



First 100 Days

July 2011

CONNECTING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

PROMISES BECOMING REALITY

“More than a slogan...”

by Albus Brooks

During my campaign, I ran on the slogan: “Connecting Diverse Communities”. To me, and to those who worked and volunteered together to help get me elected, this is more than just campaign rhetoric. It is more than simply a catchy tagline to put on a yard sign. It is a statement of who I am as a community leader. It is an acknowledgement of the past, and a promise for the future.

Family Strengthens Me

Everyone should know by now that I would not have won if it wasn't for the strength of my family. My wife, Debi, kept me going when the trials seemed insurmountable. The laughter and hugs of my two kids, Makai and Kenya, gave me the energy that I needed to go out and knock on your door. I love them with all my heart, and look forward to being on this journey with them by my side.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember the warmth and leadership of our dear friend, Carla Madison. She will be missed, but not forgotten, as we

continue to grow on the foundation that she has laid. I would also like to acknowledge Wil Alston for running a great campaign. It was an honor to run against such a qualified opponent, and I'm glad that Mayor Hancock will be using his expertise.

A campaign is a long, tiring journey. I would not be writing these words today if it weren't for the voters and leaders in the district who took time from their busy lives to help shape the future direction of their community. From the fellow candidates to the first-time voters, dedicated residents stepped up and let their voices be heard. I thank you for your support.



My Family

My family is what keeps me strong, and keeps me humble. I thank God every day for giving me such a beautiful family.



My Kids

My kids, Kenya and Makai, give me immense joy.

Being a father has taught me much about how to be a better man.

My Pledge to the Residents of District 8

This is more than a job to me; I love the City of Denver, and my heart beats for District 8.

As your City Council representative, **I pledge to work for YOU.**

I will be **accessible**; always available to listen to your concerns and ideas.

I will be **teachable**. In order to grow as a leader, I will humble myself with the knowledge that I have much to learn.

I will be **responsive**. Whether a problem or an opportunity, I will act swiftly and responsibly.

I will **represent ALL residents of District 8**. I will represent those on the margins, and in the shadows. I will work for all residents, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or legal status.

I will be **accountable**, conducting business with openness and integrity.

As your City Council representative, **I pledge to work for YOU.**

_____ (Albus' signature)

2713 Welton Street

Denver, Colorado 80205

(720) 337-8888 -Office

First 100 Days

Carla Madison Proclamation

RNO Road Map

Engage 8

Connecting Diverse Communities

Transparency and Accountability

Public Safety

Economic Development

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PRAGMATIC AND FOCUSED

It is important to acknowledge the fact that this is my first time as an elected official.

While there are certainly many things to get done once I take office July 18th, I am being realistic in terms of the quantity of projects that my office will undertake. This is a new venture for me, and I want to make sure that I am being fair to the process, and to the voters.



Most of the first 100 days I will be busy learning about city government and its processes.

I am using this opportunity to outline some of my plans for the first 100 days, as well as my vision for the coming years. The format is straightforward; I have outlined 8 first steps that I will take once in office, and the desired outcomes for each of those steps.

Format of 100 Day Plan:

The format of the following plan is simple: everything that is **underlined and in bold** is something that is going to be accomplished, or started, specifically in the first 100 days. The rest of the document is there for context, and to express the larger vision that I have.

100 Days and Beyond...

by Albus Brooks



1. **Carla Madison Proclamation**

Desired Outcomes: To honor the life and memory of Carla Madison, as well as her work on City Council.

a. **I will work to make April 23rd "Carla Madison Day" by an official proclamation of the City Council.**

Residents, Council Members, and City employees will be encouraged to wear orange, and join my office in the celebration of a life fully lived.

b. Continue with the District 8 Ice Cream Social and the Hiawatha Davis Senior Luncheon.

Underlined and bold items are specifically for the first 100 days

2. RNO Road Map

Desired Outcome: To create a comprehensive plan for the registered neighborhood organizations in the district.

a. Focus on a Bottom-Up Community Plan for Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs)

i. Create an annual event hosted by all of the RNOs in the district that is designed to foster community pride, and the act of being a good neighbor. Use this event's momentum to create a **"Warm Welcome Plan"**, where specific individuals are given the responsibility to extend a warm welcome to new neighbors on their block (take them cookies, introduce them to the neighbors, as well as the neighborhood). This exists in some parts of the district, but not all.

ii. Facilitate the creation of neighborhood-specific "good neighbor pledges" by helping to secure grant money for block-building activities with the goal of creating a stronger, safer community.

b. **Encourage each RNO to partner with existing organizations and businesses within the district to create an economic development map for their neighborhood,** outlining their ideas, as well as an honest assessment of strengths and weaknesses.

c. Promote Youth Engagement. My office will push for more youth representation in our RNOs. Each RNO will be encouraged to help increase social investment in their local schools, and will also be invited to submit applicants for the Youth Advisory Council that is being formed by Engage 8.

d. Implement a Gang Prevention Plan, a localized neighborhood plan will be created, outlining ideas and best practices to help prevent gang activity. Prevention removes the need for intervention.

e. Establish specific "Advised Inclusion Goals". Our RNOs are not as diverse as our district, and it will take an honest effort by all parties to become more inclusive and representative of all neighbors and all neighborhood issues. My office will work hard to ensure that the RNOs become more representative.

f. Establish Quarterly Growth Goals to increase membership and participation with RNOs. This will help RNOs build their membership, as well as add strength to their Boards.

3. Engage 8.

Desired Outcomes: To oversee the creation of Engage 8, a local nonprofit that will be working closely with my office to engage and empower residents of District 8, in an effort to bring positive and sustainable change. To create a healthy environment that promotes a healthy lifestyle, as well as a beautiful district that fosters pride and encourages creativity.

a. **I will create an informal, open, running club called "Run D8"** to promote physical fitness and community engagement. Each week I will run in a different neighborhood, and I want you to run with me!

b. My office will help fight childhood obesity in the district by investing in programs that encourage kids to turn off their

video games and go outside. These investments will be quantified and tracked online.

c. **"Gr8 Recipes Cookbook"**. With the help of local nonprofits, such as Engage 8, my office will help publish an annual collaborative cookbook, using original recipes from residents and restaurants of the district. We will focus primarily on healthy recipes. The sale of this cookbook could generate income for programs that promote a healthy lifestyle. This cookbook will also be used as a tool to market the restaurants of the district, with a special District 8 coupon section.

d. I will foster, celebrate, and encourage the Arts in our community.

i. I will work with local art groups and the appropriate city agencies to assess the arts footprint in the district, developing a pragmatic beautification plan.

ii. To foster community pride, my office will work with local art institutions and the City to beautify the district by connecting local artists and students with public space. **My office will co-host poetry slams and art contests** with the goal of acknowledging the beauty and talent within the district. Selected poems and art will be posted around the district, and possibly even in public transportation. Imagine getting on the Light Rail and being able to read poems or look at art from students in your neighborhood! We must celebrate the creativity of our residents.

iii. I will study whether or not a graffiti "free wall" would be a good idea within the context of District 8, weighing community support/opposition, as well as studying similar programs within Colorado. This idea came up several times during the campaign, and is worth taking a look at.

4. Connecting Diverse Communities

Desired Outcome: To reaching the capacity of the district by bringing together all residents to work alongside each other.

a. **Listening Tour of every neighborhood in District 8.** I will ask the question, "What would you like to see from my office, and from me personally?" I will listen. Most listening tours are heavy on the touring, and light on the listening. This will be an opportunity for me to sit down and truly listen. These will be co-hosted by the RNO of the neighborhood, and other community and cultural groups that can be identified. Each meeting will have a note-taker from my office, and I will try to define at least one tangible, identifiable outcome from the meeting. Notes from the meeting will be posted online.

b. **Elected Official Think Tank**

i. I will host regular meetings with all elected officials that represent District 8 in any capacity. Each meeting will be at a different small business in the district, and notes from the meeting will be available online.

ii. City Council, State House, State Senate, DPS School Board, At-Large Reps, Mayor, etc. will all be a part of the conversation. We will be focusing primarily on how to create jobs and improve education, as well as any pressing issues facing the district at the time.

c. Working with the elderly. I wish to restore a sense of community and purpose by encouraging schools and youth programs in the district to reach shut-ins and those in the community who are in retirement. "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?" Job 12:12

My office will continue with the District 8 tradition of the Hiawatha Davis Senior Luncheon.

d. "Seek first to understand, then to be understood" **I will focus on meeting with the leaders of the District's Latino communities in my first 100 days**, to identify and understand the issues impacting their communities. It is also my intention to become better informed on the issues surrounding immigration and to provide improved service to our Spanish speaking community members. To that end I have hired Chy Montoya, a fluent Spanish speaker, as one of my council aides.

e. **Encourage residents, both old and new, to join me on regular tours of the history of the neighborhood.**

f. Lead an interfaith dialogue with clergy from around the city, with the goal of creating a stronger, more understanding faith-based network. Use this network to encourage churches to work together on service projects within the district.

g. **In my first 100 days, I will identify specific ways in which my office can partner with the LGBT community.**

5. Transparency and Accountability

Desired Outcome: To be an honest servant leader, who regularly and clearly communicates with residents of the district.

a. Website and Social Media

i. **Revamp the official District 8 website**, which is hosted by the city.

ii. **Establish an interactive social media presence, regularly communicating through Twitter and Facebook.**

iii. Use regular surveys and FB questions as rudimentary "pulse checks".

iv. Provide **regular video updates on the website (a two-minute review of the week).**

v. Website available in English AND Spanish. I will search for local District 8 groups/people who can translate the website.

vi. Track My Investment. On the website residents will be able to see where I invested my 6.6% raise.

b. Regular Communication

i. Quarterly newsletters. My office will publish quarterly newsletters that will inform residents of the work that is happening in the district.

ii. 24/48 Plan. I will work hard to respond to phone calls within 24 hours, and emails within 48 hours. I realize that this will be difficult at times, but my goal is to be accessible and responsive.

iii. Weekly video podcast update. A short video podcast will inform residents about what I will be doing in the coming week. It will be available online, as well as on iTunes.

c. **Starting with the inauguration party, I will begin to have more of my meetings available to the public, in live streaming format.**

6. Public Safety

Desired Outcome: To build trust between the residents of the district and the officers of District 2.

a. Work with the District 2 office to build relationships between the residents of the district and the officers who are "walking the beat". Encourage the District 2 office to increase communication and community presence with local community groups.

7. Economic Development Summit

Desired Outcome: To focus on community-oriented development with one clear vision of bringing the best opportunities for residents of the district.

a. **Hold a summit with stakeholders, key leaders, and potential partners with the goal of focusing development in targeted areas..**

b. Arapahoe Square, Five Points, Holly, Dahlia, Colfax Corridor, and TOD (FasTracks) will be the primary focuses of the summit. We will also have discussions about the Central Recreation Center Development and potential additional development that it may bring.

8. Education

Desired Outcomes: To identify ways in which my office can serve the schools and students in the district. Develop a working relationship with leaders in the education community.

a. One Square Mile Project. I will work to get neighbors, businesses, and organizations to come around specific schools to work closely with the staff and volunteers.

b. Work with cultural groups and DPS in order to help provide culturally relevant curriculum in the district by advocating for curriculum that celebrates the diverse cultures of the students.

c. Work together with school board representatives, local educational leaders and local college students to analyze the achievement gap that persists within our public schools as well as researching schools that are successfully closing this gap.

d. **Visit one local school per week**, meeting with the principal, teachers, students, and parents.

WALKING WITH WISE LEADERS



Representing Diversity

As your representative to the City, it is my job to represent all residents of District 8. In order to do that, I will walk alongside wise leaders from the community.



Accessible and Accountable

Although the campaign is over, I still want to hear the stories and ideas from around the district. Don't be surprised when I knock on your door, ready to listen...

BIG CHALLENGES

51.8%

Denver Public Schools Dropout Rate

38.25%

Active Voter Turnout

NO PROBLEM IS TOO LARGE

Even with low graduation rates and a largely disconnected public, there are still opportunities for growth and success.



The campaign gave me many opportunities to learn from great leaders, such as Former Mayor Wellington Webb. I look forward to what I will learn in the coming years.

Roll Up Your Sleeves...

In order for us to overcome big challenges and create a better place to live, we must all get involved. **Here is what I will do...**

Economic Development I will cut red tape and market the district to attract appropriate investment. I will fight to ensure that youth, as well as women and minority-owned businesses, have quality employment opportunities with the city.

I will increase employment by providing incentives for companies to hire from within the district.

Public Safety I will build trust between the police department and the residents of the district. I will push for community policing, and encourage officers to get out of their cars and "walk the beat."

I will help increase transparency and open the channels of communication between the police department and the residents of the district.

Education I will be an advocate for our public schools and will partner with the Board of Education, holding regular stakeholder meetings. I will work to increase the options for after-school programs, using my 6.6% raise as a challenge grant for private partnerships with our public schools.

AROUND TOWN



Investing in the Future

My career has been dedicated to investing in the lives of youth in the district. They are the future, and need to be given a seat at the table.



Connecting Diverse Communities

From new neighbors to old neighbors, we are all District 8 residents.

“Be the Change You Seek...”



My Pledge to the District 8 Community

I pledge to stay active and involved in shaping the future of District 8.

I will work hard to build a safe community.

I will build relationships with all of my neighbors, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or legal status.

I will hold Councilman Brooks accountable, ensuring that he conducts business with integrity and honesty. I will hold him accountable to make him deliver on his promises.

I will support local businesses that are in the district.

I will be a good neighbor.

_____ (signature)

Full Name

Address

Email

Phone #