Hancock Administration’s Fifth Year in Office
A Letter to the Community

Friends –

Over the past year, the city we are so proud of – our great city – has enjoyed significant success. Historic success.

Denver employs more people than ever before. In five years, we’ve helped create nearly 60,000 jobs and lower unemployment to 3.3 percent. We’ve restored the fiscal health of our city and our reserves are now at a solid 20 percent.

We’re driving improvements that will keep our city uniquely Denver – active and vibrant – for generations to come. We’re strengthening Denver as a hub of education, culture and tourism. And this is all while the metro region is growing by 4,500 new residents every month.

Today, during my annual State of the City Address, I was pleased to report that our city has never been stronger. Over the previous 12 months, we have:

- **Increased mobility choices.** With new rail lines, more bike lanes, additional on-demand car-and ride-share services, and the new Go Denver smart-phone app, residents now have more safe, reliable and accessible mobility options.
- **Provided more affordable housing.** Through investments, loans, mortgage assistance and a new construction defects ordinance, Denver is working to keep housing affordable. Since I issued my “3x5 Challenge” to create 3,000 affordable units in five years, more than 1,800 affordable homes have been built and 1,000 more are in the pipeline.
- **Improved services for those in need.** The city debuted an innovative supportive housing program for 250 chronically homeless people, opened a day center for the homeless, and began teaming mental-health professionals with patrol officers. We also established the Office of Financial Empowerment to support low-income residents.
- **Delivered on projects that will create thousands of jobs.** We advanced several major projects that will provide thousands of local jobs for local residents and strengthen Denver for generations to come. These projects include the opportunity for new businesses at DIA, an expansion of the Colorado Convention Center, development of a nearly 300-acre National Western Center, and a reimagined downtown Performing Arts Complex.
- **Continued major law enforcement reforms.** The Sheriff’s Department instituted major reforms and new policies and training for all deputies. The Police Department continued to reassess policies and procedures, strengthen relationships with diverse communities, and increase accountability by equipping all patrol officers with body cameras.
CLICK HERE to see a full report of the city’s accomplishments.

But our work is far from over. For too many Denver residents, the benefits of a strong economy remain out of reach, and too many neighborhoods remain overlooked and underserved.

To connect more Denver residents, businesses and neighborhoods to the prosperity that Denver is experiencing, we’ve laid out an aggressive agenda that focuses on connecting everyone to more opportunities and empowering all Denver residents to succeed:

- We will establish a new Office of HOPE – Housing and Opportunities for People Everywhere – to better coordinate city policies along the entire homeless to housing spectrum. With this new office and the city’s first permanent affordable housing fund, details of which will be announced tomorrow, we will maintain a laser focus on keeping Denver affordable and accessible for all.
- The city will “ban the box” asking about criminal backgrounds on many job applications, start a work program for the homeless, and focus on connecting people to local jobs through workforce training and public sector construction projects. I also am supporting a proposal that would increase Colorado’s minimum wage to $12 an hour by 2020.
- With a goal of delivering mobility freedom to all Denver residents and neighborhoods, we will continue to improve transportation services and infrastructure citywide. This means stronger partnerships with RTD and CDOT, deploying new technologies to improve traffic flow, enhancing more crosswalks and sidewalks, installing more bike lanes, and increasing safety through our commitment to Vision Zero.
- With a focus on West, North and Northeast Denver, my administration will work closely with many partner organizations to stem the tide of gentrification and displacement while continuing to invest in overlooked and underserved communities. To kick-start this work, we will create two economic opportunity zones that will strengthen our 21st century economy while providing local jobs for local residents.
- Equipped with data that tells us where our families need more support, and through the work of Denver’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative, we will provide tools that empower families to create their own path to success.
- We will continue to win our future through two additional initiatives: the issuance of our next neighborhood-focused, citywide General Obligation bond in 2017, and the community-based Denveright effort to update the city’s land use, mobility, parks and recreation master plans.

We must reach higher and dream bigger. We must aspire to help everyone, to knock down barriers and create pathways and opportunities where today there are only roadblocks and obstacles. That is the kind of city we must be. It’s the kind of city I know we can be. We will lean in. We will never give up. And we will succeed, all of us, together.

Respectfully,

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor