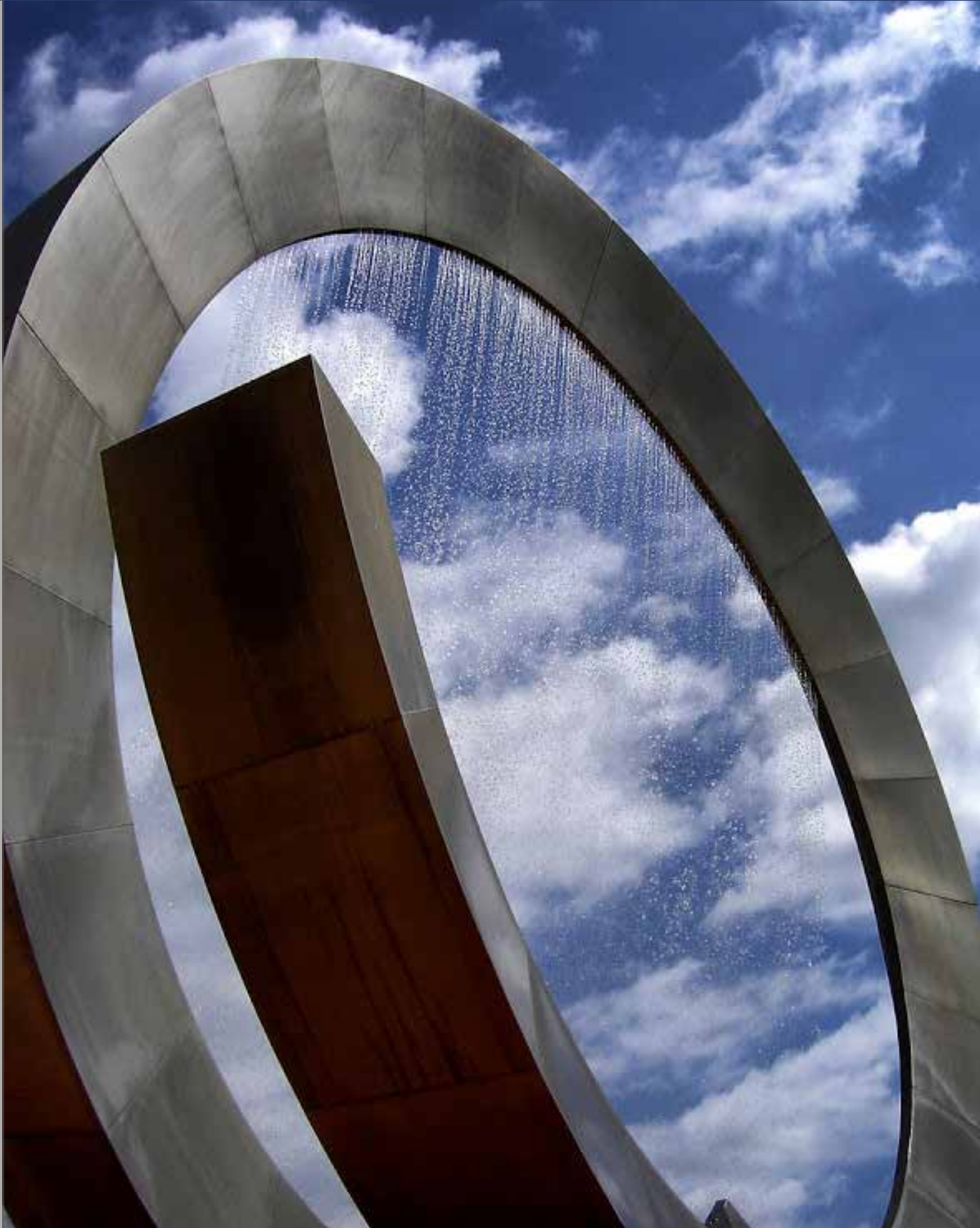


Colorado Springs City Council

Report to the Citizens 2013-14



City of Colorado Springs

The city of Colorado Springs is a home-rule municipality with more than 430,000 residents. Nationally ranked as one of the “Best Places to Live” and “America’s Best Cities,” the “Springs,” with its natural beauty and community-oriented spirit, is a place where people want to live, work, play and vacation.

City Government

In 2010, citizens voted to change the form of government from Council-Manager to Council-Mayor. In 2012, voters modified how Council positions are apportioned by increasing district representatives from four to six and by decreasing at-large representatives from five to three.

City Council

City Council is the legislative body of Colorado Springs’ municipal government, consisting of nine members; three at-large and six district representatives. Council is focused on its role as the “people’s house” by representing citizen constituent interests while serving on regional boards and commissions, and by receiving citizen input at regular Council meetings and Council and district town halls.

Council members are elected to four-year terms and earn an annual stipend of \$6,035.

Council Budget

Council’s 2014 annual budget is \$943,258, which includes \$337,986 for the City’s annual membership fees for organizations such as the Colorado Municipal League and the National League of Cities.

Council Members



Keith King
President/District 3
kcking@springsgov.com



Merv Bennett
President Pro-Tem/
At Large
mbennett@springsgov.com



Don Knight
District 1
dknight@springsgov.com



Joel Miller
District 2
jcmiller@springsgov.com



Helen Collins
District 4
hcollins@springsgov.com



Jill Gaebler
District 5
jgaebler@springsgov.com



Andres Pico
District 6
apico@springsgov.com

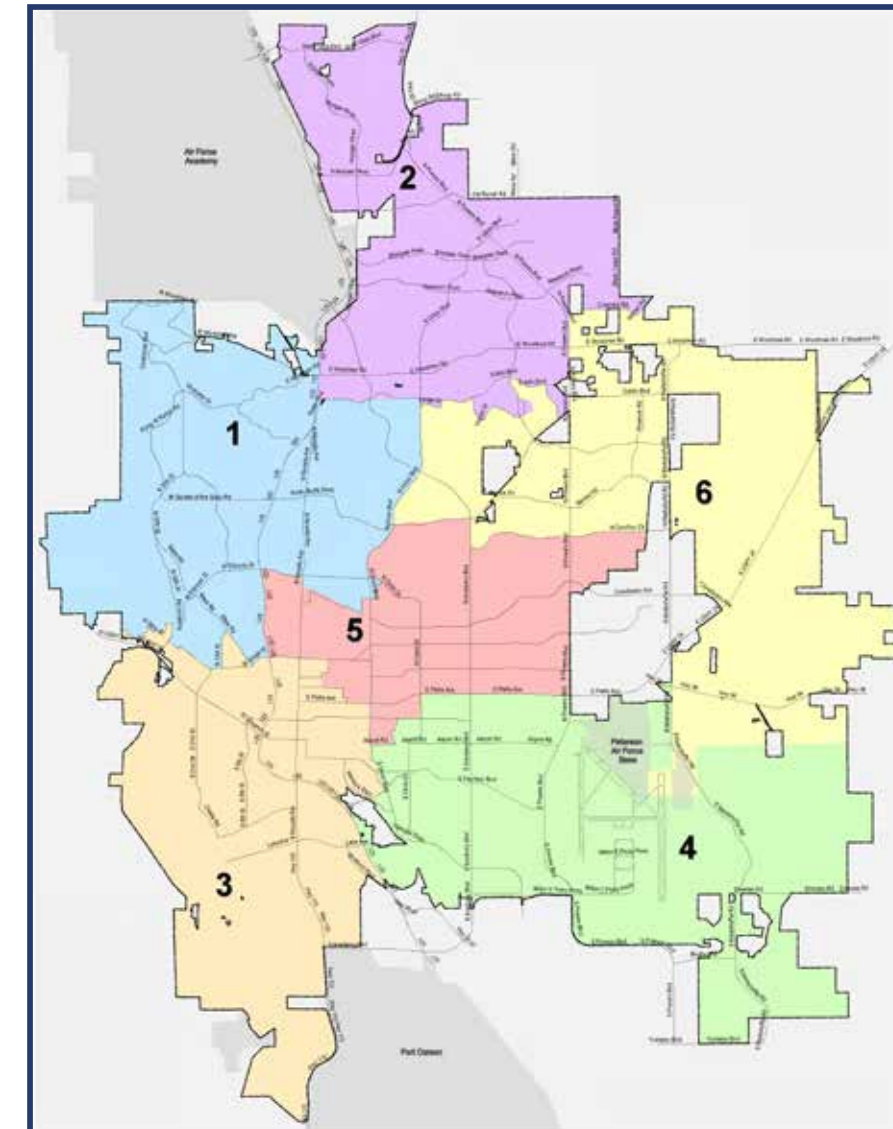


Jan Martin
At Large
jmartin@springsgov.com



Val Snider
At Large
vsnider@springsgov.com

District Map



This inaugural Annual Report to the Citizens is a summary of the activities and achievements of your Colorado Springs City Council from April 2013–April 2014.





Serving the Citizens of Colorado Springs

Each year, with the consideration of public input, City Council adopts a strategic plan which prioritizes their goals and establishes measurable outcomes. Council provides the strategic plan to the Mayor for consideration in development of the municipal administrative budget. In 2014, Council's strategic plan focused on three major areas of concern: Economic Growth, Responsible Government and Quality Community.

