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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Dominique Mendiola Announced as New Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division Senior Director**

Dominique Mendiola has been appointed Senior Director at the Marijuana Enforcement Division in the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR). Mendiola's appointment as Senior Director marks the first time since 2014, when laws allowing for retail marijuana sales became effective, that a woman of Mexican-American heritage has held the position. It is also the first time since 2014 that MED's Director has been appointed to a person who is not law enforcement, which supports a continued effort to expand beyond the concept of the Division operating primarily as a law enforcement agency.

"In the five months I've served as the Department of Revenue's Executive Director, I've been impressed with Dominique's extensive knowledge, unparalleled preparation and remarkable ability to gain the respect of a diverse group of both internal and external stakeholders," said Mark Ferrandino, DOR's Executive Director. "I'm confident that Dominique's leadership will bring both innovation and fresh eyes to the Division and maintain Colorado as the global gold standard for regulating the marijuana industry."

Mendiola began her work in marijuana policy and regulation with the Division in 2014. Most recently, she served as Deputy Director of Policy, Licensing and Communications managing rule-making, licensing and communications for the Division. She also served as the state's Director of Marijuana Coordination under Governor John Hickenlooper starting in July 2018 for the remainder of his final term.

The position was upgraded to Senior Director and now reports directly to DOR's Executive Director and State Licensing Authority (Mark Ferrandino). Mendiola replaces Jim Burack, who served as MED Director since February 2016.

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