Hancock Administration’s Third Year in Office

A Letter to the Community

“Delivering a world-class city where everyone matters”

Good afternoon, neighbor –

Today we mark our third year together, and I was pleased to report Denver’s outstanding progress at my annual State of the City Address earlier this morning.

Neighborhood by neighborhood, community by community, family by family we have emerged from the recession as a city of opportunity for all people. The State of our City has never been more vibrant. Denver is thriving.

We continue to restore essential services, such as hiring more safety officers, enhancing park maintenance and increasing library hours, and we are now among the most financially secure cities in the nation. Since 2011, more than 27,000 new jobs and 1,500 businesses have been added to the Denver economy, and the unemployment rate has been cut nearly in half.

To deliver one of the most livable cities in the nation, we are:

- **Building opportunity neighborhood by neighborhood.** Denver is booming with development and infrastructure projects that are uplifting neighborhoods. The new Union Station, Crawford Hotel and surrounding retail have spurred a $1.8 billion wave of development. Other projects include Welton Street investments and $60 million in improvements to Federal Boulevard.

- **Growing business and job opportunities.** Denver is creating a stable economic foundation by increasing job opportunities, growing and attracting new companies and preparing a skilled workforce for the 21st century. This past year, Denver welcomed large employers and also gained solid footing as a small business and startup hotspot by ensuring businesses have access to capital and a good workforce, and by leveling the playing field for minority- and women-owned businesses.

- **Delivering opportunity to live healthy, happy lives.** From access to fresh foods to affordable housing, Denver is zeroing in on what each neighborhood needs for residents to lead a high quality lifestyle. By restructuring the Police Department, crime rates are falling, response times are improving and officers are focusing on proactive patrols to better prevent crime.

- **Offering all of Denver’s children the opportunity to achieve.** Denver is providing unprecedented support to children by giving them access to a good education and quality libraries, parks and healthy foods. The MY Denver Card program is getting children into rec
centers like never before. Today, an average of 12,000 children access Denver’s rec centers every month for free.

- **Committing to every opportunity to supply better services.** Denver is being recognized nationwide for taking an employee-led approach to streamlining services and delivering the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost. Creating a government that works smarter by moving at the speed of its residents, we have brought online more interactions between residents and City Hall and done away with credit card fees.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read a full report of the city’s accomplishments.

To remain the city of opportunity, we will keep Denver on the path of prosperity not just for tomorrow, but for generations to come.

- We will take comprehensive action to address a full range of housing challenges and provide safe, quality affordable housing to residents, including housing and supportive services for up to 300 of Denver’s chronically homeless using social impact bonds.

- We will finalize efforts to formally designate more than 700 acres of protected parkland, realize the benefit of a $25 million investment into the South Platte River and restore nearly 200 acres of habitat between the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and Peña Boulevard.

- We will move to create a town center on Morrison Road, spurring jobs and bringing fresh foods that will lift up the entire community. The city will also launch a neighborhood planning effort in partnership with Westwood neighbors.

- We will join with the Denver Preschool Program in asking Denver voters this November to reauthorize and expand the early childhood education program that gives the city’s youngest students a smart start on their educational careers.

The best is yet to come. We are all Denver, and in this city – our great city – everyone matters. We will not rest until the promise of opportunity is within reach of every resident, business and child.

Respectfully,

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor