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

“Delivering a world-class city where everyone matters”

Dear neighbor –

Today we mark our first year in the Mayor’s Office, and I want to thank you on behalf of my entire administration for your partnership.

I am proud and humbled to be your mayor. It is an honor to serve this city – this city that raised and inspired me, this city I have called home my entire life.

Together, with hard work and determination – with a Denver spirit – we are delivering a world-class, 21st century city where everyone matters. The state of our city is safe, fiscally stable and growing. We’re emerging from this recession as a vibrant hub of innovation with a high quality of life – a smart city that is attracting new residents, businesses and visitors every day.

We have made great progress over the past year, with plenty of reason for even greater optimism as we look ahead:

- **SUPPORTING KIDS** – We are placing a renewed emphasis on Denver’s children by creating the Denver Education Compact, increasing access to the Internet, and providing meals to thousands of low-income kids.

- **GROWING JOBS** – We are strengthening and diversifying Denver’s economy through new international flights to Tokyo and Iceland and a new U.S. Patent Office, partnering with small businesses and large employers alike, and beginning to plan for an “aerotropolis” around Denver International Airport.

- **KEEPING DENVER SAFE** – We are bridging a strong relationship between our community and the Police Department with a new Safety Manager and Police Chief, by getting more officers out of the office and back into our neighborhoods, and by paving a way home for the most vulnerable citizens who have been hit hardest during the recession.

- **IMPROVING GOVERNMENT** – We are improving customer service and making government more efficient and cost-effective through new initiatives like Peak Performance. Starting in 2013, these new efficiencies will save Denver $10 million annually.
• **SUSTAINING DENVER** – We are establishing Denver as a leader in urban agriculture through Denver Seeds, growing a fresh-food economy that will lead to new jobs and greater access to healthy, locally grown food in every neighborhood.

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

And that’s not all. The months ahead hold even greater promise. At today’s State of the City Address, I announced several new initiatives we will be launching in the year ahead:

- We’re piloting a program that enhances school ID cards to also serve as library cards and provide free access to city recreation centers. This fall, 34,000 Denver Public Schools 6th-through 12th-graders will receive these enhanced cards.

- We’re launching “e-Denver,” a new online initiative that will provide easy, 24-hour access to services right from your office, living room or smart device.

- We’re pledging to help small businesses and local companies compete in a global economy with a new “Peak Enterprise” toolkit of services, ranging from more access to capital to enhanced workforce opportunities.

- We’re creating the Rose Andom Domestic Violence Center, which will provide comprehensive support – including legal, protective and counseling services, shelter options, resources for children and pets, and medical care – for victims of domestic violence under one roof.

We have accomplished much together, setting a strong foundation to deliver a smart city. But the reality is we face more tough choices and difficult decisions this coming year. We’re projecting a $94 million shortfall in the 2013 budget while costs and the demand for services continue to rise.

That’s why I will be introducing a fiscally responsible and balanced plan to the City Council and the people of Denver, to eliminate the City’s structural budget deficit and restore the ground we lost during the recession. With voter permission, we would keep the $68 million we return to the public every year to stay below the TABOR limit, and begin to reinvest in Denver’s children, libraries, police, streets and businesses.

Denver, this is about the future. It’s about building a brighter tomorrow for all our residents.

Please join me in delivering more opportunity for our kids, better jobs, stronger neighborhoods and safer streets.

The time is now.

Respectfully,

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor