



Published by Denver City Councilman Charlie Brown

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Final Four

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Brown Partners with Mayor Hancock to Make Denver Business Friendly



Councilman Brown met with Denver Mayor Michael Hancock in the Mayor's Office in August.

Councilman Charlie Brown has worked closely with Michael Hancock for the past eight years on City Council and is now looking forward to working with him in his new capacity as mayor. Brown along with other council members, endorsed then-candidate Hancock at a May 11 press conference.

“In leading our city, Michael Hancock’s concerns and convictions are rooted in the principles and values we all share: duty, honor, courage, service, faith, love of family and country, integrity, learning, fairness, and hard work,” Brown said. “Michael knows how the city works, and more importantly, he knows how it doesn’t. He is someone who cares enough to tell the people not merely what they want to hear, but what they need to know. Yes, I know Michael has this kind of ‘Cool Hand Luke’ demeanor, but don’t be fooled. When the decisions call for it, Michael will be a **‘cowboy tough’** mayor.”

Brown noted that the time for the new mayor to be “cowboy tough” is fast approaching. “The City has nearly a \$100 million deficit between projected revenues and expenditures for 2012. By July, solutions had been identified for \$75 million of it, with the balance to be closed by 9/13 when the draft budget is presented to City Council,” Brown said.

Brown said he looks forward to working with the new mayor and to make Denver more attractive to businesses. “‘Business friendly’ has to be more than a political rallying cry we hear every four years. It must be implemented throughout city government and in some cases that’s going to require changing our work culture,” Brown said, “and that’s always hard.”

“The time for the new mayor to be ‘cowboy tough’ is fast approaching.”

—Councilman Brown

Musings on the New Denver City Council



Newly Elected Denver City Council Members: Front Row (seated): Jeanne Faatz District 2, Paul Lopez District 3, Judy Montero District 9, Mary Beth Susman District 5, and Debbie Ortega At-Large. Back Row: Charlie Brown District 6, Chris Herndon District 11, Peggy Lehmann District 4, Jeanne Robb District 10, Albus Brooks District 8, Susan Shepherd District 1, Robin Kniech At-Large, Chris Nevitt District 7.

Eric Sonderman, Chairman, SE2, Independent Political Analyst:

“With five new Council members and a new Mayor, this is a time of transition at City Hall especially with the challenges facing the City including ongoing fiscal woes and the misguided and ill-timed (my editorial comment) ballot issue this fall to impose mandatory sick-leave requirements on Denver businesses.

There has been speculation that this Council will be more liberal and labor-friendly than its predecessors. We’ll see how this Council squares the circle between what might be its dominant philosophical bent and the realities of fiscal shortfalls and a limited public appetite for new taxes. The other key factor in this equation is how much of a counter-force Michael Hancock offers to any liberal slant of Council. Based on his campaign, his opposition to the sick-leave ballot issue and his unequivocal support of an aggressive agenda of educational reform, that counter-weight might be strong and formidable, particularly when carried by such a pleasant and likeable persona.”

Floyd Ciruli, President, Ciruli Consulting, pollster and political analyst:

“Denver begins the second decade of the 21st Century with bright and mostly younger city council members. They are also the most liberal and labor oriented in the city’s modern history. But the need to create jobs, balance the budget, and the aggressive strategies of neighboring cities to take Denver assets will produce a restraint on anti-business tendencies.

With a new mayor, an activist council and a number of challenging issues, expect the next two years to see considerable conflict. First stirring the pot will be the November vote on government-mandated sick leave.”

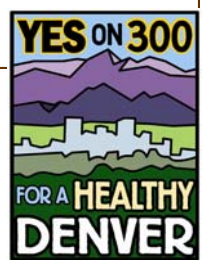


Paid “Sick Leave” on the November Ballot

An out-of-state group initiated a petition-signing effort this spring to place a measure on the ballot this November. Initiative 300 would require every business in Denver to provide paid sick leave to all employees, including part-time and temporary, at a rate of 1-hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours of work. Supporters of the measure claim a large percentage of workers lack access to paid sick leave. They say health care costs will decline and worker productivity will increase if the initiative passes.

However, the Denver business community is concerned the initiative will disproportionately hurt small businesses because of the impact of increased labor costs and additional government regulations in the middle of an economic downturn. The sick leave initiative is part of a national effort, and similar pieces of legislation are in place or proposed in San Francisco, Washington D.C., Connecticut, and Seattle.

When it comes to the impact on small businesses, the Denver proposal does draw a stark comparison to the proposal in front of the Seattle City Council. In Seattle, a company would have to employ 250 or more workers to meet the requirement of providing up to nine paid sick days per year. In Denver, a company with 10 or more employees would have to provide up to the same nine day requirement. A business with less than 10 employees would have to provide paid leave for seven sick days each year.



Success is in the Salsa and Salads

2011 Tomato Entitlement Program Bears Fruit

For the fourth year in a row, Councilman Brown began planting tomato plants in March to give to his constituents. Affectionately named the "Tomato Entitlement Program," Brown distributed more than 600 plants by May. Here are some of the results:



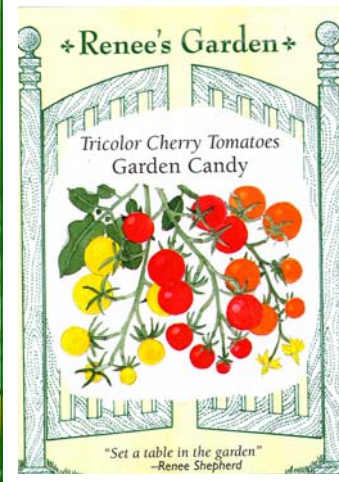
Olive, 2, and Ben, 4, children of Melinda Davis (University Park): "Thank you Charlie Brown. Your plants have given us tons of enjoyment and great salads."



Taylor and McKenzie Brough, daughters of Kelly Brough (Cory Merrill): "Thank you for the great tomatoes!"

Best 2011 Tomato Plant!

Based on reviews from gardeners, Garden Candy tomatoes are the best plant of the year. The tall, luscious plants produce three cherry tomatoes: Sweet orange Sungold, bright yellow Sweet Gold and rich red Supersweet 100. "You can't get them to the kitchen, you eat them in the garden," noted one Observatory Park resident.



End-of-Summer Tomato Salad credit: *Vegetarian Times* Farmer's Market Cookbook, Summer 2011

Dressing:

- 2/3 cup fresh basil leaves, plus more for garnish
- 3 cloves garlic, minced (1 tbs)
- 2 1/2 tbs. olive oil

Salad:

- 12 oz. heirloom tomatoes, cut into different shapes
- 1 medium cucumber, peeled, halved, and sliced
- 1/4 small red onion thinly sliced
- 1 1/2 oz. ricotta or feta cheese crumbled

- 1) Puree basil and garlic with 1/2 tsp olive oil in food processor. Stir in remaining olive oil.
- 2) Toss together tomatoes, cucumber, red onion and ricotta in a large bowl. Pour dressing over and stir to combine. Season with salt/pepper.

Mayor appoints Brown to Stock Show Working Group

Just days after learning of the proposal by Gaylord Entertainment and the City of Aurora to lure the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) away from Denver, Councilman Brown immediately initiated a campaign to keep the stock show in Denver. Using his own campaign funds (no taxpayer money was used), he created "Ride for the Brand" stickers and distributed them at numerous public events.

As noted in Penny Parker's *Denver Post* column, Brown sees similarities between the proposed stock show relocation and Tammy Wynette's 1968 song "D-I-V-O-R-C-E." "Denver taxpayers are being asked to pay alimony, and Aurora gets C-U-S-T-O-D-Y. But unlike Wynette, this D-I-V-O-R-C-E is not final today. The trail is still long, dusty, and unpredictable."

Michael Hancock appointed Brown and other business and community leaders to the NWSS Working Group. This group meets weekly and seeks to identify, explore and formulate potential opportunities for NWSS relocation as well as expansion at its current location.



Free "Ride for the Brand, Keep the Stock Show in Denver" stickers — available in our district office

A Passion For Cars is a Small Business Success Story

Who: Mike Mulvey

What: South Birch Automotive; Classic Car Restoration

Where: 2135 S. Birch St., 303-756-8422 just off Evans in Councilman Brown's district

How Long: Mike has been restoring old, classic cars for almost 30 years.

Why: It started out as a hobby and developed into a passion.

Mulvey's love for cars developed at a young age, and he's been at it for the past 30 years. "I turned my hobby into a passion and it is now supplementing income in my shop," Mulvey says.

He selects certain cars based on their desirability, value, and collectability. "It's not worth putting money into a regular car. Buyers are looking for perfection," he notes. Buyers are smart people and pay close attention to detail. Two main things they focus on are the body lines and the cleanliness of the restoration. "I'm an over-restorer."

Old collector cars also have stories. When Mulvey purchased the 1967 Plum Chevelle in 1974, he found the transfer receipt from the original owners. Thirty six years later, Mulvey reunited them with their restored Chevelle and they are now good friends.

To show off his work, Mulvey has been attending the Barrett Jackson Car Show at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas for six years. "The show is a great way to promote myself and my work," he says. He enters one car per year. In 2008, he entered a 1970 Chevelle LS 6 that he had been working on for three years. His personal investment paid off: the Chevelle was awarded Muscle Car of the Year and sold for \$121,000, the most he has ever received for a car.

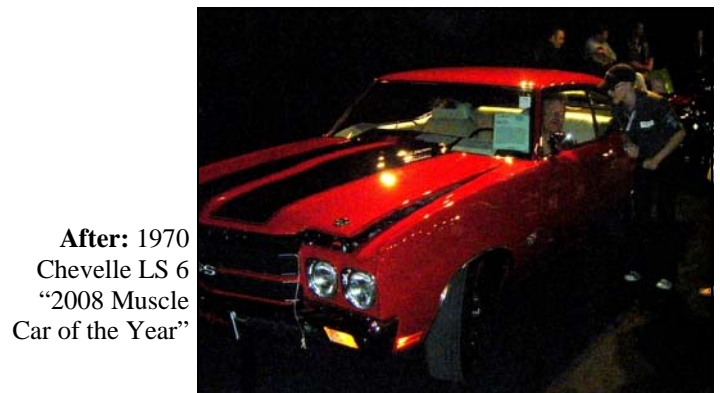
Currently, he is working on a 1965 Chevelle SS for next year's show. His favorite car is a 1969 Camero, his first car. He is waiting to restore it because "I want to keep that one for myself!"

Mike Mulvey with his 1967 Chevelle SS



Before: 1970 Chevelle LS 6

"The Chevelle was awarded Muscle Car of the Year and sold for \$121,000."



After: 1970 Chevelle LS 6 "2008 Muscle Car of the Year"

continued from page 2

Paid "Sick Leave" on November Ballot

The Denver proposal appears to allow employees to take a paid day off without calling in sick in advance. Employees may take paid sick leave for themselves, a relative or another unrelated person of "close affinity." A presumption of guilt clause assumes an employer is guilty for taking an adverse action against an employee if a complaint is filed.

The ordinance specifies the Denver Agency of Human Rights and Community Relations would be responsible for administering and enforcing the ordinance. Currently, this agency has a combined staff of eight employees. The initiative does not specify how an agency of eight people should oversee every employee in the City and County of Denver, and it does not specify how the city, with its current budget shortfall, should pay for additional resources if they are needed.

The initiative did not come to Denver City Council for consideration. Instead, the proponents took the proposal via the "initiated ordinance" route, which places an ordinance on the ballot for a public vote with a minimum of 3,973 valid signatures, or 5 percent of the last mayoral vote.

Colleague Profile: Peggy Lehmann

Council Service: Elected in 2003, reelected in 2007 and 2011, serving her third and final term.

Bio: A third-generation Denver native and a graduate from Denver's George Washington High School, I earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Connecticut College and master's degree in education from Stanford. My family has lived in south-east Denver for over 30 years.

Family: My husband, Lynn, died three years ago. I have two adult sons, Andy and Jon.

Policy Interests: Having been chair of the Public Amenities Committee, I understand the challenges facing the parks in Denver as well as the recreation centers and the libraries. I have also served on the committee that oversees the budget knowing that where the money is allocated determines what gets done in the city.

What issues concern your constituents the most? The exit of many retail stores, the new developments around the light rail stations that increase density, and traffic.

What are your proudest accomplishments? Communication and service to my constituents, working with Denver Public Schools to help create excellent public schools serving the children of the district, and serving on the Greenprint Denver committee to guide the implementation of environmentally sound initiatives for the city.

What has been your greatest frustration? The challenges of the economy.

What has surprised you the most? The strong interest and commitment that the people in my district and the city have toward making Denver a great place to work and live, and the large number of people who watch City Council on Channel 8.

What is one thing you would change about Denver? If I could figure it out, I would find ways to finance the services that Denver city government provides to its citizens.

If you were mayor for a day, what one thing would you do? I would dedicate a day to the employees of the City and provide opportunities, for example, a free concert or a free day at all recreation centers, to honor and thank employees for the good job that they are doing.

What do you do for fun? I hike in the mountains, go to the theater, read good books, and babysit my grand nephew.



Brown Family Update



The Brown boys, Cody, left, and Nick, enjoy some summer vacation time at Topsail Beach, NC before heading back to school and work.

Cody, 23, a 2010 New York University (NYU) graduate, lives in Brooklyn, NY where he works his startup company, kommons. It just received a \$220,000 investment from the Knight Foundation, a group that funds projects and new technologies to help foster informed and engaged communities. He is also a member of the CUNY Fellowship for Journalism Entrepreneurship.

Nick, 20, is a junior at the University of Southern California (USC) where he is pursuing a degree in political science with a music theatre minor. An honors political science student, he is a tutor for USC's football, basketball, and other athletic programs. He is anxiously waiting to hear from his first record label as he wrote his first song this summer, a tribute to his dad's efforts to "Ride for the Brand, Keep the Stock Show in Denver!"

Public Information Meeting on I-25 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge

Thursday, September 15 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Dave & Busters, 2000 S. Colorado Blvd.

Denver Public Works presents its final design and construction plans for the bicycle/pedestrian bridge that will cross I-25 between Colorado Blvd. and Evans Ave. The bridge will provide better access for cyclists and pedestrians. City representatives will be available to answer questions about the project.



Design of the bicycle/pedestrian Bridge over I-25.

Tidbits and Outrages

Sandbox Politics

“Today’s spectacle of a dysfunctional Washington, unable to tend to even its most basic task of protecting the nation’s financial standing...is the culmination of two giant trends in American politics: an unresolved debate over the size and role of government and the growing hyper-partisanship of Congress. Put those two together and you end up with leaders of the two parties speaking of the need to ‘defeat them,’ as if the two parties were Cold War adversaries rather than partners in running the same nation.”



Capital Journal columnist Gerald Seib
The Wall Street Journal 7/25/11

Follow the Bouncing Balls

“Next season, Connecticut basketball coach Jim Calhoun will serve a three-game suspension for ‘failing to create an atmosphere of compliance,’ a glorious arrangement of language everyone should use the next time they’re pulled over riding a shopping cart down Interstate 91 outside Hartford.”

Jason Gay, sports columnist
Referring to Coach Calhoun’s sanctions from the NCAA
The Wall Street Journal 4/4/11

It’s A Catchy Tune

“Save the Stock Show, save the rodeo. Think of all the tax revenue we can lasso.”

Lyrics from “Save the Stock Show”
Written by Nick Brown
Played on his dad’s 60-year-old Martin 00-18 guitar



Martin guitar

Gas Well Dominoes

“A new Manhattan Institute report by University of Wyoming professor Timothy Considine estimates that a typical Marcellus well generates some \$2.8 million in direct economic benefits from natural gas company purchases; \$1.2 million in indirect benefits from companies engaged along the supply chain; another \$1.5 million from workers spending their wages, or landowners spending their royalty payments; plus \$2 million in federal, state, and local taxes. Oh, and 62 jobs.”

House Editorial. “A Tale of Two Shale States”
The Wall Street Journal 7/26/11

Macau Hits Jackpot

“Macau’s gambling revenue (\$23.5 billion in 2010) is now four times larger than that of Las Vegas, and the gap should keep growing as more casinos open.”

“Macau is Playing a Hot Hand — Maybe Too Hot”
Bloomberg Businessweek 7/29/11

Back East— Land of Bubble-wrapping Children

“Growing up on the East Coast, you don’t see kids in any kind of danger, ever, and these parents are purposefully putting their kids on these crazy little sheep. I think it definitely borders on child abuse,” Stacey Berry, a visitor to Jackson Hole, WY, from Massachusetts, saw her first mutton-busting event this summer.



Embracing traditional rough-and-tumble Western culture

“Little Lambs, Not the Sheep, Get Early Lessons in Rodeo Life”
Sarah Maslin Nir
New York Times 7/25/11

We’ve Changed

“How will we know when it’s over — when we can pass through the airport security with our shoes on, when closing Guantanamo is not unthinkable, when the extraordinary security measures embodied in the renewed Patriot Act might be allowed to lapse? If, as some have suggested, we’ve created a ‘surveillance state,’ can we rely on it to tell us when its ‘sell by’ date has arrived. On the tenth anniversary of 9/11, it’s possible, at least, to hope that we’ll remember to ask such questions on the 20th.”

“What 9/11 Wrought”
Joseph Lelyveld (former New York Times editor)
Smithsonian 9/11

Buckle Up

“If you walk into somebody’s office with your hair uncombed and a pick in the back, and your shoes untied, and your pants half down, tattoos up and down your arms and on your neck, and you wonder why somebody won’t hire you? They don’t hire you because you look like you’re crazy. You have damaged your own race.”



Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter

Michael Nutter, Philadelphia Mayor
Responding to flash mob violence in his city
The Washington Times 8/8/11