

District 5 Community Cabinet Meeting
Hosted by Amanda Sawyer, City Councilwoman for District 5
Tuesday, October 3, 2023, Noon-1:20pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

CW Amanda Sawyer (Council District 5), Nicole Aviles (District 5), Owen Brigner (District 5), Logan Fry (District 5), Juan Sipion (District 5), Rachael Friedman (Denver CASA), Cari O'Shea (HCMAI), Officer Matt Grimsley (DPD3), Ryan Harris (DPD3), Andrew Latson (Montclair Rec Center), JD Chism (Denver Fire), Chy Montoya (Denver Fire), Alice Sanburg (CCHN), Betsy Rubner (Driving Park Historic District), Aaron McCauley (TAVA Waters), Ira Frosch (Candlewyck Condos), Libby Smith (Park Forest), DeAnna Mayes (CCEA), Norman Chandler (South Hilltop), Mickey Greenberg (WDCA), Hilarie Portell (Colfax-Mayfair BID), Bill Tanner (CCEA), Lou Raders (CCNN), Ashley Denault (Denver Water)

*Others may have joined during the meeting

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

CW Sawyer welcomed everyone, led introductions, and then introduced guest speakers:
Adam Petro, Right-of-Way Enforcement (ROWE) Manager
Captain Silver Gutierrez, Denver Sheriff's Department
Sergeant Kirk Campbell, Denver Sheriff's Department

GUEST SPEAKER: Right-of-Way Enforcement (ROWE)

Adam Petro (Presentation Attached)

Contact information: Adam.Petro@denvergov.org

- What does ROWE do?
 - Maintains safety, access, and compliance in the Right of Way
 -
- How does ROWE provide enforcement for the City and County of Denver?
 - ROWE provides education to the public related to parking ordinances in the City and County of Denver
 - ROWE issues citations to vehicles related to parking ordinance violations in the City and County of Denver
- Six primary functions within ROWE
 - Regular patrol
 - Street sweeping
 - Street maintenance and support
 - Maintaining HOV traffic lanes
 - Vehicle booting
 - Dispatch

- Changes to the large vehicle ordinance
 - Geography – large vehicle ordinance applies in both residential and industrial zones
 - 700-foot rule, which means all large vehicles longer than 22 feet must move at least 700 feet every 72 hours

GUEST SPEAKER: Denver Sheriff's Department, Abandoned Vehicle Unit (AVU)
Captain Silver Gutierrez and Sergeant Kirk Campbell (Presentation Attached)

Contact information: Kirk.Campbell@denvergov.org

- About the Abandoned Vehicle Unit (AVU)
 - AVU is responsible for enforcement of statues pertaining to abandoned vehicles as defined in the Denver Revised Municipal Code (DRMC), Chapter 4, Article XV, Division 2, Section 54-811
 - Deputies address complaints that are received from numerous sources, such as police officers, citizens, neighborhood support systems, City and County of Denver Council Members, police dispatchers, and abandoned vehicle warning (AVW) 72-hour notices
- Enforcement
 - Two (2) deputies are assigned to Denver Police districts 1 through 6
 - Parking in excess of 72 hours (\$25 fine)
 - Expired plates/no plates (\$75 fine)
 - Expired plates/excess of 72 hours (\$75/\$25)
 - Other violations (\$50 fine)
- AVU statistics
 - AVU deputies have spent 2,053 hours on the streets in 2023 and have driven 15,767 miles in that same period
 - 2,184 vehicles have been posted with warnings and 10,412 reported vehicles were gone when AVU deputies arrived on scene
 - 853 vehicles, including box trailers, motor homes, and campers, have been impounded in 2023
- New parking rules
 - Regular cars and small trucks must move every 72 hours
 - No distance requirement anymore (used to be 100 feet)
 - BUT recreational vehicles shorter than 22 feet long must move at least 700 feet every 72 hours
- New reporting requirements
 - Any city agency that is authorized to tow or impound a vehicle must provide a report to City Council starting on August 10, 2023, and twice a year after that which includes the following information:
 - Any attempt made to contact or assist the owner before towing
 - Time and date vehicle was towed
 - If vehicle was extremely damaged, a listing and photographic evidence of the damage

- If impounded and released, time and date that the vehicle was retrieved

Q&A

- Jane Lorimer said she's surprised stolen vehicles found on private property can't be affected.
 - A: Sgt Campbell said law enforcement can't go onto private property to do abandoned vehicle enforcement. However, if a vehicle does appear to be stolen, Denver Sheriff's Department stays with the vehicle while they wait for the Denver Police Department to arrive.
- Jane Lorimer asked how DSD and DPD can team up to better address expired plates
 - A: Sgt Campbell said the statistics are high. The DMV in Denver struggle with appointment-only, which can cause some problems in getting plates updated. With staffing challenges post-pandemic, DSD has not been able to address expired plates in an aggressive nature.
- Lisa Voss asked if these presentations will be sent out to the Community Cabinet list?
 - A: CW Sawyer said her office will send these presentations out within 48 hours of this meeting.
- Meredith Levy asked if it's better to call AVU or DPD when an abandoned vehicle is parked at a park parking lot? Also, who is best to call when a car is parked in a bike lane?
 - A: Adam Petro said contacting the Department of Parks and Recreation would be the quickest way to deal with abandoned vehicles in a park's parking lot. Park Rangers have the authority to tow.
 - A: ROWE said there is a specific team dedicated to address vehicles parked in bike lanes. If you see a vehicle in the bike lane, call ROWE dispatch at 720-913-1600. The dispatch team will send the appropriate team.
- Mickey Greenberg asked who is responsible for cleaning protected bike lanes (PBL)?
 - A: Adam Petro said the street maintenance in Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) is in charge of cleaning bike lanes. 311 is the most efficient way to report a vehicle in the bike lane.

PARTNER UPDATES

Denver Parks and Recreation, Meredith Levy, meredithprab@gmail.com

- District 5 Spring parks Clean-up Day was Sunday, October 2 and it was a success!
- Next PRAB meeting is: Wednesday, October 11 from 5:30-7:30pm
<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Planning-Community-Engagement/Parks-and-Recreation-Advisory-Board-PRAB>

Q&A

- Councilwoman Sawyer noted that the Montclair Park playground improvements is the top Capital Improvements priority for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in 2024.

Montclair Recreation Center, Andrew Latson, Andrew.Latson@denvergov.org

- Annual Fall Open House will be at the Montclair Recreation Center on Friday, October 20th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - There will be carnival games
- Haunted House and Carnival on October 21st
 - Montclair Recreation Center will be taking families from the Rec Center to the St Charles Recreation Center
- Learn more about Montclair Recreation Center activities here:
<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Recreation-Centers-Pools/Recreation-Centers/Montclair-Recreation-Center>

Denver Water, Ashley Denault, Ashley.Denault@denvergov.org

- Construction projects
 - Pipe replacement work has begun on North Fillmore between East 4th and East 6th and North Clayton between East 4th and East 6th Avenues. Construction is estimated to last until December 2023. If you live in this area and would like your pipes to be checked for lead, Denver Water asks you to complete a consent form at denverwater.org/Consent
 - Construction on the Bayaud Storm Drain project has begun. Xcel has started moving their utilities out of the way so pipe construction can begin. Actual construction on the storm drain system is estimated to begin mid-2024. Learn more about this project here: <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Department-of-Transportation-and-Infrastructure/Programs-Services/Projects/Torreys-Peak-General-Storm>
 - East Colfax pipe replacement will last through most of 2024. The crew is currently working on construction on East Colfax between Downing and Lafayette
- For more information, contact Denver Water Customer Care at 303-893-2444, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., or visit denverwater.org/Pipes

Q&A:

- Jane Lorimer said she got a letter in the mail from Denver Water saying that if a pipe breaks, it's on the property owner to fix and pay for. Is that a scam?
 - A: Ashley Denault asked her to send the letter to Denver Water, and if they notice there is an uptick in misinformation, they will share that information. Councilwoman Sawyer also noted there is a division within the Denver District Attorney's office, and you can report that here: <https://www.denverda.org/fraud-alerts/>

Denver Public Library, Olivia Gallego, ogallegos@denverlibrary.org

- Ross-Cherry Creek Library
 - Hiring of staff is in progress. Denver Public Library (DPL) is almost ready to announce their opening date. When that occurs, they will share it, and the District 5 Council Office will share as well.
- Schlessman Library
 - Learn more about upcoming events at the library here: <https://www.denverlibrary.org/content/schlessman-family-branch-library>

DPD District 2: Officer Simeon Codo, Simeon.Codo@denvergov.org

- Regis Motel has been shut down in hopes to reduce crime in the East Colfax area. There is a *Denverite* article about this, which you can read here: <https://denverite.com/2023/09/29/regis-motel-east-colfax-license-suspended/>
- Commander Advisory Board (CAB) meeting
 - The next 2CAB meeting for DPD2 will be on October 25th at 6:30 p.m. and you can attend in-person or virtually. The virtual link will be sent by DPD2 closer to the date.

DPD District 3: Officer Matt Grimsley, matthew.grimsley@denvergov.org (720) 913-1218 or Officer Mike Borquez, michael.borquez@denvergov.org (720) 913-1183

- Coffee with the Cop
 - October 4th from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Nixon's Coffee
- Fraud Prevention Meeting
 - October 4th at American Legion off I-25
- DPD3 will *not* be hosting a CAB meeting in October. The next meeting will be November 1st at the DPD3 station.
- October 29th
 - From 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Veteran's Park, the DPD3 officers will be passing out candy

Denver Fire Department, Captain JD Chism, John.Chism@denvergov.org

- Fire Ops 101
 - Denver City Council Members and staff visited Denver Fire's training academy to see what firefighters do on a day-to-day basis. It was a great event to meet new Members and staff.
- Mile High Scout Force
 - 160 Girl Scouts were able to hang out with Denver firefighters

CW SAWYER UPDATES

- RTD's Free Fare for Youth
 - Councilwoman Sawyer, RTD Director Kate Williams, and Denver Public Schools Board Member Scott Baldermann have been working for the last four years on getting this pilot program done. It has finally happened!

- From September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2023, ALL youth ages 19 and under can ride FREE on all RTD routes
- Learn more at [Bit.ly/ZeroFare4Youth](https://bit.ly/ZeroFare4Youth)
- Budget
 - From September 18 to September 25, all City agencies presented their budgets to City Council
 - Last year, Councilwoman Sawyer successfully overrode a mayoral veto to fund the design and installation of one Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) in every Council District, and successfully advocated for \$800,000 in funding for the design phase of one stoplight in each Council District
 - As a result of Texas Governor Greg Abbott sending nine (9) buses of migrants to Denver, there is very little extra money in the budget. Just since July 17th, 2023, the migrant population in Denver has increased five-fold
- Sidewalk Collection Fees
 - On October 1st, City Council voted to delay for six months the collection of sidewalk fees in the City and County of Denver
 - The current fee structure is unfair and unequitable, and the existing law is not implementable
- Street lighting
 - The District 5 Council Office has partnered with DPD2 and DPD3 to do a lighting study of every statistical neighborhood in Council District 5
 - In Bellevue-Hale, the Rose Hospital parking lot was identified as a hotspot for crime. Rose Hospital is spending \$1.2 million in street light upgrades to deter crime
- DO-8 Overlay
 - You can learn more about the DO-8 Overlay here: denvergov.org/ColfaxAveDO8
 - Planning Board hearing Wednesday, October 18 at 3:00 p.m. and you can sign up to speak or submit comments for that hearing here: www.denvergov.org/planningboard
- Bellevue-Hale ADU Legislative Rezoning
 - Councilwoman Sawyer is considering a legislative rezoning of the Bellevue-Hale statistical neighborhood, including parts of Mayfair, to allow for accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
 - The community survey closed on September 29th and the District 5 Council Office is analyzing the data to make a determination on whether Councilwoman Sawyer will move forward with the rezoning
- Annual Survey
 - In 2022, 1,500 residents filled out the survey, which is the most ever
 - The information from the annual survey is invaluable, and the District 5 Council Office takes your feedback to help guide the annual work plan
 - The survey closes on December 31st. Please take the survey here: [Bit.ly/D5AnnualSurvey23](https://bit.ly/D5AnnualSurvey23)

Q&A

- Lou Raders noted there is a new park on Iliff and asked participants on the call to sign a naming petition. That petition is attached.

The next Community Cabinet meeting will be on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, from noon – 1:00 p.m. with special guests from the City’s Forestry Department.

Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.