Hancock Administration’s Third Year in Office
A Letter to City Employees

“Delivering a world-class city where everyone matters”

Good afternoon, city colleagues –

Today marks our third year together, and earlier I was pleased to report on Denver’s outstanding progress during my annual State of the City Address. I want to simply say thank you for your committed work. Together, we are creating a more livable city for all people, one that offers opportunity around every corner and a quality of life that is second to none.

Thanks to you, the State of our City has never been more vibrant.

This city has marched out of the recession, experiencing in 2013 the first year without service cuts since the recession. And together we will continue to deliver the highest quality services at the lowest possible costs.

Through your hard work, today Denver is one of the most financially secure cities in the nation, with a diverse economy and transformational development projects underway. 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 in the area. 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 delivering on a basic mission to increase job opportunities, grow and attract new companies and prepare a skilled workforce for the 21st century. This past year, Denver welcomed several 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 Denver’s officers are able to focus on proactive patrols to better prevent crime.
- **Offering all of Denver’s children the opportunity to achieve.** Denver is providing unprecedented support to its children by giving them access to a good education as well as quality libraries, parks, healthy foods, and activities that keep their minds and bodies engaged. Open to more than 100,000 children, 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 must 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 to deliver long-lasting improvements.

- We will join with the Denver Preschool Program in asking Denver voters 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