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City News

From Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz Citizen Survey shows where we are, where we're going

I call my annual opinion questionnaire a "citizen survey" but it's actually a blueprint. Look closely at the results (www.denvergov.org/councildistrict2). They show what people in Council District 2 think and what they want their council member to work for.

Michael Hancock, our new mayor, gets a copy, as does every council member. The newcomers are especially grateful because it shows items they're going to hear about from me and offers a template for surveying citizens in their own districts. Informed leaders are effective leaders, as the more than 2,000 of you who responded to my survey understand.

Your views on funding priorities will be in sharp focus next month when council conducts formal budget hearings. You said in the survey that street maintenance, jail security, police and fire protection, trash pickup and child protection are important and shouldn't suffer cuts except as a last resort. Libraries are important too. Items you were more willing to see cut in tough budget times included arts and culture promotion, economic development incentives, community planning, and mountain parks.

But the survey also showed there is more to do: crack down on unkempt properties, give Animal Control the teeth to make pet owners comply with license and vaccination rules, ensure snowplows reach our streets promptly, tackle unsurfaced parking issues, and keep Denver in the Secure Communities program. You also asked me to resist fee increases for trash removal, and you said it's important to get good retailers to use the empty Albertsons at Dartmouth and Sheridan.

Those are great ideas that help shape my views and guide my actions. They contribute to making city government succeed, and the many hundreds of you who spoke out in the survey are part of that success!