



City and County of Denver

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Dennis Gallagher

Auditor

November 2, 2011

Honorable Michael Hancock, Mayor
Honorable Chris Nevitt, Council President
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mayor Hancock and Council President Nevitt:

In my letter of October 17, 2011, I stated that the best way to ensure a viable National Western Stock Show and Rodeo in Denver and to provide a win-win-win for the stock show, the City and the citizens of Denver, the City should acquire outright the National Western complex. Also, I encouraged you to analyze what it would take to accomplish such a move.

However, I know that such analysis will not happen 'overnight.' I also believe that Denver's continued participation in the Regional Tourism Authority (RTA) application further lengthens that process and delays formulating and implementing a viable strategy to provide for the future of the Stock Show in Denver. Therefore, I strongly urge you to take steps immediately to terminate Denver's participation in the RTA application. Continuing with this application is counterproductive to keeping the Stock Show in Denver and therefore flies in the face of logic. As a rancher friend of mine said, it's like squatting on your spurs.

Terminating Denver's participation in the application will clear the way to move forward developing and implementing such a strategy.

With an eye to ensuring that a successful strategy is developed I am continuing my own analysis of options that can contribute to the development of that strategy: A strategy that will not only ensure the success of the National Western Stock Show, the Stock Show Complex and the Coliseum but will provide a vehicle for dynamic economic development in the neighborhood and beyond. I am pleased to report to you that some of the options I am investigating are very exciting and can have a profoundly positive economic impact on our City and the region.

I know some will interpret my request to terminate Denver's participation in the RTA application as parochial. Well, I am parochial when it comes to ensuring that the interests of the residents of the City and County of Denver are protected. But it is interesting to me that no one seemed concerned about regionalism vs. parochialism when Commerce City, in its effort to participate in the Gaylord deal and that would have kept the National Western Stock Show in Denver, was sacrificed, like a spurned suitor, on the altar of mammon by its 'regional' neighbor to the east. Moreover, as I note above, the options for maintaining the Stock Show in Denver that I am investigating involve economic development opportunities that will indeed have a significant regional economic impact.

To promote open, accountable, efficient, and effective government by performing impartial reviews and other audit services that provide objective and useful information to improve decision making by management and the people.

We will monitor and report on recommendations and progress towards their implementation.

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In due course and as I complete my analysis, I will share with you the possibilities that analysis suggests; a strategy or a roadmap, if you will, of a successful way forward.

However, I repeat, for success to be realized, it is imperative that Denver terminate its participation in the RTA application forthwith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis J. Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis J. Gallagher

Auditor