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Town Meeting

Please join Councilwoman Lehmann for a District 4 Town Meeting. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 18th** at **Cavalry Baptist Church**, at the northeast corner of Hampden and Monaco. Refreshments will be served at **6:00 p.m.** and the program will commence at **6:30 p.m.** **Mayor John Hickenlooper** and **Richard Rosenthal**, Independent Monitor of the Denver Police, will be featured speakers. City Council President Rosemary Rodriguez, President Pro-Tem Michael Hancock, Councilwoman Carol Boigon, State Senator Ken Gordon, and other state and local elected officials will be on hand to discuss issues and answer your questions. Please contact 303-504-5781 if you would like additional information.

Election 2005

Tuesday, November 1st is Election Day in Denver. Please note that many calendars list Election Day on the following Tuesday, but Denver's election will take place on the first of November. On this day, voters will be decided on two state ballot issues, four city ballot issues, a Denver Public Schools ballot issue and a School Board Director at Large. Early voting begins on **October 17th**. If you wish to vote by mail, you can request an absentee ballot by mail until **October 25th**. You can make your absentee ballot request in person at the Election Commission until **October 28th**.

To request an absentee ballot or find locations for early voting
visit www.denvergov.org/electioncommission
or call the Denver Election Commission at 720.913.VOTE (8683).

Election 2005: The Ballot

COLORADO BALLOT ISSUES

Referendum C: Retention of Excess Revenue: Referendum C allows the State to retain and spend all state revenue collected from existing state taxes for the next five years. It sets a new revenue cap at the highest level of state tax revenue reached between now and 2011. It requires the retained state revenues to be spent for: health care, public schools, state colleges and universities, transportation projects and retirement plans for firefighters and police officers.

Referendum D: Multiple-fiscal Year Financial Obligations: If Referendum C passes, Referendum D will authorize the state to bond up to \$2.072 billion to repair and replace highways and bridges and other transportation projects, K-12 school construction, repair and maintenance, construction, repair and maintenance of state university, college and community college facilities, and to pay the state's share of unfunded liabilities to fire and police members' retirement fund.

DENVER BALLOT ISSUES

Referred Question 1A: Lodger's Tax: Increases the Denver lodger's tax paid by people who stay in motels and hotels by 1% to 10.75%. The revenue raised would be used only to promote tourism and convention marketing for the city.

Referred Question 1B: Retention of Local Revenues: Allows the City of Denver to retain and spend all of its tax revenues in fiscal years 2005-2014. These revenues would be used to pay for public safety, public works projects, parks and recreation, health care, libraries, and other essential services. In 2015, a new city and county spending cap would be calculated based upon the city's highest single revenue year during the period 2005-2014. This referendum preserves the voters' right to approve or reject tax increases.

Initiative 100: Alcohol-Marijuana Equalization: Referred to the ballot by citizen petition, this initiative would amend the current Denver Municipal Code to make legal the private use and possession of one ounce or less of marijuana for any person over the age of twenty-one.

Referred Charter Amendment 1C: City Council Powers & Duties: This is a proposal to change City Council powers and duties including:

- extending the existing Charter authority of the Council to review and approve contracts to include certain types of intergovernmental agreements and revenue contracts
- removing from the Charter details on the formation and management of assessment districts, placing the details in ordinance
- allowing the meeting schedule of Council to be set by ordinance
- allowing the Council to excuse an absent council member for a reason other than sickness.

Referred School District 1 Ballot Question: Denver Public Schools Teacher Compensation Plan: Funding for a professional compensation system for teachers (ProComp). The mill levy would increase Denver property tax by about \$24 per year for every \$100,000 in residential property value. The plan would link teacher pay to measurable performance in the classroom in four areas—raising student achievement, teaching difficult subjects, working in hard-to-staff schools, and improving teaching knowledge and skills.

Candidates for Denver School Board Director At Large:

- Brad Buchanan
- Andrew Karsian
- Dave Lewis
- Jill Conrad

Watch Denver Channel 8 for broadcasts of ballot issue forums and school board candidate debates.

Hampden Bridge Reconstruction

Hampden Avenue traffic will be shifted onto the north portion of the Hampden Bridge over I-25 during the weekend of Friday, October 7th to Monday, October 10th. This work will involve the following closures and restrictions:

- o Hampden Avenue restricted to one lane in each direction on the bridge over I-25 from Friday night until Monday morning.
- o The southbound I-25 off-ramp to Hampden Ave. and the Hampden Ave. on-ramp to northbound I-25 will be closed from Friday night until Monday morning.
- o Both the northbound I-25 off-ramp to Hampden Ave. and the Hampden Ave. on-ramp to southbound I-25 will be only open to motorists traveling east on Hampden from Friday night until Sunday. The ramps will be completely closed on Sunday night.

This traffic shift is necessary so crews can complete the curb and gutter and sidewalk on the south portion of the bridge. Once this work is complete, traffic will shift to the outside so crews can build the center median.

As with the other phases of construction, six of the bridge's 10 lanes will remain open. There will be two lanes in each direction of Hampden Avenue over I-25 and two left turn lanes to access southbound I-25 from westbound Hampden Avenue.

The eastbound Hampden Avenue to northbound I-25 access will remain closed. Signage directs motorists to take either Colorado Boulevard or Monaco Parkway north to Yale Avenue to access northbound I-25.

There will be periodic nighttime work to rebuild the bridge and ramps. Bridge reconstruction and the highway widening beneath it will be complete in late 2005/early 2006. For more information, contact (303) 357-8677.

Denver's Strategic Transportation Plan

The Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) will determine what kinds of transportation investments Denver makes for vehicular traffic, bikes, and pedestrians. The Public Works Department is hosting its second public meeting to get citizen feedback on this plan.

The STP Town Hall Public Meeting #2 will be held Thursday, **November 3rd** from **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** in the 4th floor conference room of the Webb Building (4.G.2/4.F.6). The Webb building is located at 201 W. Colfax Ave. Please call Mark Najarian at (720) 865-3172 or Ellen Ittelson at (720) 865-2923 if you have any questions or visit the project website at www.keepdenvermoving.com.

Development at Dayton Station

On September 14th, the Hampden Town Center hosted a public meeting in conjunction with Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann and the City of Aurora. The Hampden Town Center encompasses the area south of Wal-Mart to the Dayton light rail station along I-225. The property is in Aurora, but is bordered by Denver to the north, east and west. Eighty residents of Denver's Cherry Creek Town Home Communities and Aurora's Hampden Town Center attended the meeting.

Elected officials and staff from Aurora, Denver, RTD and T-REX, as well as the developer of the Hampden Town Center, were on hand to present information on the Town Center and the Dayton Light Rail Station. Discussion centered on access to the light rail station by bus, for emergency responders, and for pedestrians.

During the 1980s, a large shopping center and high-rise complex was planned on the Town Center property. At that time, neighbors were concerned about access from the shopping center to their homes in the Cherry Creek Town Home Community. An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Town Center property owners, Aurora and Denver was drawn up which mandated construction of a wall along South Boston Street in order to prevent access to Denver from the proposed shopping center.

Development plans for the property have since changed and the IGA will now prevent Denver pedestrians from accessing the Dayton light rail station, which is nearly adjacent to their property. The majority of meeting attendees objected to this impediment and encouraged Councilwoman Lehmann and Aurora councilmembers to change the terms of the IGA.

Many neighbors worry about potential parking problems resulting from pedestrian access to the light rail station and stressed that parking protection for residents must be addressed in any new plans for the area. Safety issues, including police patrol, emergency response, and proper safety lighting are also issues of concern, as are wetlands protection, drainage and maintenance of the area.

Councilwoman Lehmann has formed a working group with councilmembers from Aurora and Greenwood Village to deal with issues surrounding the Dayton Light Rail Station. The group is named D.A.D.S., an acronym for Development at Dayton Station. The group is currently meeting to discuss opportunities to provide pedestrian access to the Dayton Station and address community safety and parking concerns.

Denver Police Citizen Advisory Board

The Denver Police Department is hosting a Citizen Advisory Board Meeting for residents of DPD District 3.

DPD meets with neighborhood representatives on a monthly basis to share crime prevention tips and report crime trends in District 3. The meeting will take place in the Community Room of the District 3 Substation, located at 1625 S. University Boulevard, on **October 5th at 6:00 p.m.** Please direct questions to Sgt. Kevin Bray at 720-913-1163 or e-mail: BrayK@ci.denver.co.us.

Emergency Preparedness Guides Available

Even before Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, Denver's Office of Emergency Management was busy creating public awareness campaigns to teach citizens how to prepare for natural or man-made disasters. Their website, www.readycolorado.com, will be up and running this month.

Denver's Emergency Preparedness Guide is now available. It contains valuable information about what to do, who to call, and where to go in the case of an emergency. The guide covers preparations for power outages, winter and summer storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, flooding, fire, hazardous material incidents and acts of terrorism.

To obtain an Emergency Preparedness Guide, contact the Denver Office of Emergency Management (720-865-7600) or come by our office for a free copy.

Contact my office:

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**Visit us on the web at:
www.denvergov.org/CouncilDistrict4**