Dear City Colleagues –

Today we mark our second year together, and what a year it has been! This morning I delivered my State of the City Address, and I’m pleased to report the state of our city is strong – poised to get stronger – and primed to compete in the global marketplace.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your partnership and hard work. Together, we have positioned Denver as the ideal place to start a business, build a career and raise a family.

Over the past year, Denver has added 15,000 new jobs and 1,000 new businesses. The city’s unemployment is down two points since 2011 and the housing market is one of the strongest in the nation. Denver has also eliminated its budget deficit and is restoring essential services cut during the recession, such as street paving, library hours and public safety.

Great cities are created through connectivity, and here in Denver we are elevating the city and the entire region onto the global stage. Side-by-side with all of you, we have made significant connections to deliver a world-class city where everyone matters:

- **Connecting Denver residents with the best customer service possible.** This past November, Denver voters overwhelmingly passed Measure 2A, a smart and fiscally responsible solution that is helping to eliminate the city’s budget deficit, strengthen our economy and restore essential services. It also allowed us to eliminate unpaid furlough days. With City Hall running on all cylinders, you have embraced Peak Performance, identifying $7 million in savings while improving efficiencies and processes over the past year.

- **Connecting businesses to global economic opportunities.** From direct access to capital to five new nonstop flights and three new airlines for tourism and commerce, Denver is strategically connecting every business, big and small, with customized solutions to compete in the global marketplace.

- **Connecting Denver’s children with healthy, safe and engaging activities.** Thanks to Denver voters, the city is providing its children with unprecedented access to out-of-school and summer activities. This year, 90,000 Denver students now have free, year-round access to the city’s recreation centers, pools and libraries with the MY Denver Card.
• **Connecting safety officers with the community.** Denver’s police department is better connecting with the public and focusing on crime prevention. Today, violent crime is down by 13 percent in Denver. The department plans to hire more than 100 new officers within the next year thanks to Measure 2A.

• **Reconnecting neighborhoods and neighbors.** With the opening of the West Rail Line, Denver is now leveraging 30 light rail stations to elevate and reconnect overlooked neighborhoods such as Sun Valley, Elyria-Swansea and Globeville. The city has connected all its neighborhoods with a better quality of life by designating more parkland, increasing affordable housing options and growing jobs. To celebrate the Mile High City’s rich heritage and bright future, we established the first week in August as Denver Days.

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

Moving forward, today I also announced plans to better connect Denver’s neighborhoods, businesses and residents with a brighter future:

• We will create an International Welcome Center that will focus on establishing Denver as a global destination for commerce and culture.

• We will turn our efforts and resources toward increasing affordable housing options for Denver’s workforce and recalibrating workforce training to fill middle-skill employment gaps in high-growth sectors.

• We will strengthen Denver’s neighborhoods by leveraging the 30 transit stops to spur more development and investment throughout the city.

• We will pursue a 24-hour rest and resource station, as well as a courtyard and safe space for daytime use, to serve the homeless in Denver.

• We will open an innovation center in downtown, which will offer early stage companies and innovators strategic advisers and thoughtful connections to resources.

Together, we have accomplished much over the past 24 months, with plenty of challenges ahead. I’m proud to have you by my side.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor