



# Colorado Springs City Council



## Report to the Citizens

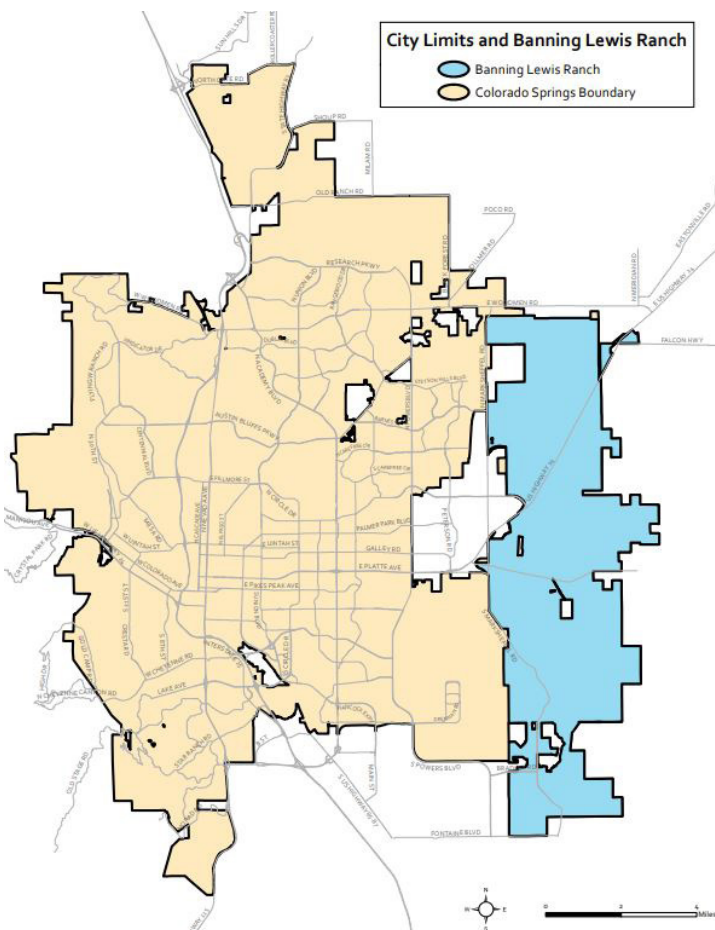
2018

City Council worked thousands of hours in 2018 to pass hundreds of ordinances and resolutions creating a bright outlook for the future of Colorado Springs. City growth and development are at an all-time high, and Council continues to work in collaboration with the Mayor's Office, especially finalizing the 2019 City Budget that will address some of the City's pressing needs.

## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- ### Banning Lewis Ranch Annexation Amendment

On May 8, City Council voted to adopt an amended annexation agreement for Banning Lewis Ranch that was first passed in 1988. City staff and City Council worked for several months to align the annexation agreement with City Code. The amended agreement encourages responsible development in this significant portion of the City and is expected to welcome 62,000 people over the next 30 years, generating \$49 million in net revenue for the City and is projected to add \$41 billion to the City's economy over the same period.



- ### Urban Renewal Downtown

The final City Council meeting of 2018 saw unanimous votes by Council to create a new urban renewal area downtown and revise an existing urban renewal area to speed up development. The existing urban renewal area is 82 acres in southwest downtown where the Olympic museum, soccer stadium, restaurants, apartments and businesses are expected to be developed. The new urban renewal area is 1.5 acres where a 256-room hotel, parking garage and streetscape improvements are planned. Urban Renewal Area Plans are 25 year tax sharing agreements between the City and the Urban Renewal Authority to help fund qualifying improvements.

- ### C4C and the new Pikes Peak Summit House

City for Champions projects took big steps forward in 2018. Two projects (United States Olympic Museum and a downtown soccer stadium) will be in the Southwest Downtown Urban Renewal Area. The indoor arena at Colorado College, UCCS' Medicine and Performance Center, and the Air Force Academy Visitor's Center will continue to draw tourists to Olympic City USA. City Council will continue to review these projects as they break ground and near completion!

Also set to draw tourists is the new Pikes Peak Summit House that broke ground in June and is set to be completed in late 2020. Since Pikes Peak—America's Mountain is a City enterprise, City Council has to agree to appropriate funds for the project (which they did in April, appropriating \$13.5 million) and Council agreed in September to a better interest rate on bonds that would raise up to \$33 million for the estimated \$55 million, 38,000 square-foot structure.

*Rendering of Summit House*





## CITY BUDGET

- **Consent Calendar**

For the second year in a row, the Annual City Budget passed Council unanimously and was on the consent calendar for its second reading on November 27. In an unprecedented move, the City Council mark-up session was canceled because Council felt no additional changes needed to be made. This demonstrates the collaborative effort all year long between City Council and the Mayor's Office to create a fair budget for all. The 2019 General Fund Budget is \$302.1 million, which is \$15.4 million or 5.4 percent more than the 2018 budget.

- **Public Safety**

The Mayor's office and City Council are especially focused on sworn position compensation with the 2019 Budget to maintain police officers and firefighters in our community. To bring police and fire sworn positions to market average, \$9.9 million is being allocated, which will also help implement year two of the civilian compensation strategy.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Public Engagement Meetings**

*(Photos of community events TBD)*

Throughout the year, City Council Members hosted 26 large public meetings that included: Town Halls about individual Council District issues, the Banning Lewis Ranch annexation amendment, Deer Population, Creekside Camping, Briargate SIMD, and the City Budget. In addition to those Town Halls, Council also took part in two major public engagement series.

- **Homelessness Initiative Town Halls:** City Council President Richard Skorman and Homelessness Prevention and Response Coordinator Andy Phelps hosted six Town Halls across Colorado Springs to present the City's plan regarding homelessness and gain feedback from the public. Close to 400 people participated in the meetings and Council Members David Geislinger, Tom Strand, Bill Murray, Jill Gaebler, and Yolanda Avila all attended at least one of the Town Halls. Through this public engagement, extra goals were added to the Homelessness Initiative allowing more efficient enforcement of current laws and a higher focus on issues regarding family homelessness.
- **PlanCOS:** In July, City Council along with the Planning and Development Department, hosted seven Open Houses to unveil the draft of PlanCOS; the City's first comprehensive plan since 2001. All three At-Large Council Members held an open house downtown and all six District Council Members held individual Open Houses in the area of the City they represent. The final plan was first presented to City Council at the end of November and passed by a unanimous vote in January 2019.

**Community Events:** City Council gets involved with the community through a variety of ways: luncheons, neighborhood meetings, city employee events, award ceremonies and political gatherings. In 2018 some of the higher attended events by Council Members were

the State of the State with former Governor John Hickenlooper (Feb. 2), The Pikes Peak—America's Mountain Tour for City Council (May 14), State of the City with Mayor John Suthers (Sept. 21), Legislative Reception to meet and greet State lawmakers (Oct. 24) and the Boards & Commissions Volunteer Reception (Dec. 4) to show appreciation for the citizens serving on City Council Boards.



Gary M. Bostrom Reservoir Site Dedication on April 27

A special moment for current and past City Council Members alike was the Gary M. Bostrom Reservoir Site Dedication on April 27. Bostrom passed away unexpectedly in August of 2017 after spending three decades dedicated to water services in the Pikes Peak region, and was an integral part in completing the Southern Delivery System. Originally deemed the Upper Williams Creek Reservoir, Colorado Springs Utilities decided to dedicate the site to Bostrom. The future reservoir is an important piece for ensuring a safe, reliable water supply for generations to come which is consistent with the legacy left by Gary.

City Council Members will also take time to speak with students taking a tour of City Hall or go to schools throughout Colorado Springs to teach students about local government. If you would like a tour of City Hall or want a Council Member to speak at a school or community event please reach out to City Council Communications Specialist Ted Skroback at 719-385-5482 or [tskroback@springsgov.com](mailto:tskroback@springsgov.com)

## ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- **By the numbers 2018**

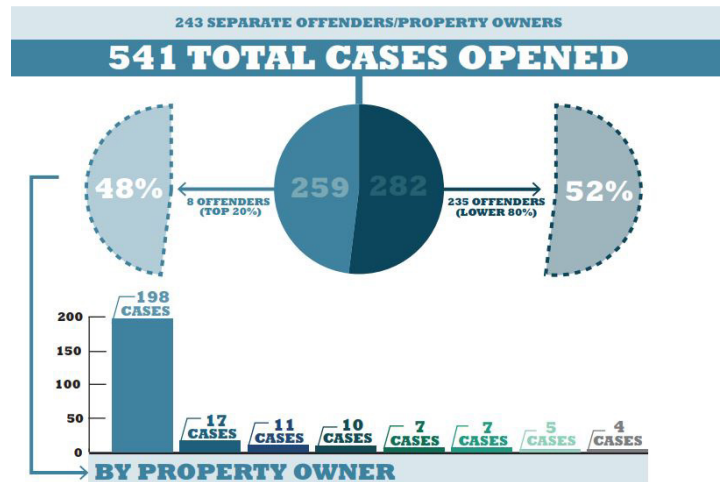
- **Ordinances:** 126 passed by City Council and signed by Mayor Suthers
- **Resolutions:** 164 adopted by City Council

- **Highlights**

- **Cracking down on bad landlords—** Constituent concerns voiced to Neighborhood Services and City Council about rampant code violations in some multi-family residential rental properties led to an important change for the City. Previously, an individual rental unit would be cited for a code violation, but with the passing of a series of ordinances by Council in April, City Code is changed to track violations by property owner and adds heftier fines.

### MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING ANALYSIS CASE BREAKDOWN

CODE CASES REPORTED AND ANALYZED JUNE 27, 2017-OCTOBER 31, 2017  
126 days, which equals 35% of the year



An analysis of housing complaint cases made to code enforcement between June 27, 2017 and October 21, 2017 show that eight residential rental property owners account for 48 percent of the total housing complaints received by Neighborhood Services. This analysis seems to support that a small number of property owners are disproportionately responsible for housing code violations throughout the City.

The new ordinances changed the definition and code violation fees associated with being a “repeat offender” or “chronic repeat offender.”

**Repeat Offender:** Property owners that fail to abate two or more violations of the Housing Code within the prior six months **OR** have received five or more notices of code violations within a 12 month period. The fine was raised from \$100 to \$250 for reinspection fees after a violation is found.

**Chronic Repeat Offender:** Property owners that have been repeat offenders for 12 months or more. The fine was raised from \$250 to \$500 for reinspection fees after a violation is found.

Code violations now accumulate through all properties owned by an individual or company. This series of ordinances are an attempt to change landlord behavior with significant penalties if you fail to respond to tenant concerns or remediate what Neighborhood Services has deemed a violation.

- **Banning Streamside Camping**—Council created a 100 foot buffer around waterways where people are not allowed to camp. The ordinance was later amended to add stricter fines if someone litters in a waterway. This ordinance is aimed at helping the environment and maintaining cleaner water traveling to our downstream neighbors.
- **Appropriating \$500,000 for More Shelter Beds**—City Council agreed to spend \$500,000, which combined with federal funds has added around 370 low barrier shelter beds. The additional beds will help the City enforce no camping laws, which can only be enforced if there is available shelter space.
- **Short Term Rentals**— Regulations were passed to create a permitting process for Short Term Rentals (STR). The permits create ground rules for STR owners and ensure payment of LART (Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax).

- **Wildlife Feeding Ordinance**—Living in an urban-wildlife interface can bring issues between animals and humans, one issue is feeding wildlife which brings more harm than good. City Council passed an ordinance in October to provide warnings to people found feeding animals, and then impose fines up to \$500 if the violator continues to feed wildlife.





## **Colorado Springs City Council**

**107 N. Nevada Avenue, Suite 300  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-1575**

**Phone: (719) 385-5986**

**Email: [AllCouncil@springsgov.com](mailto:AllCouncil@springsgov.com)**

We want to hear from you! Was this report informative?  
Should it include different or additional information?

Let us know your thoughts! Contact Communications at 719.385.5482.

Copies of this report are free to the public and can be downloaded at:  
[www.coloradosprings.gov/city-council](http://www.coloradosprings.gov/city-council)

 [www.facebook.com/coscycitycouncil](http://www.facebook.com/coscycitycouncil)

 [@COSCityCouncil](https://twitter.com/COSCityCouncil)

 [www.instagram.com/coscycitycouncil/](http://www.instagram.com/coscycitycouncil/)