

Proposed City Charter Amendment

On December 26, the City Council voted to conduct a special election, entirely by mail, on January 30. The single question on the ballot will be whether or not to amend the Denver Charter to 1) make the City's Clerk and Recorder (currently appointed by the Mayor) an elected official beginning with the May 1, 2007 city election and 2) abolish the positions of the two elected Denver Election Commissioners (DEC).

This is a result of the many and serious problems with the November 7 election in Denver that caused long lines and confusion at many vote centers. One or more speakers at the INC monthly meeting on January 13 will describe and discuss the proposed charter amendment. In summary, if the charter amendment is approved, Denver will have one elected Clerk and Recorder that would be similar to the systems in all other counties in Colorado except that the Denver Clerk and Recorder would not deal with motor vehicle registration. The Denver Clerk and Recorder will be required to appoint a Director of Elections to assist in the handling of all election functions. The Denver Election Commission (including a new soon-to-be-appointed Clerk and Recorder) will continue to prepare for the city election on May 1 for Mayor, City Council, Auditor and, if this charter amendment is approved, the new Clerk and Recorder.

The following are opinions expressed by three Council members:

Jeanne Faatz—I question the wisdom of rushing to an election in January. I feel the citizens will need time to decide if a structural change is desirable or required to correct largely technical problems in the software for the e-poll-book and the mail ballot scanners, major contributors to the November election debacle. A special mail-ballot election will cost over \$600,000 that has not been budgeted. Few citizens who testified after the November election identified the need to eliminate the election commission and move to an elected clerk and recorder as a solution to the problems they identified.

Do be aware that an amendment to the bill now allows anyone to run for the first clerk and recorder position. Unlike every other elected Denver office, the candidate will not need to meet residency requirements to seek election, just agree to establish residency if elected. If we have already identified potentially viable statewide or national candidates, why not just have the Mayor appoint the individual and skip requiring that person to almost immediately stand for election. That can be done under current charter provisions.

Carol Boigon—I am concerned about the voice of Denver voters in statewide and national elections. I believe our voice is unique and matters deeply to the choices that are made for the future of our state and nation. Anything that cuts down the power of Denver voters to be heard is awful. Yet that is what our current Denver election system has done, yet the Denver Election Commissioners shrug it off as a transitional glitch!

Denver uses a horse-and-buggy election system for an Information Age mission. Modern elections are complex in law and technology. They exceed the ability of a part-time, low-paid committee to execute. I believe the answer is Charter reform to create a single executive with the power and responsibility to deliver election services effectively to Denver voters.

Some say that the DEC problems are technical or staff driven. True, but right now no one outside the commissioners can

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The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



January
2007

www.
neighborhoodlink.
com/denver/inc

Denver Neighborhood
Connection

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INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

Advocates for Diverse Denver
 Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn
 Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn
 Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn
Ball Park Neighborhood Assn
 Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn
 Berkeley Neighborhood Assn
 Berkeley-Regis United Neighbors
 Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Assn
CCHN
 Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Inc
 Cherry Creek East Assn
 Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Assn
 Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn.

Cherry Point Homeowners Assn
 City Park West Neighborhood Assn
 Civic Association of Clayton
 Clayton Neighborhood Assn
 Colfax Business Improvement District
 Colfax on the Hill, Inc
 Congress Park Neighbors
 Cook Park Neighborhood Assn
Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Assn
Crestmoor Park Homeowners Assn
2nd filing
 Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc Filing One
 Curtis Park Neighbors
 Denargo Market Neighbors Coalition
 Denver's Art District on Sante Fe
Downtown Denver Residents Org
 Driving Park Historic District
 East Montclair Neighborhood Assn
 Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business Assn.
 Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc
 George Washington Homeowner's Assn. Inc.
 Globeville Civic Assn I
 Godsman Community Neighborhood Org
Golden Triangle Arts District
 Golden Triangle Assn
 Greater Mar Lee Community Org
Greater Park Hill Inc.
 Hampden Heights Civic Assn
 Hampden South Neighborhood Assn
 Harkness Heights Neighborhood Assn
 Harman Neighborhood Assn Inc.
 Highland United Neighborhood
 Hilltop Heritage Assn LLC
 Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc.
 Humboldt Street Neighborhood Assn
 Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA
 Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn
 Ivy Street Neighbors Assn
 Leetsdale Cop Shop
 Lowry Community Master Assn.
 Lynwood 7 & 8 Neighborhood Assn
Mayfair Neighbors, Inc
 Mayfair Park Neighborhood Assn
 Montbello United Neighbors
Neighbors and Friends for Cheesman Park
 North City Park Civic Assn
 Overland Neighborhood Assn
 Park Forest Homeowner's Assn
 Platt Park Peoples Assn
 Sloans Neighborhood Assn
 South City Park Neighborhood Assn

South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn
 South Jackson Street Reg Denver Neighborhood
 Southern Hills Community Assn.
Southmoor Park East Homeowners Assn
 Stapleton United Neighbors
 Summerfield at Indian Creek
 The FAX Partnership
 The Five Points Historic Assn
 The Unsinkables
 University Neighbors
University Park Community Council
Upper Downtown Development Org
Virginia Vale Community Assn
 Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn
 Warrens University Community Council
Washington Park East Neighborhood Assn
 West Highland Neighborhood Assn
 West University Community Assn (WUCA)
West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn
 Whittier Neighborhood Assn

Associates

Auditor, City and County of Denver
 Bonna Gayhart
 Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assn
 Carter M. Ballinger, M.D.
 Cherry Creek North BID
Councilman Doug Linkhart
Councilman Rick Garcia
Councilwoman Carol Boigon
Councilwoman Jeanne Robb
Councilwoman Marcia Johnson
Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann
Denver Health Medical Center
Denver Water
Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.
 FRESC (Front Range Economic Strategy Center)
 Gertie Grant
 Hilltop
 Historic Denver Inc.
 League of Women Voters of Denver
 LoDo District Inc.
 Morrison Road Business Association of Denver
 Neighborhood Resource Center
 Pam Schenkein
 The Greens @ Pinehurst HOA
 Transportation Solutions
Xcel Energy



Denver Neighborhood Connection

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 by the 20th of the month.

Subscriptions are free. INC organizations should send changes to their organization personnel to the membership chair at kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net or 303-798-9306.

Subscription information and changes of address for non-INC organizations and persons should be e-mailed to Karen Cuthbertson at athmarpark@ecentral.com.

INC Delegates' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 8:45 a.m. See this issue for location.

The INC Executive Committee meets monthly. All members are welcome. Call the Chair for time and location.

Minutes of December Executive Committee

By Karen Cuthbertson, Secretary

The Executive Committee was called to order on December 11th at 6:35 p.m. by Chair Dave Webster. In attendance were Executive Committee (EC) members Karen Cuthbertson, Loretta Galla, Al Habercorn, Harriet Hogue, Charles Howard, Bill Johnston, Monique Lovato, and Anthony Thomas. Also in attendance were Standing/Special Committee Chairs Ken Beaudrie and Michael Henry. The November Minutes were approved. The Treasurer's report was not complete and will be emailed out.

The EC discussed the following INC fund raising efforts:

- Dollar Dictionary Drive (DDD): The EC voted to reimburse DDD for the postage required to send the solicitation letters.
- File for Life: Need to follow up with Steve and Cathee of DDD regarding sales at the Neighborhood Conference.

Committee Reports:

- Audit: The audit of the 2005 financial records will be conducted the week of December 18.
- Dollar Dictionary Drive: No report submitted.
- Education: Monique and Billie are attending the A+ Denver meeting regarding Denver Public School funding.
- Membership: INC currently has 84 RNO members and 26 Associates. The EC is to divide the list of non-INC RNOs and make personal contact.
- Newsletter: No report submitted.
- Public Relations: Monique is to send out news releases about the INC vote on the Civic Center redesign project and about the upcoming Presidents Dinner.
- Public Safety: Loretta reported that the Denver Police Department is preparing the language for changing the Nuisance Abatement ordinance. Committee members are going to meet with City Council members next week. Loretta will write something for the January newsletter to have the Delegates vote on it.

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Minutes of December Delegates Meeting

By Karen Cuthbertson, Secretary

INC Delegates met December 9th. Councilwoman Jeanne Robb welcomed the attendees to the meeting. She especially thanked Kent Olson and Michael Henry for their work developing new demolition permit processes that are more protective of neighboring properties and residents. Dennis Gallagher noted that he believes the City needs an elected Clerk and Recorder.

Mark Vasquez, Deputy Chief of Administration, spoke about volunteering for the Denver Police Department (DPD). The International Association of Chiefs of Police awarded the DPD's Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program the national *VIP Unit of the Year* award so DPD was asked to attend the Sacramento conference and speak about Denver's innovative volunteer program. Denver's program started in 2001 with around 20 to 30 volunteers. In 2004, Chief Whitman dedicated a full-time resource to the program and now there are around 1,500 volunteers.

Volunteerism comes in many forms; for example:

- The community-driven COP Shop staff is primarily composed of volunteers.
- DPD has a network of ham radio operators trained to serve as communications centers in the event a catastrophic event takes out the embedded communications.
- Some volunteers are especially trained to assist with crime-scene investigations including gathering DNA evidence at burglary sites.

The added value of volunteers amounts to \$2.6 million and 15,000 work-hours of time, time that DPD officers can devote to other tasks. Michael Jimenez is the new coordinator.

Councilwoman Judy Montero mentioned that she was very excited that she had finished her Christmas shopping for her daughter and then spoke about the latest on the Downtown Denver Area Plan. The Councilwoman spoke briefly about the history of the Plan. She noted the latest

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The Downtown Area Plan is presented to the INC Delegates.



Editor's note: Unfortunately, the "Around the City" clipboard passed around at the Delegate's Meeting has been misplaced. The following items were submitted directly to the Editor for inclusion:

The FAX Partnership and The FAX Business Association are holding a joint business-after-hours party at The Elm, 5001 East Colfax Avenue on January 10th starting at 6 p.m. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

The Lowry Community Master Association The Lowry Redevelopment Authority announced that it would shut down at the end of 2007, three years earlier than anticipated. The Lowry Community Master Association will then be in charge of this wonderful neighborhood from Alameda to 11th and from Quebec to Dayton. One of Denver's newest neighborhoods, Lowry continues with its business, education, housing, and recreation developments and continues to live up to "old ideals, new ideas" complete with a lot of snow piling up!

University Park Community Council is getting another round of input from UP folks for its Small Area Plan. A draft is scheduled for presentation on February 7. Ongoing concerns are historic preservation, assessment of traf-

(Continued on page 10)

Zoning and Planning

By Diana Helper, Member

Rich McGinn, Kent Olson, and Diana Helper of the INC Zoning and Planning (ZAP) committee attended a meeting by invitation on December 11 to discuss the City's Transit Amenities Program (TAP) that references bus-stop benches, kiosks, and shelters. Rob Duncanson and Michael Holm of the Denver Department of Public Works chaired the meeting with Councilwoman Marcia Johnson and her aide Lynn Pressnall, Gretchen Williams of the City Council office, Allison Billings of Transportation Solutions, a member of the Sierra Club, and several others in attendance. Mike Holm is now in charge of TAP having taken over from Jason Longsdorf who also was present.

Because the TAP program has been in place about four years, Rob said Public Works is evaluating it and is "not opposed" to making changes and improvements. That is the purpose of this TAP committee. ZAP members reviewed the INC letter addressed to the City concerning this topic (primarily focused on commercial advertising at bus-stop kiosks) and INC's items were then discussed. We requested exemption from advertising for landmark buildings and historic districts as well as residential neighborhood areas and asked that kiosks not be placed in a position blocking business frontages. Surveys by Transportation Solutions have shown that shelters are by far preferred to kiosks. Alternative funding sources need to be studied. Many questions are yet to be answered regarding sites, costs, time frames, and changes that would require City Council action, etcetera. Mike Holm will work on this and call another meeting as soon as he is ready. He asked us when INC meets and we expect that the ZAP committee will include him in a future meeting. ZAP does not meet in December. The next meeting is January 27, 2007, Transit Amenities Program Update.

RNOs Must Re-register

By Michael Henry

All neighborhood groups who wish to receive notification from the city of important matters such as applications for liquor and cabaret licenses, rezoning, and zoning variances must re-register with the City during the month of January. This is required by the Neighborhood Registration and Notification ordinance. If groups fail to register as required, they will not receive such notices that are extremely important for the effective functioning of a responsible neighborhood organization.

Each group needs to give careful thought to who should be designated as the "contact person" and should determine a backup plan so that if the contact person is out of town, someone else can promptly receive the notices and decide what to do with them. Some city notices only allow a 15-day period for submitting comments in response to the notice.

The deadline for registration is January 31st. You can register online at: www.denvergov.org/Neighborhood_Response/template22297.asp. For questions, contact Julius A. Zsako, Communications Director of Denver Community Planning and Development at 720-865-2969 or at julius.zsako@ci.denver.co.us.

Please note that registration with the City and County of Denver is not the same as paying dues to Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, which is a private non-profit volunteer-driven organization. INC needs each neighborhood group to pay its annual dues to INC. An application for 2007 is in this newsletter.

Dollar Dictionary Drive

by Steve J. Nissen

The 2006 Dictionary Drive is complete and we are now focused on efforts for the coming year. Many hands, hours, and dollars were committed in 2006 resulting in another successful year.

Third-graders, numbering 8,500 in Denver Public Schools, are most grateful and are now using the books received because of your extensive generosity. It is with sincere appreciation that we acknowledge those who supported us this past year. Special recognition goes to neighborhood organizations citywide that are our colleagues and loyally support us with valuable donations. We are pleased to provide the following list that is a 50% increase over the previous year.

Alamo Placita Neighbors Association
Baker Historic Neighborhood Association
Ballpark Neighborhood Association
Bear Valley Improvement Council, Inc.
Bellevue Hale Neighborhood Association
Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods
Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Association
Cherry Point Homeowners Association
City Park West Neighborhood Association
Civic Association of Clayton
Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Association
Country Club Historic Neighborhood
Crestmoor Park Homes Association-2nd Filing
Downtown Denver Residents Organization
East Montclair Neighborhood Association
George Washington Homeowners, Association
Godsman Neighborhood Association
Golden Triangle Neighborhood Association
Greater Park Hill Community Association, Inc.
Harkness Heights Neighborhood Association
Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc.
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point Homeowners Association
Inspiration Point Neighborhood Association
Mayfair Neighbors, Inc.
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association
Mountain Shadows Condominiums
North City Park Civic Association
South City Park Neighborhood Association
Sumner Neighborhood Association
University Park Community Council

Virginia Vale Community Association
Virginia Village/Ellis Community Association
West Highlands Neighborhood Association
West University Community Council
West Washington Park Neighborhood Association
Whittier Neighborhood Association

Generous donations were received from Gene Tepper, Xcel Energy, Kiwanis Club of Denver, and the League of Women Voters. Nine businesses and 209 individuals made generous cash donations. We had a wonderful response from the 'sweat equity' folks as well. Dozens of loyal supporters placed labels in the books and packed them for shipment to 100 schools. Lending a helping hand in the final phase were numerous volunteers who placed the books into the eager hands of enthusiastic recipients.

The Dictionary Drive for 2007 will have its kickoff at the annual Presidents Dinner. For information, contact your neighborhood organization or any one of the INC personnel listed on the last page of this newsletter. Contributions are welcome throughout the year and may be sent to:

Dollar Dictionary Drive
P.O. Box 18347
Denver, CO 80218-0347

Mail Ballot in May



The Denver Election Commission (DEC) voted Tuesday, December 19, to conduct a mail-ballot municipal election on May 1, 2007. If there is a June 5 runoff election, that too will be an all-mail ballot election.

With a January 30, 2007 all-mail ballot election, possible ballots for the January election would be mailed to voters at the addresses that are on file as of December 29. So if you relocate between now and the election, be sure to make arrangements to retrieve your ballot from your old residence. Check with your post office; ballots might not be forwarded.

The Denver Election Commission serves 360,000 voters in the City and County of Denver. For more information call 720-913-VOTE (8683) or visit us online at www.denvergov.org/elections.

Data Corrections

Keep INC informed of changes in your organization's president and delegates. Notify the membership chair at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Organizations and persons not affiliated with INC should communicate their desire to obtain this newsletter or submit address changes to the secretary at 303-936-9206 or athmarpark@ecentral.com

Seeds and Transplants

The 2007 Free Seeds and Transplants Program is brought to you by Denver Urban Gardens and the City and County of Denver Housing and Neighborhood Development Services. To participate, 1—Pick up an application from your local distribution center (see list below) during January; 2—Return the completed application to your distribution center by February 5th; 3—Pick up your seeds at your distribution center after March 23rd; 4—Pick up your transplants at your distribution center in mid-May; and 5—Plant your garden and enjoy!

The distribution centers are:

20th Street Gym	1011 20th Street
Annunciation Church	3621 Humboldt St.
Ashland Recreation	2475 W Dunkel Place
Athmar Recreation Center	2680 W. Mexico Ave.
Aztlan Rec/Quigg Newton	4435 Navajo St.
Barnum Senior Center	360 Hooker
Catholic Charities Mulroy	3550 W. 13th Ave.
Cheltenham Elementary	1580 Julian St.
Clayton Mile High Early Head Start	3801 MLK Blvd
College View Recreation	2525 S. Decatur St.
Cook Park Recreation	7100 Cherry Creek Dr. S.
Curtis Park Community Center	929 29th St.
Denver Botanic Gardens	909 York St.
Denver Inner City Parish	910 Galapago St.
Dispersed Southwest	2945 W. Florida Ave.
Fairview School	2715 West 11th Ave.
Greater Park Hill	2823 Fairfax
Harvey Park	2120 S. Tennyson
Hiawatha Davis Jr. Rec. Center	3334 Holly St.
Highland Senior Center	2880 Osceola St.
La Familia Recreation Center	65 S. Elati
Mercy Housing - Grace Apartments	8888 E- 13th Ave
Montbello Recreation Center	15555 E- 53rd Ave
Montclair Recreation Center	729 Ulster Way
Our Lady of Guadalupe	1209 W- 36th Ave.
Pecos Plaza Neighbors	3326 Pecos St.
Platt Park Recreation	1500 S- Grant St.
Rishel Beacons	451 S- Tejon
RAMERC	2811 Harrison St
Salvation Army/Red Shield	2915 High St.
Servicios de la Raza	4055 Tejon St.
Southwest Improvement Council	1000 S- Lowell Blvd
Stapleton Recreation	5090 N- Broadway
Sunnyside/Zuni Head Start	2401 W- 44th Ave.
Swansea Recreation	2650 E- 49th Ave.
Washington Street Comm- Center	809 S- Washington

William A Scheitler Center
Zion Senior Center

5031 W- 46th Ave.
5151 E- 33rd Ave.

Volunteer Tax Preparation



The City and County of Denver is calling for volunteers, on behalf of the Denver Asset Building Coalition (DABC), to help hard-working low-income families

with their tax preparations. This assistance can help them get tax refunds and is one effort that can help lift Denver's low-income families out of poverty.

You don't need to be an accountant or even a computer whiz to lend a hand - no experience is required! The DABC will train you to help file tax returns for Denver's hard-working low-income families. DABC tax law training is offered online or through a self-study course in December and January. E-file training to prepare returns using a computer will be provided to all volunteers in January.

If you are bilingual in Spanish, Russian, or Korean, you would be a great asset as a volunteer. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least 24 hours (after training) between January 27 and April 16, 2007. In exchange for your commitment, you can do your family's taxes for free using the latest IRS software at the SuperSite! DABC will operate a single Free Tax SuperSite in 2007 at the King Trimble Center, 2980 Curtis Street in Denver.

If you are interested in volunteering, please complete an online application at the DABC website **www.DenverABC.org**. Please put "City of Denver" in the "Referred By" field.

