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Issue: # 3

October/20



## A Word from Councilman Brooks



Many people have asked me over the last 80 days, "So how do you like the new job?" My first response is to say, "I LOVE IT!" I have the capacity for what this position throws at me, and I believe that I am a culturally fluent leader, which this district needs. Then reality sinks in: I am just in the first 80 days and I have not seen half of the challenges and the complexities

this job offers. So I typically respond this way, "I am drinking from a fire hose, but so far so good."

It has been such a pleasure to represent the best district in the city, but it is also very complex. Before I was elected to office, I had simple solutions to the challenges facing District 8. Now that I am in a place of leadership for the district, I'm finding issues are not so black and white—they are more grey.

Just when I have made up my mind on a particular issue, believing I have gathered all the data to make an informed decision, someone gives me another way to look at the issue. Constituents often ask, "What can we expect out of you as a policy and decision maker?"

My response is that I listen, study, and think. I will sit down and listen (and ask questions) to folks from all sides of the issue. I will study the issue in other municipalities and see its effects. Lastly, I will think long and hard before I make a decision that impacts the hard working people of this district. I am reminded by a quote from Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.,

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### Helpful City Contact Number

Graffiti  
720.865.7867

Illegal Dumping  
720.865.6899

Recycling  
720.865.6805

Large Item Pickup  
720.865.6900

Property Inspections  
311

Police Non-Emergency  
720.913.2000

### District 8 Office Contacts

Albus Brooks - Councilman  
Phone: 720.337.8888  
[Albus.Brooks@denvergov.org](mailto:Albus.Brooks@denvergov.org)

Chy Montoya - Aide  
Phone: 720.337.8882  
[Chy.Montoya@denvergov.org](mailto:Chy.Montoya@denvergov.org)

Brandee Mischeau - Aide  
Phone: 720.337.8881  
[Brandee.Mischeau@denvergov.org](mailto:Brandee.Mischeau@denvergov.org)

### Volunteers and Interns Needed

*"Rarely do we find men willing to engage in hard solid thinking. There is almost a universal request for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think."*

District 8, with a holistic strategy and hard work, we can be the district we have always wanted to be.

I am here to serve you.

If you are interested in volunteering or interning, please contact our office, we would love to speak to you!

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## City Issues That Effect District 8

### Trash, trash, trash



The idea of charging for trash is not ideal, but there are many different ways to implement such a fee if it is mandated. Two of the ways include: a flat fee structure for trash collection and a pay as you throw structure for trash/recycling/composting. For either situation the City would explore the idea of providing a reduced rate for low-income/fixed-income households.

With the flat fee structure:

- The City would perform research and analysis to determine and justify what the cost of service for such a fee across the board would be.
- Recycling would be included in any Trash/Recycling fee the City institutes - even in the short term.
- Composting is currently a separate service that is **ONLY** offered to certain households because of limited resources.
- Upfront expenses for this model include creating a billing system to track and serve the program.

With the pay as you throw:

- First, the City would need to standardize our current collection (not necessary in the flat fee structure)
- Denver has many ways of picking up trash throughout the City (alley dumpsters, black barrels provided by the City and manual pick-up)
- Standardizing the collection means that we would change to three methods: the City would provide a separate cart for trash, recycling and composting.
- Upfront costs for this model include the expenses of:

standardization, the creation of a billing system and requiring changing all collection vehicles to automated side loader units to accommodate this structure.

- These costs are significant, but could be phased in over a number of years.
- With this option the customer has more control because they choose their level of service based on their needs.

At this time, the Structural Budget Task Force is putting together several recommendations that will be presented to the Mayor and City Council. After receiving this information, I will make a decision on which option is the best for our great District 8.

## Neighborhood Spotlight

*Leslie Ebert and Sandy Haynes,  
Plant a Garden and Find a Solution*



Efforts from Yokel Local Grower, which involve gardeners in our community have been very effective over the last several years, and continue to provide both food and community spirit around our district and North City Park Hill.

Leslie Ebert and Sandy Haynes started Yokel Local Growers right in their front yard with natural resources using a concept called Community Supported Agriculture or CSA which has become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. What Yokel Local Grower is doing is a simple enough idea, but its impact has been profound. Tens of thousands of families have joined CSAs, however, there is more of a demand than there are CSA farms to fill it.

Lets continue to support their efforts and eat healthy; your body deserves it. For more information please visit [Yokel Local Grower](#).

## Birds Eye View

### *City Budget Task Force*



It should come as no surprise to learn that cities all over the nation are facing difficult financial times. Rising expenditures coupled with dwindling sales tax revenue has created an unsustainable gap for most cities. Denver is not immune to the budget deficit crisis.

Although we have been fortunate enough to have tremendous civic leadership in recent years, it wasn't enough to counter the negative effects of the global recession. Denver currently faces a structural budget deficit that shows no sign of improving in the near future.

Don't worry, Denver is in good hands. With a council that is progressive and fiscally responsible, and a mayor who has demonstrated his commitment to financial sustainability, Denver is on the road to recovery. A Structural Financial Task Force has been created under the Budget and Management Office, and has been tasked with analyzing the structural gap and generating innovative ideas for the city to implement to solve this problem. Although I have only been in office a little over two months, I have already witnessed and been a part of the collaborative effort of helping reduce our deficit and achieve a balanced budget. Rest assured; my colleagues and I are working tirelessly to strengthen our local economy in order to foster job growth and sustainable economic development.

## ***Great 8 Events!***

### **Come Join us for Monday Night Football**

Come watch Monday Night Football games during the month of October with Councilman Brooks and his office. First round of drinks is on the Councilman!!!

When: Every Monday Night during October  
Time: 6:30pm- 9:30pm

Where: Jakes Food and Spirits  
3800 Walnut St.

### **Denver Human Services MASQUERADE BALL**

Denver Human Services will be hosting the OCCASIONS BY SANDY MASQUERADE BALL as the opening of our new Eastside Human Services Building on Saturday October 15th. The event includes a dedication ceremony with Mayor Hancock and Councilman Brooks. There will be dancing to live music and a silent auction of masks painted by children who live in our Family Crisis Center for youth age 12-17. All proceeds will benefit GIVE Denver, a program that gives hope to foster children, homeless families and other families in need by providing assistance with needs beyond our regular assistance programming. For more details visit [www.denvergov.org/GIVE](http://www.denvergov.org/GIVE) to GIVE to the program, BUY tickets to the ball or BID on masks in the online auction.

### **The Gift of Jazz**

The seventeenth in this series of themed jazz parties will be held in the historic jazz haunts of Denver - just in time for Halloween. Who knows?...You may be seated next to the spirit of Duke Ellington or Count Basie, both of whom frequented this jazz Mecca back in the day. Contemporary arrangements of classic jazz and Latin standards will be provided by the always exciting Neil Bridge 7+ with guest vocalists sitting in. Bring your dancing shoes! Dazzle Restaurant and Lounge will be providing light appetizers for this soiree. The event will be an intimate gathering and space is limited. For more details visit Gift of Jazz

Where: The Crossroads Theatre: 2590 Washington St.  
Time: 3:00 till 5:30 PM.  
When: Sunday, October 16, 2011  
Cost: \$25 per person. Cash bar. Limited to the first 40 pre-paid

### **The Farm is Coming**

What: Celebrate the harvest season by taking home a pumpkin and experiencing what life is like on the farm. The event will also feature barnyard music, face painting, pumpkin carving, farm fresh produce and more.

When: Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16  
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: 26th and Lawrence

### **Got Cats?**

For the month of October, The Feline Fix, a program of Rocky Mountain Alley Cat (RMACA), will host a Community Cat Crawl to help neighbors spay/neuter their alley cats. For more details contact:

Maya at: [maya@rmaca.org](mailto:maya@rmaca.org)  
303.202.3516

### **Denver Coordinated Election to be conducted by mail**

The November 1, 2011 Coordinated Election will be conducted as a mail ballot election. Ballots will be mailed to voters in mid-October, and voters will have the option of mailing their ballots back or dropping them off at a Voter Service Center.

[Click here for more details](#)

### **The Economic Prosperity Center proudly supports Denver Financial Planning Day**

You'll be able to meet one-on-one with dozens of professional financial planners to discuss your personal finance questions, concerns and interests. Information will be provided on a pro-bono basis by experts from the Financial Planning Association and highly qualified CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professionals. There are no strings attached - volunteering financial planners will not pass out business cards, marketing materials or sell products or services. You may seek information and advice on a wide range of topics

When: Saturday, October 22nd, 2011

Time: 9:00am - 2:00pm

Where: North High School  
2960 Speer Boulevard

### **School Supplies Needed at Bruce Randolph Middle School**

Let's help and support our local schools by providing much need supplies. The following is needed:

Backpack  
Binders  
Colored Pencils  
Colored Pouches

Highlighters  
Folders

There will be a drop off box located at our office; 2713  
Welton St.

## Access to Capital - Workshop Series Part I

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce invites small  
business owners and entrepreneurs to join the first session to a  
series of workshops on access to capital.

Come learn:

- How to access capital to grow your business or how to secure funding to start a new business.
- Lenders will share step by step process to obtain funds that your business needs.
- Banks and micro-lenders will also share what they are looking for in their evaluations.

When: Tuesday, October 18th, 2011  
Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Where: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
924 West Colfax Ave, Suite 201

When: Friday, October 21, 2011 (Spanish Workshop)  
Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Where: St Cajetan's Church  
299 Releigh, Denver

Cost: FREE

For More Details and to RSVP, please contact Monica  
Rodriguez at [mrodriguez@hispanicchamber.org](mailto:mrodriguez@hispanicchamber.org) or call 303-  
534-7783

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