirection of past generations to exclude community health based standards and protections in a land port city where industry is so influential, there needs to be more equity analysis of cumulative impacts to residents to truly be in the best interest for the health and safety of people living so intertwined with industries. The second is the current booming development to also work with contexts of cultural and trauma sensitivity as an equity priority, to not perpetuate harmful "business as usual" investments in land development, education, and housing to recreate comprehensive knowledge on what is going to be the most sustainable and renewable development to not overburden already known disproportionately impacted communities in Commerce City. Last is the crucial need for education and reeducation in new transportation sectors that can revolutionize Commerce City as a port city and address its decades old known health impacts from several mediums of particulate pollution. We have the opportunity to incentivize renewable and sustainable industries and learn where they did or didn't work in other states to implement changes away from harmful industries to address public health and safety. Adams County and Commerce City have large diverse populations, growing a workforce is another opportunity to include education in a transformative way by offering trade schools, adult education, and apprenticeships to disproportionately impacted communities to authentically address equity and grow a strong community. Commerce City also has the opportunity to link Denver and the front range with healthier modes to transportation and sustainable affordable housing developments with more community involvement of how land use can better serve local

communities and geography to create policy and rulemakings others can model after for community made protections and influence.

Honestly, I don't have any concerns serving as a council member because I'll always be here to support, educate, and maintain safe and brave spaces for equity, serving on council is another avenue to accomplish this ultimate goal, for and with the community. To me the Quality Community for a Lifetime means cleaning and protecting for future generations to bridge community to city council's needs and establish recognition of community as an influential power dynamic to include with long term equity and compassion. I worked as the Co Chair for the Equity Analysis of Cumulative Impacts subcommittee for the Environmental Justice Action Taskforce. We passed 11 month long recommendations to the Gov of CO with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment submitted last Nov 2022. I also work with the Native American Housing Committee, American Indian/ Alaskan Native organizations, and Co Founded with Micaela Iron Shell Dominguez Womxn from the Mountain, our orgs goal is to empower our educational needs through equity analysis, transformative education, and culturally responsive healing arts for Colorado indigenous and disproportionately impacted communities and have often advanced data collection through qualitative data that is culturally and trauma sensitive to Colorado.

I unfortunately have not had the opportunity to work in Commerce City Civic Academy but have worked in other spaces with Energy Defense Fund and Energy Foundation to develop protecting civil liberties through social and environmental injustice including travel to Washington DC to protect indigenous communities. I now live in a home town with my husband in Commerce City for 5 years, after serving with him while he was in the Navy as a Nuclear Engineer for nine years including traveling from east coast to west coast with our two sons. One favorite place for my family is El Jardín restaurant in Commerce City, rich with food, culture, and community. I'm always grateful to see how strong the community has been here including after wars and environmental harms, with one restorative example being the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, proving transformative preservation of our land and resources can be done with respect and inclusion in the modern identity with cultural enrichment. I'm grateful for all your considerations, and look forward to hearing from you all!!!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renée Millard-Chacon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Renée Millard-Chacon

January 3rd, 2022