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**Staenberg – Loup Jewish Community Center Hires  
Mike Sophir as Chief Executive Officer**

*Sophir will continue to focus on ensuring the community center is a place for everyone*

**DENVER, Colo., December 20, 2021** – The [Staenberg – Loup Jewish Community Center](#) (JCC Denver) has hired Mike Sophir as its Chief Executive Officer. Sophir brings to the JCC Denver more than 30 years of experience as a dynamic executive-level leader in both non-profit and for-profit sectors that has included development and execution of strategic plans, executive team and board development, change management, educational programming, fundraising, marketing and communications. Sophir officially starts on January 10, 2022.

“The CEO search committee, comprised of board members and community leaders who have a passion for the JCC, worked tirelessly to ensure that we found the right person to build on all that has been accomplished by the team in the past 12 months,” said Ed Nekritz, JCC Denver’s chairman of the board and acting CEO. “Mike is the right person to join us at this juncture to continue to move the organization forward as an inclusive, community-focused organization. He is also the right person to help us ensure that the JCC serves as a second home for the community, engaging current, new and prospective members on their own lifecycle journey as the JCC embarks on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022.”

Sophir has most recently served as a Senior Consultant at Columns where he delivers strategic organization and business development strategies to local and national nonprofit and public sector clients. Prior to that, he served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon International Headquarters in Chicago. Sophir is coming back to Colorado for the position at the JCC Denver, where he lived for 22 years. Previously in Denver, Sophir was Senior Vice President at Peri Marketing and Public Relations for nine years. He has also served in several other positions during his career, including the Director of Corporate Development for Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation.

“In general, there is a hunger among many for reconnection, in part resulting from the proliferation of technology and especially as we continue to navigate through the pandemic,” said Sophir. “I am excited to join the JCC Denver at this unique time because of the role the

organization plays in nurturing community connections and providing a place to belong for everyone no matter one's background or beliefs.”

When he was young, Sophir spent time at the Jewish Community Center in Omaha, Neb. where he participated in summer camps, sports activities, theater programs, and many other special events.

Sophir has a Bachelor of Journalism in Advertising from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Nekritz, who has been serving as acting CEO for the past year and as Chairman of the Board, will continue to serve the JCC Denver as the Chairman of the Board.

#### **ABOUT STAENBERG – LOUP JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

The [Stauberg – Loup Jewish Community Center](#) (JCC Denver) serves the metro-Denver area through educational, social, cultural, fitness, sports and other programs that are rooted in Jewish values. The JCC Denver's mission is to create a vibrant and inclusive family and social gathering place, guided by these timeless Jewish values. The JCC Denver's four program areas focus on connection, community and well-being and include: a robust fitness, sports, tennis and aquatic center; Early Childhood Engagement, including an Early Learning School and a variety of programs for families; the Mizel Arts and Culture Center which offers Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies & Music Festival (JAAMM Fest), Denver Jewish Film Festival, and ReelAbilities Film Festival; summer camps including Ranch Camp and Camp Shai; engagement programming for teens, young adults, seniors and the LGBTQIA+ community. The JCC Denver is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located at 350 S. Dahlia Street in Denver. For more information, visit [www.jccdenver.org](http://www.jccdenver.org), like us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @jccdenver or call (303) 399-2660.

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