

Inside District 8

Councilman Christopher Herndon | Denver City Council | February 2017

A message from Councilman Herndon

Denver City Council hit the ground running in 2017 with our annual budget and policy retreat. At the retreat councilmembers bring forward budget and policy requests they would like the council to focus on for the coming year. Our top three priorities this year are: mobility, housing and homelessness and solid waste. For each of these priorities, Council will take a deeper look at how our current policies are working and where we might be able to make improvements.

I am especially looking forward to working on the full implementation of the Solid Waste Master Plan, as it's an issue I have championed for several years. While many of us consider Denver an environmentally-conscious city, the truth is we generate a lot of trash. Roughly 23 percent of homes in Denver don't even have a recycling bin, and our recycling rate (how much waste we keep out of the landfill) is 18 percent. That's about half the national average. The city currently charges \$107 per year for an address to participate in the composting program. I think we can do better and I'd like your feedback. Do you think Denver should consider changes to our solid waste program to encourage greater recycling and composting?

I'd also welcome your thoughts on another issue facing Council. In January, the Marijuana Industry Group (MIG) asked us to extend the hours marijuana retail establishments are allowed to be open. Currently, stores can be open 8 a.m – 7 p.m. MIG advocated for a midnight



Councilman Chris Herndon with City Council at the 2017 policy and budget retreat.

closing time. Denver has more marijuana businesses than any other city in the state. Other municipalities with fewer stores have longer hours of operation, staying open until 10 p.m. or midnight. Do you think Denver should extend the hours of operation for marijuana businesses? If so, why and by how much?

Mortgage assistance available

The Metro Mortgage Assistance Plus Program is a special grant program for low and moderate income individuals and families that are in need of mortgage assistance. The City and County of Denver can help with down payment and closing cost assistance of up to 4 percent on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage. This program cannot be added to existing loans.

To qualify, borrowers must meet standard loan guidelines, have an income less than \$96,120 for households of two or fewer people and less than \$112,140 for three or more, must meet a maximum debt to income ratio, and have a credit score of at least 640.

To learn more about the requirements of this program and to find participating lenders, visit www.denvergov.org/housing.

Contact the District 8 Office

4685 Peoria St., Suite 245

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

720-337-8888



Find us on Facebook

[facebook.com/ChrisJHerndon](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisJHerndon)



Connect with us on Twitter

twitter.com/ChrisJHerndon

Know your neighbors: Katica Roy

What neighborhood do you live in?

My family and I live in the Willow Park East neighborhood of Stapleton. We built our first house in Stapleton in 2004 in Eastbridge and moved to Willow Park East in 2015.



What do you like most about your neighborhood?

I love the community feel of Stapleton - the parks, the schools, and the willingness of folks to help each other.

How are you involved in the community?

I sit on the Board of Isabella Bird Community School (Izzi B). As the daughter and sister of refugees, it was important to our family that our children attend Izzi B to support the newcomer program. My sisters were newcomers. They escaped Hungary after the 1956 Revolution. It was important to us that our children have a connection to their past and the direct ability to give back to a country that has given us freedom.

What's something you've done in the community that you're proud of?

After the hate graffiti at Izzi B, I formed a group with four other parents and reached out to all of our elected officials from President Obama to Councilman Herndon and received a remarkable response. Based on the response we received, we launched the Brave Coalition which is a community organization focused on childhood inclusion and safety.

What's something about your community that you wish more people knew?

I wish more people knew that people in Stapleton are willing to help each other. I see a great deal of compassion and empathy in the Stapleton community. I see it in the neighbors who live on our block when we needed folks to watch for packages and in parents pitching in at Izzi B. More recently, I saw it in the willingness of parents at all the elementary schools in Stapleton to come together and sponsor a Parenting Safe Children workshop on May 13, 2017.

How do you like to spend your free time?

At the moment, I don't have a lot of free time between pursuing my EMBA at DU, working full time, and launching the Brave Coalition. However, my favorite way to spend free time is with my family - watching a movie, reading books, or spending time outside.

What is one of your favorite businesses in the community?

Etai's is one of my favorite businesses in Stapleton. The food is great and it is a wonderful meeting place. In fact, it's where we launched the Brave Coalition!

Denver Sheriff Department Advisory Board seeking applications

The Denver Sheriff Department is seeking applications for the newly-created Sheriff Advisory Board. The newly established advisory board will create a formal mechanism for the community to collaborate with the DSD about its service delivery to inmates, their families, and community and service partners. The board will be made up of representatives from Denver's diverse communities and geographic areas and include technical experts in fields such as law, business, and the nonprofit and mental health sectors.

Board members will serve staggered two year terms and will not be compensated. Board members will be appointed by the Sheriff after going through a public application process.

Interested applicants are required to submit a resume and complete an application and questionnaire. The completed application package must be submitted to Deputy Bridget Andrews, bridget.andrews@denvergov.org no later than Friday, February 10. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/jkzayc7.

Discover Denver invites residents to share stories about the city's buildings

Discover Denver launched a new website that invites users to share stories about Denver's buildings. The new site at discoverdenver.co offers an interactive map that allows the user to post stories and background about specific buildings, including photos and documents. The map will feature photos and histories of some of the buildings Discover Denver has surveyed, alongside stories users share.

The site's "Discoveries" section features reports compiled from past survey areas, including pre-war residences in Park Hill.

All findings from this first-ever citywide survey of Denver will eventually be accessible on the website so that everyone — from property owners to history buffs to real estate agents — can learn about any building in the city.

Historic Denver, Inc. and the City and County of Denver are leading this collaborative project, funded primarily by a grant from History Colorado's State Historical Fund. Learn more at discoverdenver.co.

Inside District 8

Meet Leslie Williams: Sr. Librarian at Pauline Robinson Branch

What does your job entail?

I am the senior librarian at the Pauline Robinson Branch Library. I am the overseer of the branch and its daily operations. In addition, I plan and facilitate programs for adults, attend community meetings, and provide excellent customer service to everyone who comes into the library. This is a smile, a hello, and a helping hand to all customers.



keep our programs, books, and other services relevant to the community and to the city as a whole. I also hope that we are serving the community in the manner that would make our namesake, Pauline Robinson, proud. We love being here and we hope customers feel that love when they use our services.

What do you do for fun outside of work?

I love going to the movies. I go as often as I can. My favorite movies include "Avatar," "Southside with You," "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and "Hidden Figures." I enjoy museums and walking in our great open spaces here in Denver. I love to travel and learn about new cultures. I hope to travel abroad this year.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love the team that works with me at the library. Each one of them brings a unique skill and quality to our library which allows us to work together seamlessly to provide the community the best service possible. Of course, I love the community and the residents that use the library.

What is something the community might not know about you?

I was born and raised in Ohio and am a huge Ohio State Buckeyes fan and a college sports fan in general. I also love the University of Connecticut Women's basketball team.

What kind of impact do you hope to have in the community?

I hope to have the kind of impact in the community that will provide the services most needed in the neighborhood. As our neighborhood is changing so rapidly, we try our best to

What is something you wish more people knew about the library?

I ask that the community come in and see what they are missing.

Denver Police Department honors top cops

District 2



Officer Reyes Trujillo (R) was called to a report of a child wearing only a diaper and wandering in the street. The mother told Trujillo her son was a nonverbal child with autism. He would not wear clothes and escaped the apartment by climbing out of windows. Trujillo spoke with Officers Charles Jones (L) and James Jiron (not pictured), who agreed to help. They collected money and purchased devices to prevent the apartment windows from opening wide enough for the child to climb out.

District 2

Officer Jeremy Cain observed known drug users talking to an individual in a car blocking an alley way. When Cain attempted to conduct a traffic stop, the suspect fled at a high speed, failed to heed stop signs and made radical changes in direction. Cain ended the attempted traffic stop and made contact with the individuals who had been talking to the suspect. After further investigation, Cain located the suspect with help from Denver Police and Aurora Police. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident.



District 5

Officers Mike Morelock (L) and Matt Hice (R) responded to a disturbance where a man was reportedly kicking the door, disconnecting lights

attached to the home and was carrying a large kitchen knife. Hice and Morelock found the individual, who appeared to be in crisis or under the influence of an unknown substance, waving the knife at them in a menacing fashion. Officers urged the man to drop the knife but he refused and continued to threaten them. Hice and Morelock used crisis intervention tactics to get the man to drop the knife.



Inside District 8

Given the community conversations happening around the idea of historic designation in Park Hill right now, we thought it timely to provide an overview of both the historic designation and conservation overlay processes. Below is information from Community Planning and Development on both processes. For more detailed information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2kpnAsO>.

Landmark historic district designation

The purpose is to protect and preserve the structures and districts that reflect the outstanding elements of the city's cultural, artistic, social, economic, political, architectural, and historic heritage. While the historic character of buildings designated as historic should be preserved, alterations and additions are allowable through the design review process.

Typical steps in historic district designation include:

- Pre-application meeting
- Community outreach
- Submission of a complete designation application, including applicable fee
- Staff review and analysis
- Landmark Preservation Commission public hearing
- Denver Planning Board review
- Denver City Council Committee meeting
- Denver City Council public hearing and City Council vote

To be eligible for designation, a district must maintain its historic and physical integrity, meet two of the following three designation criteria: history, architecture, or geography, and relate to a historic context or theme.

Designated properties are subject to design review following the Design Guidelines for Denver Landmark Structures and Districts. Properties are designated "as is" and there are no requirements to improve or restore a structure. Design review is only required for exterior changes tied to permits and does not include work on interiors, exterior paint colors, or general maintenance.

Approximately 70 percent of landmark design review projects are administratively reviewed by Landmark Preservation staff. These projects must meet the design guidelines and are typically smaller projects, such as fences, garages, solar panels, or small rear additions.

Approximately 30 percent of projects are reviewed by the Landmark Preservation Commission, an all-volunteer group of nine architects, contractors, and historians appointed by the mayor. These projects are generally larger in scope or do not meet the design guidelines. Often they are larger additions, "pop-tops," infill, or historic window replacement.

For the detailed description of historic district designation, please visit <http://bit.ly/2kpnAsO>.

Conservation overlay district

A conservation overlay district is a way to conserve or revitalize specific areas that have distinctive features, identity, or character worthy of retention and enhancement. A conservation overlay district takes effect through adoption of area-specific zoning standards that facilitate maintenance and protection of the area's character, and are also applicable to the development of vacant or underused lots. Buildings with a conservation overlay must meet the overlay's zoning standards as part of any exterior remodel, addition or new-build.

Typically, a Denver City Council member initiates a request to establish a conservation overlay; a city agency or department may also request one. A private individual or group cannot initiate a conservation overlay.

Typical steps in conservation overlay district designation include:

- Pre-application meeting
- Community outreach
- Submission of a formal request for the conservation overlay
- Staff drafting, review, and analysis
- Planning Board public hearing
- Denver City Council Committee meeting
- Denver City Council public hearing and City Council vote

Public notices to registered neighborhood organizations and city councilmembers keep stakeholders informed four times during the conservation overlay adoption process. Posted signs in the affected area provide public notice of the two public hearings.

A conservation overlay district may allow for the modification of any of the following existing zoning standards to enhance the area's identity and character:

- Limitations on permitted uses may be modified.
- Building form standards applicable to new development may be modified.
- New restrictions on building form and building or site design, including restrictions on building materials and architectural style, may be added.
- All other development and design standards applicable to new development may be modified.

For the detailed description of conservation overlay, please visit <http://bit.ly/2kpnAsO>.

Gymtegrity fosters talent on the outside, integrity from within

Gymtegrity's 18,000 square-foot facility in northwest Montbello offers a wide variety of training for all levels of gymnastics, cheerleading and dance. The gym opened its doors in July 2016 and has been growing ever since. Owner Michelle Sampson sees Gymtegrity as a unique space where children of all ages and skill levels can learn physical and psychological fitness.

Sampson left the corporate world after 15 years and opened Gymtegrity after recognizing the need for a large gym in Northeast Denver. "This location was a no-brainer because it was screaming for a gymnastics facility," said Sampson. Her goal is to offer kids a positive, fun environment with an emphasis on living a healthy lifestyle by encouraging physical activity, building flexibility and spatial awareness.

"Gymnastics has always been a passion of mine," said Sampson. "I love the sport. I love the memories and what it can do for you as a person outside of the physical capabilities."

The gym offers competitive and recreational gymnastics and cheerleading, preschool and toddler classes, open gym sessions, camps and special events. Boys and girls of all ages and abilities are welcome at Gymtegrity. Sampson and her staff foster an encouraging and supportive culture, aiming to help each individual "develop talent on the outside and integrity from within." Coaches are trained and certified under the guidance of USA Gymnastics (USAG) and United States All Star Federation cheerleading (USASF).

Gymtegrity's competitive gymnastics training includes USAG Junior Olympic (J.O.) and an Xcel program. The J.O. program focuses on building competitive gymnasts from a young age and requires a greater time commitment for competitions and



Owner of Gymtegrity Michelle Sampson with her daughter Ellie Sampson in the main gym.

training. The Xcel program is ideal for the athlete who loves gymnastics, likes to compete, but wants to have the freedom and ability to play other sports and participate in extracurricular activities. Recreational gymnastics classes are available for children ages 18 months – 13 years and include parent-tot classes, tumble & trampoline classes, ninja classes and more.

Cheerleading training at Gymtegrity includes an All Star cheerleading team, cheer tots, mini cheer, youth cheer and high school cheer clinics. Gymtegrity's All Star cheerleading is the most competitive and competes against other All Star teams from across the country. Teams are set up by age group and Sampson and her staff offer options to suit every athlete.

In addition to gymnastics and cheerleading, Gymtegrity will offer ballet, hip hop, lyrical and tap dance lessons beginning February 1.

One of the most popular programs at Gymtegrity is the ninja program. Based on the "American Ninja Warrior" TV show, the program gives

participants the chance to navigate obstacle courses while developing agility, balance, strength and courage.

Gymtegrity's special events include theme-based camps and birthday parties. Camps are offered throughout the year and are especially popular during the summer months. Birthday party packages include 90 minutes of party time with gymnastics instruction, games and obstacle courses.

Sampson is proud of Gymtegrity's commitment to creating a positive and transparent environment for both parents and kids.

Gymtegrity is located at 4720 Lima St. It is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sundays for birthday parties only.

For more information on Gymtegrity, details on pricing, classes, camps and how to book the space for special events, visit www.gymtegrity.com, email inquiry@gymtegrity.com or call 303-371-1338.

Resources

Denver Human Services
Montbello Office
720-944-3666

District 2 Police Department
720-913-1000
Michael.Calo@denvergov.org

District 5 Police Department
720-913-1400
dist5@denvergov.org

Department of Motor Vehicles
720-865-4600

Denver Public Schools
720-423-3200

Denver Workforce Center at
Montbello
720-865-4600

City of Denver Services
311

District 8 Council Aides

Amanda Schoultz
amanda.schoultz@denvergov.org

Bonnie Guillen
bonnie.guillen@denvergov.org

Charley Oldaker
charles.oldaker@denvergov.org

Council District 8 website
denvergov.org/councildistrict8



Councilman Chris Herndon at the 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade.

What's Happening in February

Registered Neighborhood Organization Meetings

Montbello 2020
Feb. 2, 6 p.m.
Montbello Recreation Center
15555 E. 53rd Ave.

Greater Park Hill Community
Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m.
2823 Fairfax St.

Northeast Park Hill Coalition
Feb. 9, 6 p.m.
3921 Holly St.

East Montclair Neighborhood Association
Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m.
CounterPath Press
7935 E. 14th Ave.

Stapleton United Neighbors
Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m.
Central Park Recreation Center
9651 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.

Community Events

Inspire Elementary Design Review
Feb. 7, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Northfield High School
5500 N. Central Park Blvd.

Free and low-cost trees available to Denver residents

Free and low-cost trees are available to Denver residents through the Denver Digs Trees program.

Street trees (planted in the public right-of-way) are free. Yard trees (planted on private property) are \$10 for residents in the 28 target neighborhoods, which were selected based on their low tree coverage. Target neighborhoods in District 8 include East Colfax, Montbello and Northeast Park Hill. Denver residents not living in one of the target neighborhoods can still purchase reduced-cost trees for \$35 each.

Treeships, or free trees, are available for those who qualify and planting

Denver Youth Violence Prevention Center Northeast Park Hill Kick Off
Feb. 9, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
3475 Holly St.

Denver Zoo Free Day
Feb. 12
2300 Steele St.
denverzoo.org

Presidents Day
Feb. 20
City offices closed

Denver Youth Violence Prevention Center Montbello Kick Off
Feb. 23, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Denver Broncos Boys & Girls Club
4397 Crown Blvd.

Active Minds Presents Venezuela
Feb. 23, 6:45 p.m.
Sam Gary Branch Library
2961 Roslyn St.

Coffee with Commander Ron Thomas
Feb. 24, 8 - 10 a.m.
Montbello Recreation Center
15555 E 53rd Ave.

assistance is offered to all tree recipients.

Over the past 30 years, 49,000 free and low-cost trees have been distributed through this program.

Apply online at theparkpeople.org, or by calling 303-722-6262. The deadline to apply is February 15 and trees will be distributed on April 15.

Since the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Colorado in 2013, planting trees to maintain and bolster Denver's urban forest has become increasingly important. Denver residents can help by planting trees to protect the health and beauty of our urban forest.