

District 5 Community Cabinet
Hosted by Amanda Sawyer, City Councilwoman for District 5
Tuesday, February 7, Noon-1:15pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

CW Amanda Sawyer (Council District 5), Owen Brigner (District 5), Jennifer Gross (District 5), Captain Chism (DFD, PIO), Chy Montoya (DFD, Outreach Coordinator and Gov't Liaison), Officer Andrew Clarry (DPD2 Sector Leader east of Colo Blvd), Lt. Ryan Harris (DPD3 Sector Leader, east of Colo Blvd), D.A. Beth McCann (Denver D.A.'s Office), Maro Casparian (Denver D.A.'s Office), Angela Padilla (Denver D.A.'s Office), Mary Brice (Denver D.A.'s Office), Norman Chandler (SHNA), Carrie O'Shea (Montclair), Betsy Rubner (Driving Park Historic District), Lou Raders (CCNNA), Dotty Woods (Country Club), Bill Tanner (CCEA), Jane Lorimer (Winston Downs), Mickey Greenberg (Winston Downs), Ira Frosch (Candlewyck), Mary Carr (LCMA), Aaron McCauley (Tava Waters), Libby Smith (Park Forest), Joe Levi (D5 DOTI rep), Andrew Latson, (Montclair Rec Ctr), Jimmy Luthye (Denver Water),

*Others may have joined during the meeting.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

CW Sawyer welcomed everyone, led introductions, and then introduced Guest Speakers:
Beth McCann, Denver D.A.
Maro Casparian, Director of Community Engagement

GUEST SPEAKERS: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Denver D.A. Beth McCann (Presentation Attached)

Contact information: info@denverda.org, amc@denverda.org

- Denver D.A.'s Office
 - Primary role is to prosecute state crimes in City and County of Denver
 - Part of job is to create new and innovative programs regarding crime
 - Strive for equal justice for all
 - Work in community to prevent crime
- 259 employees, 202 attorneys, victim advocates, support staff
- Average 7,000 felonies/year. Was quieter during the height of the Covid lockdown, then an increase, but is now down again
- 3 Courts
 - County Court – 10,000 misdemeanor cases
 - Assorted crimes including some assaults, domestic violence, drug cases
 - District Court – adult felony cases
 - Juvenile Court including juvenile diversion program
- Office Units – listed out in attached PDF
- Traffic offenses is largest number of cases filed

- Traffic cases reducing, possibly due to the way cases are filed
- After traffic offenses, person and property cases are the next highest categories, followed by drug cases
- Over last 5 years, traffic, then person, property, and drugs are the most commonly filed cases
- Cases filed by the week are posted on D.A.'s website so one can track trends week to week
- Diversion
 - Both adult and juvenile
 - Programs for those in criminal system on first or second offense, lesser crimes – people who could benefit from supervision and then end up with cleared record
 - Culturally competent, work to reduce harm
 - In Denver there are many service providers to contract with for D&A treatment, therapy, job training – work with individuals to prevent them from becoming regulars in the criminal justice system
 - Ends up as a both cost saving alternative and with the individuals receiving more supervision through diversion than probation
 - Very low recidivism rate in diversion programs
- Restorative Denver – restorative justice program. Allows victim and defendants to have circle meeting with community facilitators and The Conflict Center.
 - It gives each opportunity to understand impacts of the case. It allows for a communal effort on the punishment, restitution, etc. Very low recidivism rate
 - Increases satisfaction in outcomes by all parties involved and reduces harm.
 - Mostly in cases of misdemeanors
- Motor Vehicle Theft – dramatic increase nationwide
 - Organized crime unit for larger rings – 2 larger auto theft rings indicted and are in court proceedings
 - Cases with individual offenders also going up
 - Hard to prosecute if no witnesses and with vehicle then abandoned. Even if someone is driving the vehicle, it's hard to prosecute as it's easy to explain away being in the vehicle (borrowing it, didn't know it was stolen)
 - Office does aggressively prosecute in all cases whenever possible
- Fentanyl
 - #1 drug of choice now – cheap, very potent
 - Fentanyl case filing numbers; 2018 – 22 cases filed. 2020 – 133, 2021 – 350, 2022 – 691, 2023 – 73 so far
 - Now largest number of cases filed, overtaking methamphetamines as highest filing of drug cases
 - Office supported state bill creating new charge of distribution resulting in death
 - Increased penalties for dealers/distribution
 - Bill included education and increased naloxone access
- Prevention Programs
 - Handgun intervention program – dramatic increase over past 5 years of juvenile possession, use, and other crimes committed with guns. Focus on kids' use of guns, matched with mentors, parents required to participated. 2 years in, so far doing well

- DV firearm relinquishment program includes full time investigator to keep up with cases.
- Behavioral health programs
- Public dashboard launched Sept. 2022 to show cases filed in most recent week, including link to the breakdown of cases, sentences, demographic information
 - Goal is to provide transparency and use data to determine what is happening in Denver, communicate to community, work on internal systems based on results
- D.A. McCann, and/or her staff, are always happy to speak to groups and at events – evenings, weekends as well
- Maro Casparian is the Director of Community Engagement, amc@denverda.org
 - Please direct questions to her
 - Maro also writes a monthly scam spotter newsletter, conducts meetings about fraud and how to protect oneself, and other information distribution as well

Q&A:

- CW Sawyer – what is the D.A.’s office doing specifically to address crime, and what is happening with folks being let directly out after arrest
 - Increase in crime locally and nationally
 - Homicides are down. Overall crime is starting to decrease
 - D.A.’s office responds when cases presented to them. They’re cases are investigated and brought to them by the DPD. If enough evidence, then they file
 - Hired 2 more attorneys and investigators to focus on big operations in the motor vehicle theft and gun distribution
 - COCA – CO organized crime act – is the focus of much of the office actions right now
 - Judicial Process – when an individual is arrested, they are usually in front of judge within 24 hours. The individual is given a risk assessment which informs the D.A.’s office decision for whatever bond the individual should have.
 - PR bond may have a dollar amount attached to it, but it doesn’t have to be presented up front
 - Judge considers type of crime, criminal history, prior history of failure to appear, etc. when deciding which kind of bond utilize
- Jane Lorimer – sees vehicles expired plates, fake plates from out of state, and no plates. What is the correlation to auto theft? Does it help to report? Lastly, do we have any projections of the next big drug that the cartels will bring in?
 - Unsure if anyone has done research on the plates. Definitely report any expired plates, but these are handled by city attorney’s office. Contingent on the ability to have people available to prosecute and fine, that is.
 - Drugs – most smuggled drugs synthetic now, easy and cheap to make, with raw ingredients from China manufactured in Mexico. There will be new drugs, but unsure of what. Narcotics Unit, DEA, FBI, are all working on this.
 - HRAC said the next thing is a Veterinary tranquilizer – Encouraged reaching out to Lisa Raville/HRAC

- Winston – 2 questions. 1) traffic and property crimes are going up, what information is being sent out to people to protect themselves. 2) why can't we mandate that after a few years that people go back and retake the driver's test?
 - We do have information on how to protect financial property – monthly fraud newsletter/scam spotter newsletters. The D.A.'s Office supports the Neighborhood Watch program, but it is led by the DPD.
 - There are requirements regarding driver's license renewal, but this falls under state jurisdiction. The largest traffic category of offenses is people driving without a license.
- Joe Levi – we've been noticing fatal traffic accidents are going up, but stats show going after them less. This is a big problem in regard to the Vision Zero plan.
 - Careless driving resulting in death is a misdemeanor and is filed as such. Reckless driving is a felony offense and the D.A.'s Office is filing a lot of those. The traffic offenses number reflects in data as minor misdemeanors, while vehicular homicides are reflected in misdemeanor and felony filings against people.
- Carrie – who do we report expired tags to
 - Sawyer – take photo and text to police non-emergency line, 720-913-2000
- Mickey – how do you get more details on specific crimes
 - DPD cannot share information in ongoing investigations until the case is handed off to D.A. or CAO. Once a case is filed, it will be on the website

PARTNER UPDATES

DFD Captain JD Chism, john.chism@denvergov.org and Chy Montoya, Chajito.Montoya@denvergov.org, Outreach Coordinator and Gov't Liaison

- All educators are hired and in place
- Chy Montoya – outreach coordinator and gov't liaison
 - Goal to reach out to all council district to gauge needs of RNOs, other educators
- Created new risk reduction group by moving people around to figure out what is needed in that and where

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

- Next PRAB meeting is tomorrow, February 8, 5:30-7:30pm. Info here: <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Parks-Recreation/Planning-Community-Engagement/Parks-and-Recreation-Advisory-Board-PRAB>
- DPR and DMNS broke ground for the City Park Nature Play project. Details here: <https://www.dmns.org/about/strategic-plan-everyone-everywhere/nature-play-in-city-park/?vanityurl=natureplay>
- Ruby Hill Rail Yard for free skiing and snowboarding is open. DPR provides equipment on Thursdays and Saturdays
Info here: <https://denverite.com/2023/02/04/free-skiing-snowboarding-ruby-hill-park/>

Denver Water: Jimmy Luthye, jimmy.luthye@denverwater.org

- 9th and Eudora – biggest type of conduit was the pipe that broke last Thursday. Big mess, big hole in the road. Still cleaning effective today. Biggest damage was to one of the 3 buildings in the complex – power out at first, then boiler damage still no heat/hot water. Hotel vouchers through Thursday waiting for back up boiler to arrive and install. Hoping by Thursday. Meal vouchers/food reimbursement, free taxi shuttles back and forth. Email Jimmy with any questions that you have.
- **2023 Lead Reduction Program work areas**
 - We have announced the first portion of our 2023 Lead Reduction Program work areas, which will include work in the East Colfax and Hale neighborhoods. We have also recently learned, following our application for additional funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, that we will receive an additional \$76 million to assist in removal of lead service lines, which will allow us to increase the amount of work we can do in 2023. We were already planning to replace nearly 5,000 service lines – this funding will allow us to essentially double the number of service lines in 2023.
- **New rates started in January**
 - Rate changes took effect Jan. 1, 2023 and will increase monthly bills for most single-family customers by an average, over the course of the year, of \$1 to \$4, depending on where they live and if they use water at similar volumes to 2022.
- **Catching up on water bills**
 - If you have a past-due balance on your account, now is a great time to catch up, as most of our customers will see lower water bills in the winter. You can make full or partial payments by:
 - Going to our website, denverwater.org/Pay-My-Bill.
 - Sending a check in the mail.
 - Calling our automated payment service at 1-800-556-0292.
 - Paying at any Western Union agency location or at a King Soopers customer service desk.
 - We also partner with the Mile High United Way 211 Help Center, which is a multilingual, confidential service connecting our community to vital resources. Find out if you qualify for hardship assistance by dialing 211, texting your ZIP code to 898-211 or visiting 211Colorado.org.
- **Low-income Housing Water Assistance Program continues**
 - The Colorado Department of Human Services opened applications for the federally funded Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program. This is the second year of the program, which will run through May 1, 2023, and the final year with the current federal funding source. For information on the Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program, including income eligibility requirements, visit cdhs.colorado.gov/Leap.
- **Mountain snowpack update**
 - As all of our water comes from precipitation in the mountains, it's always extremely important for us to monitor snowpack in the mountains in the winter. It's a good indicator of how we can expect our water supply to look next year.
 - The winter is off to a cold and snowy start across most of Colorado, which is good news for our water supply. To this point in the year, this is the best start for statewide snowpack since 2017.

- Our reservoirs are filled to about normal for this time of year. In the areas where we collect water, the Colorado River watershed is looking particularly good, at 111% of where it normally is. The South Platte River watershed is not doing as well, at 82% of normal.
- Snowpack typically peaks around the third week of April, so we're all just hoping this continues.
- [More information on TAP](#)
- **Construction update**
 - The only confirmed project we have coming up in District 5 is in the Hale neighborhood, on Clermont Street from East 13th Avenue to East Colfax Avenue. We expect this work to begin in the next couple of months.
 - [Project Map](#)
- **Project communications:**
 - Door hangers before construction.
 - Posts to Nextdoor.com.
 - Outreach to the RNOs.
 - Customers can contact 303-893-2444 with specific questions.
- **Customer Care may be experiencing long wait times. When possible, customers should visit denverwater.org for self-service options and project information.*

DPD District 2: Officer Simeon Codo, Simeon.Codo@denvergov.org, 720-913-1050, Sector Leader Lt. Andrew Clarry (east of Colo Blvd), Andrew.Clarry@denvergov.org, present today

- Auto theft is biggest issue – working with city and metro area task force. With 2 big auto theft rings incarcerated, the hope is those numbers will reduce
- Please do not leave things in full view to prevent theft!
- Homeless is other primary issue in DPD2 – outreach team working to assist with the po
- Please report expired plates to the Police non-emergency number, 720-913-2000, rather than 911. It will be a lower priority/delayed due to below capacity staffing and higher volume, but it will be addressed. There is also still a delay on the DMV – some folks may not be able to afford tags, others are ignoring it.

DPD District 3: Officer Matt Grimsley, matthew.grimsley@denvergov.org (720) 913-1218 or Officer Mike Borquez, michael.borquez@denvergov.org (720) 913-1183, Lt. Ryan Harris, Sector Leader (east of Colo Blvd.), Ryan.Harris@denvergov.org, present today

- Next CAB meeting is Wednesday March 1st at 6pm
- Many of the same issues related to auto theft and vehicular theft. Lots of collaborative work regarding that
- About to launch the auto tracking program – will present this evening at Montclair for feedback. Leveraging technology to help track vehicles in case of auto theft.
 - Gave the very quick overview of the program – please contact Harris directly for the specifics and program roll-out information.
 - Tentative for March 1st.

DOTI Advisory Board: District 5 representative Joe Levi

- We have a public meeting set regarding 13th/14th Avenues on March 15th, 6-7:30pm.
 - Meeting link is bit.ly/13th14th_Mar15
 - Postcard will be sent out for Colfax-11th Colorado-Yosemite
- There will be changing of the guard with the new administration coming post-election this summer.

CW SAWYER UPDATES

- The Annual Blood Drive has ended with 23 total donations. The official blood drive may be over, but the link is active year-round as the need for blood donations never diminishes.
 - The direct pledge link is https://northeast.vitalant.org/LP=28?utm_campaign=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua&utm_content=&drive_code=DEN10315&division=MOUNTAIN®ion=DEN&elqTrackId=5923d72a34b148db92974054b9365763&elq=fce0dbbde0594b338102571dd9bc554b&elqaid=78&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=
 - You are welcome to email Jenn at Jennifer.Gross@denvergov.org with any questions
- Uinta Way traffic study is beginning soon.
 - First meeting is March 1st from 6-7:30pm, bit.ly/UintaTrafficStudyMar1
 - Survey about the project can be found at bit.ly/UintaWaySurvey
- DO-8 Overlay along the whole stretch of East Colfax – design standards for active centers and use to enhance walkability along corridor. Survey is open through March 1st, bit.ly/ColfaxOverlay
- Montclair statistical neighborhood conversation about ADUs and rezoning for it. Do Montclair residents want this? We are having 2 informational sessions, 1 webinar and 1 in-person to ascertain if this is something the neighborhood wants.
 - Wednesday March 8th webinar, 6-7:30pm, bit.ly/MontclairADU_Mar8
 - Tuesday March 14th in-person informational session at The Molkery (Historic Montclair Building), 6820 E. 12th Avenue in Montclair Park, 6-7:30pm

Adjourned at 1:15pm