Facts about Earned Income Tax Credit

The Problem: Even with a steady job, many working families are struggling to make ends meet. In addition to having limited income, many of these families are not connected to the "financial mainstream." Some don't have bank accounts, others may be in debt or have bad credit, and many don't own a home.

The Solution: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a powerful work incentive and anti-poverty tool that has benefited millions of low-income families since its inception. The EITC is a refundable credit offered through the Internal Revenue Service to working families that, in 2006, earned less than \$38,348.

National estimates indicate that approximately 15% of eligible families do not claim the EITC. Some don't think they're eligible. Some families may feel that since they owe too little to have to file that there's no benefit to them filing at all. Education and free tax preparation are crucial to these families.

The average EITC in Denver last year for families

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Community Preservation



Are you interested in the preservation of our Colorado communities? Are you interested in attending Colorado's leading preservation annual conference? Here is a great opportunity to

volunteer with Colorado Preservation, Inc.'s (CPI) Annual Conference.

Saving Places 2007: Planning, growth and preservation affords an introspective look at integrating preservation into planning decisions. The conference is Wednesday, February 7 through Friday, February 9, 2007 in Denver at the historic 1770 Sherman Street Event Complex at the corner of Sherman Street and 18th Avenue.

Volunteer opportunities: The conference is staffed primarily by volunteers. As an incentive, Colorado Preservation, Inc. offers free registration to the conference – a \$240 value - in exchange for 6 to 7 hours of approved work at the conference. Volunteers will perform various duties including registration, room monitoring, greeting, logistical coordination, set-up, clean up, and pre-conference preparation. In return, you will be able to attend the conference's wonderful educational sessions and network with others in the preservation field.

Contact Susan Livingston, Volunteer Coordinator, e-mail: slivingston@coloradopreservation.org or call CPI at 303-893-4260. For more information, visit CPI's website at www.coloradopreservation.org.

Volunteers in Police Service



Deputy Chief Mark Vasquez discusses the VIPS program.

The Denver Police Department has been forced to cut \$24,222,313 out of their budget since September 11, 2001. This has resulted in the loss of five captains, one lieutenant, three sergeants, seven detectives, seven technicians, and 45 officers. Also lost were four vehicle mechanics, two transcriptionists, one photographer, two emergency operators, and five administrative assistants. This resulted in cuts to the

DARE program, the reduction of 21 police vehicles, the elimination of the photo-radar program, and the loss of the superintendent of radio engineers. This reduction occurred in spite of increased responsibilities following the

calamity of September 11, 2001.

Frankly, the Police Department needs your volunteer help. Help is needed in the following areas: in the Investigations Division, in Victim Services, in Background Investigations, in the Crime Stoppers Unit, in Clerical and Data Entry, in the Combined Communications Center, in the Training Academy, in the Air Support Unit, in sex offender registration, in the Property Bureau, in the District Attorney's Office, in the Crime Laboratory, in Internal Affairs, in CORE (Compstat), in DAREC (amateur radio operators), and in CSI Denver.

Volunteers augment the current staff for added value. They are placed in rewarding and challenging positions that provide new opportunities for the volunteers. And volunteers talents are matched with department needs.

Do you qualify? The Denver Police Department will automatically disqualify any individual who has at any time: been convicted of a felony or any offense that would qualify as a felony under the Colorado Revised Statutes (an applicant may choose to bring information to the VIP program coordinator as a waiver to this requirement); has illegally used Marijuana in the past three years; has sold any drug, substance, or prescription medication illegally; has used illegal or dangerous drugs in the past ten years; has been arrested for any crime or charged with a major traffic offense (DUI, DWUI, suspension of license, or driving without insurance) during the past year; or has lied during any part of the application process. Applicants may also be disqualified, after review and at the discretion of the VIP coordinator for the following reasons: having a physical or mental inability to perform the required duties of a volunteer, have excessive traffic violations, misuse or abuse drugs or alcohol, have had unlawful sexual conduct, possess any discharge from any branch of the U.S. Military Services that is other than honorable, have excessive indebtedness or a demonstrated unwillingness to honor debt, exhibited conduct that would jeopardize public opinion of the VIP program or embarrass the Police Department, or there is not an appeal for disqualification from the VIP program.

To volunteer, go to the Department's website at www.denverpolicevolunteers.com and pass the background investigation, pass the oral interview, be fingerprinted, and receive an identification card. The application process takes six to eight weeks.

The Volunteers in Policing Program won the prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) national VIP Unit of the Year Award. There are currently over 450 VIP volunteers serving in COP Shops, Academy Training, the Crime Lab, the Victim Assistance Unit, sex offender registration, and various administrative assignments throughout the Police Department. Volunteers provided over \$2.6 million or 15,000 work-hours in "added value" to the Department since the inception of the program. ●

(Continued from page 3, Delegates Meeting)

big change; i.e., the purchase of the 19.5 acre site in Union Station in 2001 for redevelopment. Current partners include the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, and the Regional Transportation District. A 93-member Advisory Committee and other citizen-participants developed 40 alternatives for development. A master developer has been selected and an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is currently underway.

Then John Desmond and Ellen Ittelson – co-Managers, spoke about the current state of the Downtown Denver Area Plan. The Plan is in its final phase – Plan Concept and Recommendations. John and Ellen noted the vision and guiding principles of the plan were to “make downtown Denver the most livable place in the world, with pedestrians the priority; greenways prevalent; effective connections to surrounding areas; and economically, historically, and environmentally sustainable.” The land use and transportation framework has Union Station emerging as the hub of a multi-modal network at the western end and the Civic Center serving as the hub at the other end. 16th Street is downtown’s retail spine and 14th Avenue is becoming its cultural spine. John and Ellen spoke about the north/south streets getting much more attention to encourage connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods and to expand transit opportunities; e.g., circulator buses, trolleys, bike lanes, and etcetera. The Plan proposes developing zoning and design guidelines to support the vision of the future shape of the built environment that is based on mixed-use spaces and having “street smart” ground-floor exteriors engaging the pedestrian visually. They are working closely with the Auraria Center as the campus goes through their own future development planning effort. The next step is a community workshop at Hyatt Regency on December 13th. Visit their website at www.downtowndenverplan.org.

Concerns expressed by audience members included the lack of attention in this Plan to Park Avenue and the focus on increasing density when traffic and parking is already such a problem.

Shirley Amore, the new City Librarian, introduced herself and spoke about the Denver Public Library’s (DPL) objectives. Ms. Amore has been “in libraries” for 35 years. Shirley likes the level of commitment of current staff to providing quality customer service and likes the level of innovation; e.g., Denver had the first children’s library with scaled down furniture and special materials. DPL is working with Friends to mend relationships and working to improve communication and partnership with the City. Shirley appointed a Director of Planning to be able to get involved earlier in the planning processes around the City and she would like a stronger partnership with Denver Public Schools to increase literacy initiatives. DPL has just been awarded a \$960,000 grant to

fund English-language classes and children’s programs. DPL is getting a budget increase for 2007 to increase operating hours at five libraries including the Central Library. Shirley’s “laundry list” for infrastructure task force: \$27 million to catch up on maintenance that’s been deferred for decades and \$70.1 million to build three new libraries.

Audience suggestions included having a reference copy of periodicals so that there’s always a copy available and instituting consistent hours at all libraries. A concern was expressed that style change models, e.g., opening a Spanish-language-only library (slated for W. Colfax), were supposed to include extensive public participation before being instituted but that hasn’t happened.

Beth Conover spoke about Greenprint Denver (GD). GD folks researched the Greenprint plans of other cities and focused initially on how to make city government buildings greener. Now they’re focusing on expanding green ideas to the entire city. Goals include reducing all of Denver’s greenhouse gas emissions 10% per capita from 1990 levels by 2012; integrating sustainability as a citywide operating principle; develop policies; and making the business case that green is viable and is needed for public health, economic opportunity, and environmental quality. DIA is already *ISO 14001* certified. Beth noted that the terms “Green Fleet” and “Xeriscape” were coined in Denver! The 2006-2007 agenda focuses on immediate opportunities (“low-hanging fruit”), having 100% of diesel vehicles on bio-diesel fuel, and setting LEED Silver standard expectations for developments. The 5-year-plan includes reducing energy use by 5-percent from 2006 levels, having all new city projects built and certified to LEED-NC Silver standards, fully implementing all appropriate LEED-EB principles into City operations and maintenance, attaining a 15-percent total reduction in city fleet vehicle miles traveled, and increasing the number of alternative-fuel-vehicles at DIA by 50-percent in 2005 to 70-percent of the fleet.

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- Transportation: No report submitted.
- Zoning and Planning (ZAP): ZAP does not meet in December. For January, ZAP is working on suggestions about how to improve the public participation process consistently across City departments. They also need very much to help get out good information about what down-zoning is and is not.
- February 8 is the likely date for the INC President’s Dinner to be held at Johnson and Wales University. Karen will get invitation-text to the printer as soon as the guest speaker is named. Ken is to send a reminder to RNOs to nominate people for awards.
- Million Trees: Involvement in the program is increasing. ●

(Continued from page 1, Charter Amendment)

require and supervise change. The commissioners refused offers of technical help from the City's IT department. The Fujitsu report described monumental, systemic failure from low-tech to high-tech, organization, people, and supplies, and a leadership that was "technology adverse." Early voting, vote centers, absentee voting -- everything failed. That is why the governance must change. That is why the Mayor-Council Election Panel reluctantly called for an elected Clerk and Recorder. That is why Council voted to put the question to the voters.

I believe Denver voters will agree and will be happy to say so in an election. So the question becomes "When do we ask?" In January in a special election with two top candidates chosen in May and a winner in the June runoff with all other City officer holders? Or in May at the regular municipal general election with candidate(s) chosen in the likely November election?

In business, once a manager determines to let someone go, he or she never leaves that person in charge of money, major projects, equipment, and personnel for a year. That is plain bad management. With no action in January and reliance on regular May and November elections, the current people and structure will operate through May, and the current system, with newly elected commissioners will continue through November. For me, that is irresponsible to the voters of Denver.

Another tough but related issue: Should the first elected Denver Clerk and Recorder be chosen by plurality or by majority vote? In Denver's non-partisan structure, the field narrows to two top voter getters in a general election in May and the winner is selected by majority vote one month later in a June runoff election. If Denver voters want the first elected Clerk to have the credibility that comes from a majority vote, then the May-November option requires a special election in December at the same cost as a special election in January. I favor a majority vote for executive elected officials. Therefore, for me, the added costs are the same in the January option as in the May option. The difference is change now and paying for the election at the beginning of 2007 or change later and paying the bill at the end of 2007. For a manager, that question would be easy: Change now!

Next question is cost: In large part, this question is answered in choosing between a plurality or majority vote. But there are other costs, too. Remember, the November 2006 failed election cost \$1.4 million in supplemental appropriations. Just multiply that miscalculation by two or three more election cycles and add in the costs in voter confidence, public relations embarrassment, and weakening Denver's voice in statewide and national elections, then the \$650,000 to \$800,000 now to clean up the system starts to make cost-effective, good sense.

Therefore, I believe Denver must hold a special election now or face paying millions more later in clean-up. I

understand the concerns about the competence of the current team to deliver even a simple one-question mail election. I am willing to hire an outside contractor to manage January in order to allow preparations for a regularly scheduled May municipal general election and June runoff election for mayor, auditor, city council AND clerk and recorder.

Some have recommended Council take more time to analyze the options. Please remember the Denver City Council has been working on this issue for more than a year. Council sponsored a task force over the summer. The Mayor and Council sponsored a task force after the November election disaster. We looked at partial steps and finally rejected them in favor of asking the voters to adopt the structure that is used in 62 of Colorado's 64 counties. (Broomfield has a city/county manager form of government with an appointed clerk and recorder. That design is not applicable to our strong mayor/city council structure in which more distance is needed between the chief elections officer and the lead elected officials. Unlike Broomfield, Denver has no hired city manager intervening between elected officials and the chief election officer.)

Should Commissioners Susan Rogers and Sandy Adams choose to resign, I might analyze the situation differently. But they have made it very clear that they have no intention of resigning and they have no intention of focusing on policy and letting the Mayor's appointed Clerk and Recorder manage operations. Because I care about Denver voters having a say in major state and national elections, I voted for a special January 2007 election to launch change in time to prevent many horrible repeats the November election disaster.

I know it will be hard to finish the close-out activities of the November election, plan and execute the January election, and begin the process of running May and June municipal elections. None of Denver's options in this situation are perfect and we must balance all the challenges. Because my goal is to ensure Denver's voice is heard at its loudest in state and national elections, I support hard work now to ensure an efficient, effective election system is in time for Denver voters to express their will in 2008.

Doug Linkhart—We need this kind of structural change to improve the oversight of elections and other tasks. The Clerk and Recorder will provide a clearer line of authority that should bring more accountability and better management. Still, there are two parts of the bill with which I disagree—the waiver of our residency requirement for the first elected Clerk and Recorder and holding the election in January instead of May.

No other City officials expressed an opinion to the editor.●

(Continued from page 4, Around the City)

fic impact from the new southeast light rail, Safe Routes to School, and naming of Prairie Park (now going to City Council).

Virginia Vale Community Association is enjoying a relatively quiet winter so far except for a developer who is attempting to put a bank with three drive-through lanes at a very dangerous intersection of Leetsdale and Exposition. Zoning would not allow this when he tried around ten years ago and hopefully they again will understand why we do not think that is a proper development for that area.

(Continued from page 6, Tax Preparation)

earning less than \$36,000 was more than \$1,600. This money can make all the difference in remaining financially stable.

For additional information, please visit the DABC website www.DenverABC.org

New Predicate Offenses

“Interesting and challenging year” was the phrase used by City attorney, Paul Puckett, in describing 2007. With the proposed implementation of amendments to “Article III, Civil Abatement of Public Nuisances” of the *Denver Revised Municipal Code* being presented to the Mayor’s Office in January, the limited staff of the City Attorney’s Office will be called upon to find the resources to process the caseload. Yet the City Attorney’s Office indicated that Denver is already being recognized nationally as a program to be patterned upon for the public nuisance abatement.

Is this a change in a new age of fighting crime? Has

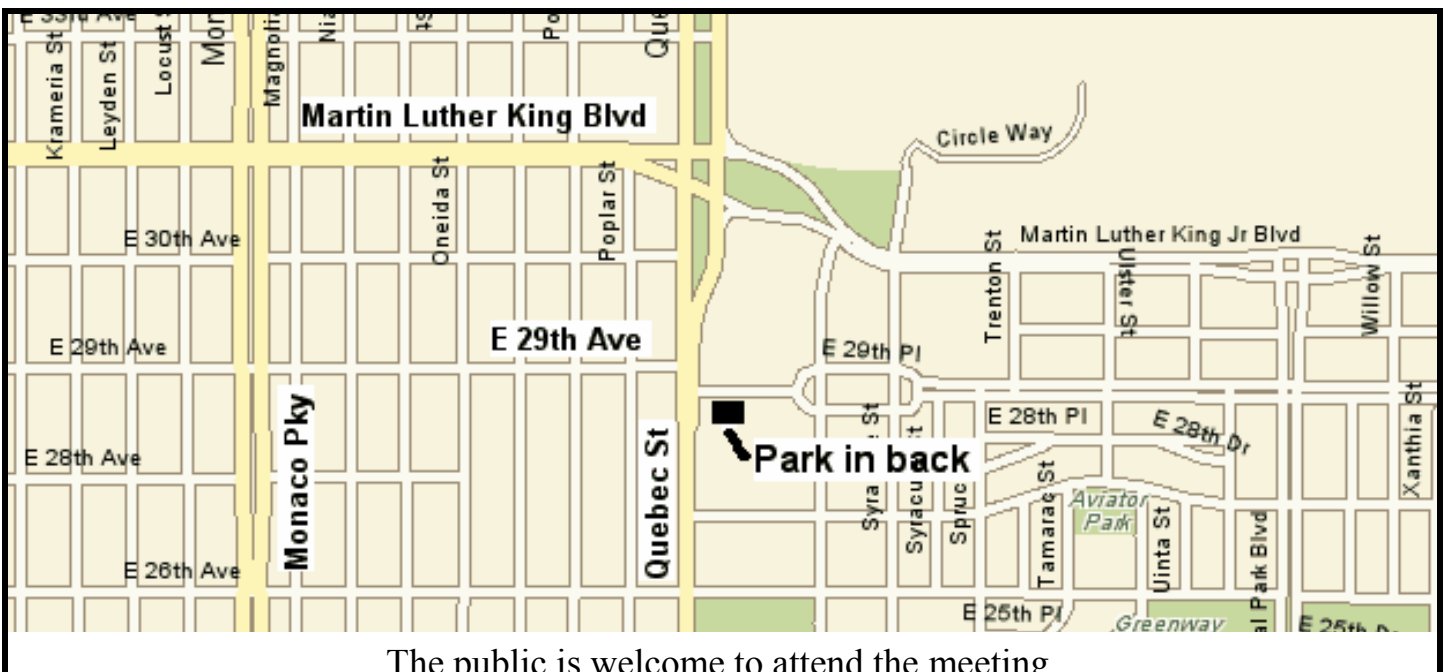
the efforts of the Public Abatement Unit, along with the City Attorney’s Office, resulted in enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhoods? The fact that several local groups and Metro Area cities have approached the city for information about how the program works indicates the success of the program only after three years.

The amendment proposed will include:

1. Impersonating a peace officer or the unauthorized use of red and blue lights on motor vehicles.
2. Keeping, maintaining, controlling, renting, or making available property for the unlawful distribution or manufacture of a controlled substance or the unlawful possession of materials to make amphetamine and methamphetamine or the unlawful sale or distribution of material to manufacture controlled substances or possession of one or more chemicals or supplies or equipment with intent to manufacture a controlled substance.
3. Kidnapping or false imprisonment or violation of custody or parenting orders or enticement of a child or harboring a minor.
4. Criminal mischief where the aggregate damage exceeds \$500.

When asked by the Mayor’s Office for what the neighborhoods felt should be priority, the overwhelming response was **safety** in our city. The amendment or “Article III, Civil Abatement of Public Nuisances” of the *Denver Revised Municipal Code* would be a step in ensuring the safety of the citizens of the City and County of Denver.

Please show your support of these amendments to City Council and we well all be helping the Mayor’s Office reach the goal of creating a safe city making 2007 less challenging and more interesting.



The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

2007 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood representatives who believe that neighborhood organizations deserve a greater participation in city government and possess a shared vision that individual neighborhoods are stronger when they work together and learn from one another. **To join as a member neighborhood organization, the organization must be registered with the city as a Registered Neighborhood Organization. Log on to Denvergov.org for details. The names of Patron members and associates are listed in bold in our newsletter.**



Join as a voting neighborhood organization: Regular Member (\$35) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐
See below to apply as an INC Associate

Organization name: _____
Address: _____
Borders: North _____ East _____
South _____ West _____

President's Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ President is a voting delegate: ☐
E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Voting Delegate Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-Mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Voting Delegate (if President is not a voting delegate)
Delegate Name _____
Address: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Join as a non-voting supporting Associate : Regular (\$20) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐

Organization Name: _____
Organization Address: _____
Agent's Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
PO Box 181009
Denver, CO 80218-1009

**Meeting Saturday
January 13th**
The public
is welcome to attend.

Stapleton Foundation
7350 E 29th Avenue
Third Floor

See map on page 10

8:45

Coffee and Chat

9:00

Welcome by Councilwomen
Jeanne Robb and Judy
Montero.

Pro and Con Discussion of
the Proposed Charter
Amendment

Liz Orr presents an update
on Union Station

Landri Taylor presents an
update on the Stapleton re-
development

Education Committee de-
fines the process for school
closings.

Around the City

Committee Reports

Noon Adjournment

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
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