

Published by Denver City Councilman Charlie Brown

**DNC wrap-up** 1-2

**Thanks to public safety agencies** 2

**38 DNC loaner cars MIA** 2

**DNC Celebrity Quiz** 3

**Real estate comparisons at convention cities** 3

**Clean-up of Colorado Veterans Monument** 4

**DNC: A boost for Denver's image** 4

**Contact Us**

District Office  
2324 East Exposition Ave.  
Denver, CO 80209  
(303) 871-0601  
FAX (303) 698-4908  
**Web: [www.denvergov.org/CouncilDistrict6](http://www.denvergov.org/CouncilDistrict6)**

**Council Aides**

**Carol Singer**  
Carol.Singer@denvergov.org

**Meagan Mercer**

Meagan.Mercer@denvergov.org

# The Email Express



September 2008

## DNC: Smiles and relief

Never having thrown a party as big as the Democratic National Convention, Denver didn't quite know how good or how bad the historic Aug. 25-28 event would be for the Mile High City.

Now, with the delegates long gone, Invesco Field at Mile High returned to its intended uses and pedestrian traffic on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall and in LoDo back to normal, Denver is all smiles - after a few sighs of relief.

Landing and hosting a national political convention gives a city national and international exposure that can't be measured, but that doesn't prevent organizers from worrying about a couple of big issues that can be measured - economic impact and security.

It'll take economists and bureaucrats a few months to sort out the true dollar impact of the convention, but the initial indicators are very good.

Top organizers say the city finally exceeded its goal of raising \$40 million in private money to cover costs, with the final total somewhere around \$55 million. (Extra money was needed to cover costs of

the Invesco Field event.)

Denver received a separate \$50 million from the federal government to cover security costs. Given the mild nature of protests and

demonstrations, it looks like that grant more than covered the bill.

The broader economic impact of the DNC - the money spent by the estimated 50,000



Thursday August 28 at INVESCO field at Mile High Stadium. Photo courtesy of Steve Crecelius for the Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

visitors minus any losses from workers who stayed away from downtown and non-convention tourists who didn't come to Denver - requires a fair amount of guesswork right now, but the early signs look very good.

Mayor John Hickenlooper estimated the DNC may have generated \$160 million in cash spending, but that figure is an estimate based on convention spending in Boston in 2004.

"The economic impact of this four-day event certainly has got to rank as one of the largest" for Denver, economist Patricia Silverstein told The Denver Post.

Downtown hotels, booked close to 100 per-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Thanks to the following public safety agencies for their unprecedented level of intergovernmental cooperation and professionalism that kept our citizens and DNC guests safe.*

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center · University of Northern Colorado Police · Colorado Department of Corrections · Colorado Attorney General's Office · Colorado Dept. of Transportation · Arapahoe County Sheriff's Dept. · Federal Bureau of Investigation · Summit County Sheriff's Dept. · Larimer County Sheriff's Dept. · El Paso County Sheriff's Dept. · Adams County Sheriff's Dept. · Cheyenne, Wyoming Police · Greenwood Village Police · Longmont Police and Fire · Colorado National Guard · Wyoming National Guard · Colorado State Patrol · Commerce City Police · Mountain View Police · U.S. Secret Service · U.S. Capitol Police · Northglenn Police · Edgewater Police · Lakewood Police · Lafayette Police · Thornton Police · Glendale Police · Denver Police · Arvada Police · Parker Police · Aurora Police · Aurora Police · Erie Police · Pueblo Police · Golden Police · Boulder Police · Littleton Police · Brighton Police · Louisville Police · Sheridan Police · Loveland Police · Lakeside Police · Broomfield Police · Lone Tree Police · Fort Collins Police · Engelwood Police · Castle Rock Police · Westminster Police · Wheat Ridge Police · Denver Sheriff's Dept. · U.S. Marshalls Service · Federal Heights Police · Colorado Springs Police · Cherry Hills Village Police · Colorado Division of Parole · Colorado Division of Wildlife · Kiowa County Sheriff's Dept. · Boulder County Sheriff's Dept. · Douglas County Sheriff's Dept. · Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept. · Colorado State Emergency Management · Colorado School of Mines Police · Colorado State University Police · Colorado Bureau of Investigation · Red Rocks Community College Police · U.S. Department of Homeland Security · U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service · THANK YOU!

*(Continued from page 1)*

cent, certainly did better than they would have during what's normally a slow week, according to the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau. Suburban hotels also got plenty of business.

Ditto for restaurants and bars along the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall and in LoDo, often thronged with crowds of New York City density.

"We did really well. High energy, great people and good sales," said Roxanne Thurman of Cry Baby Ranch, a sentiment echoed by other Larimer Square businesses. "We had a banner four days," said Denise Snyder of clothing boutique Mariel, and general manager Charlie Stauter of the Capital Grille said, "It was the best possible week we could imagine – beyond our wildest dreams."

But some restaurants elsewhere in downtown reported little or no extra business, and closure of the Auraria Higher Education Center eliminated a lot of student trade in the city center. Business outside downtown, including Cherry Creek, told a similar story, as did tourism related businesses.

A rough Denver Post estimate suggested \$15 million in hotel spending and about \$20 million in other direct spending, along with perhaps a \$4 million loss in spending downtown workers and others would have otherwise made.

Denver breathed its biggest sigh of relief about security and protests, which proved to be mild-mannered and were well managed by Denver police and officers from nearly

70 Colorado and Wyoming public safety agencies. The force totaled about 3,300 federal and local personnel.

Some organizers boasted the number of protestors would total 25,000, but only about 5,000 apparently showed up.

Demonstrations and marches went smoothly, and protesters' First Amendment rights were honored. There was close cell-phone contact between police liaison officers and protest organizers. Even an unscheduled, unpermitted march by 3,000 people on Aug. 27 was handled smoothly and yielded no arrests.

Compared to some 800 arrests for the Republican convention in the Twin Cities, only about 150 people were arrested in Denver. (There were a few missteps, like the arrest of an ABC News producer outside the Brown Palace Hotel.)

Results were mixed for the organizers' "green" requirements. Restaurant owners and caterers reported, as expected, challenges in obtaining local and organic ingredients. But the free bicycle service reportedly racked up 5,400 rides and more than 23,000 miles traveled. And, up to four tons of recyclables a day were gathered.

The whole experience left organizers with a high. Hickenlooper told a reporter, "I'm ready to have the second one start tomorrow."

Sorry, Mayor, but it's back to potholes, parks, zoning, law enforcement and all the other routine challenges of managing a city of more than half a million people.

## 38 DNC Loaner Cars Are **MIA**

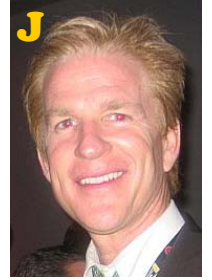
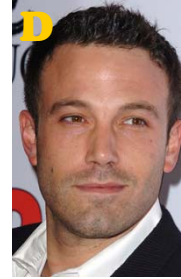
Of the 450 General Motors cars and SUVs loaned to the DNC for the convention, 38 were yet to be rounded up, a week after the DNC ended, according to Paul Lhevine, chief operating officer for the Convention Host Committee. Some included SUVs similar to the one pictured, with a sticker price of more than \$50,000.



**2008 CHEVY TAHOE HYBRID**

# DNC Red Carpet Guests: How many can you name?

(See Page 4 for the answers)



## Be glad you live in Denver instead of in St. Paul

The two political conventions prompted many comparisons between Denver and the Twin Cities, but we found the difference in property taxes, taken from the Aug. 21 *Wall Street Journal*, particularly interesting.

### Colvin Avenue (right)

**Price:** \$795,000

**Taxes:** **\$9,978**

**The Property:** 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3, 498 square feet

**Description:** This classic mid-century-modern home on 1.6 acres was designed by Robert Cerny, a nationally known architect. The living room has vaulted ceilings and panoramic views of the Mississippi River valley. The kitchen still has a dumb waiter and built-in barbecue. Elsewhere are two fireplaces, a walk-out level family room with a bar and a finished basement.

**Notable:** Very little has been altered since the original owner lived here. The building materials of the home are hand picked, including Tennessee hand cut pink marble and variations of wood in the house.



### Saint Paul Street (below)

**Price:** \$765,000

**Taxes:** **\$2,006**

**The Property:** 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,958 square feet

**Description:** This three-story corner home has a courtyard oasis and professional landscaping. The interior has custom tile work throughout, along with original woodwork and vintage fixtures.

But it has been updated as well:

There's a new roof, electrical wiring and plumbing. It also has a finished basement, garage and mother-in-law apartment.

**Notable:** Located in the heart of peaceful and architecturally diverse Congress Park.



## Team effort gets graffiti cleaned up at Colorado Veterans Monument

An anti-war protest on the Sunday before the convention left graffiti and vandalism at the site of the Colorado Veterans Monument just west of the state Capitol. Thanks to the State Patrol, Denver's Graffiti Task Force, KYGO's Kelly, Jonathan and Mudflap and with the help of Tim Drago and Councilman Charlie Brown, the graffiti was cleaned up quickly, and no additional vandalism was reported throughout the remainder of the convention. The



Colorado Veterans monument was founded in 1983 by Vietnam veteran Tim Drago. It was later dedicated on Veterans Day in 1990 and is considered "an all encompassing memorial to the dead and tribute for the living of the past and present."

## A boost for Denver's image

Before the gavel struck beginning the 2008 Democratic National Convention, the event had already generated more media coverage about Denver as a travel destination than anything in the city's history.

One of the legacies of the DNC will be how much it will help the city's convention and meeting industry. Denver proved we can handle any size convention. All of the city's meeting facilities were showcased by the DNC.

The result? Every visitor you talked to remarked about how friendly and open Denver was. This type of reputation will help Denver book major conventions for years to come. Conventions are a clean industry, they don't cause pollution, they don't require many city services. But when delegates come here they pay taxes—taxes that in turn don't have to be paid by residents.

- Richard Grant, Denver Convention and Visitors Bureau

## Answers from 'Guess Who' (page 3)



**Oprah Winfrey** reportedly spent \$50,000 for the rental of a house during the week of the DNC.



**Anne Hathaway** (actress, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Get Smart*)



**Chevy Chase** (actor, *Caddyshack*, *Christmas Vacation*, and has recently been seen on ABC's *Brothers and Sisters* as Stan Harris)



**Dan Abrams** (Chief Legal Correspondent for NBC News, anchor and legal analyst for MSNBC)



**Jon Stewart** broadcast his Comedy Central hit *The Daily Show* from DU's Newman Center for the week of the DNC.



**Matthew Modine** (actor, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Cutthroat Island*)



**Ben Affleck** (actor, *Smokin' Aces*, *Pearl Harbor*) hosted a non-partisan poker tournament fundraiser the week of the convention at Coors Field.



**Anderson Cooper** (anchor for CNN's *Anderson Cooper 360°*, *The Mole*)



**Dana Delaney** (actress who plays Katherine Mayfair on ABC's *Desperate Housewives*)



**Alan Cumming** (actor, *Spy Kids* films)



**Adam Scott** (actor in the recently released *Step Brothers*, *Monster-In-Law*, *Knocked up*)



**John Slattery** (actor on AMC's *Mad Men*, and ABC's *Desperate Housewives*)



**John Hamm** (actor, plays Don Draper in AMC's *Mad Men*)



**Andrea Robinson** (actress and activist, convention director of greening. "Forced out" before convention start, according to Rocky Mountain News)

**Most of these on-site celebrity photos are courtesy of Terry Vitale, owner and publisher of Colorado Expression magazine.**