Economic Growth

Land Use

One of Council's major Charter responsibilities is land use items. During the year Council ruled in the following quasi-judicial land use proceedings:

- Broadmoor Event Center Development Plan
- First Choice Emergency Room
- Flying Horse Development
- Majestic Mountain Indoor Gun Range
- Victory Chapel Ministries

Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax

In 2013, responsibility for allocating monies from the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) fund transitioned from the executive branch to City Council. 2014 projects that received funding included entrepreneurial elements and outcomes that attract visitors or enhance the economy of the City and Pikes Peak Region and included hallmark events, such as the:

- Colorado Springs Balloon Classic
- Colorado Springs Philharmonic Summer Symphony Series & Fourth of July Event
- Pikes Peak Cycling USA Pro Cycling Challenge
- Pikes Peak Hill Climb and Fan Fest
- Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade

Responsible Government

Regional Cooperation

Council worked extensively with El Paso County and city staff on 1041 regulations for the airport. With the executive branch, Council confirmed the appointment of a new City Attorney and Aviation Director. Council also worked with city staff to start the Colorado Springs Health Foundation, as a result of the lease of Memorial Hospital to University of Colorado Health and designated a new Sister City — Ancient Olympia, Greece.

Financial Stewardship

Council worked through the 2014 budget process with a focus on establishing the responsibilities of the executive and legislative branches of government under the Council-Mayor form of government in order to better serve the citizens.



Quality Community

Civic Outreach

During the year, Councilmembers participated in a number of citizen-led and regional committees and task forces, that work to improve the quality of our community, including the:

- Drake Power Plant Task Force to study of the potential decommissioning and removal of the Martin Drake Power Plant and alternative energies.
- North Nevada Avenue Task Force to develop a plan that adds growth and creates synergy with University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.
- Organization of Westside Neighbors and the County to address infrastructure, crime, and economic challenges along West Colorado Avenue – formerly known as “No Man’s Land.”
- Pikes Peak Stormwater Task Force to develop a plan to address our region’s drainage challenges.
- South Academy Boulevard Task Force to develop a long-term revitalization vision for the area.

Councilmembers also participated as appointed members for the:

- Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority Board of Directors, a collaborative effort of five local governments working on a regional approach to address transportation issues.
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments to make coordinated decisions affecting the development of all geographic areas of the Pikes Peak region.

Citizen Engagement

In 2014, the City partnered with Granicus to implement their Legislative Management Suite, Legistar. This new software provides citizens with improved access to real-time meeting information — agendas, attachments, minutes, recordings and votes. The technology also simplifies historical research on legislative issues before Council. Plans to expand the use of the software include facilitating direct citizen input and leveraging the aid of volunteers who serve on Council's 54 advisory boards and commissions.



Council's Charter Requirements

Budget, Tax Collection, Fiscal Performance

- Providing by ordinance a system for the collection, custody, and disbursement of all public monies;
- Adopting the budget with or without amendment and appropriating funds
- Estimating, declaring and adopting by ordinance, the amount of money necessary to be raised by tax levy

Summary of Council Budget and Expenditures

- Including in the budget all stipends and other expenses of City Council and the salary of the Mayor

Issuing Debt for Public Improvements

- Issuing local improvement district bonds
- Borrowing money or issuing bonds for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, extending or improving water, electric, gas, sewer or other public utilities or income producing projects

Land Use

- Initiating eminent domain (condemnation) proceedings to acquire land or easements

Colorado Springs Utilities

- Extending Colorado Springs Utilities' water and wastewater service outside the City limits
- Serving as the Board of Directors

Public Emergencies

- Reviewing a Mayor's proclamation in times of public emergency and terminating such proclamation by a majority vote of the Council

Strategic Plan

- Maintaining a strategic plan which prioritizes goals for the City Council and establishing measurable outcomes. The planning process should consider public input and be provided to the Mayor for consideration in the development of the municipal budget

Mayoral Appointees; City Staff

- Confirming by a concurring vote of the majority of members, Mayoral appointees as designated by the Charter
- Appointing the City Auditor
- Reviewing and approving personnel policies and procedures for City employees as well as municipal purchasing and contracting rules and regulations

Historic City Hall

Nov. 16, 2014, marks the 110th anniversary of City Hall. Built in the Classical Revival style by noted local architects Thomas P. Barber and Thomas MacLaren, City Hall was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

The current site for City Hall belonged to Cripple Creek mining magnate Winfield S. Stratton. Stratton agreed to donate three lots to the city if they agreed to build a structure of at least \$100,000—final cost was approximately \$140,000. City Hall was the seat of municipal government from 1904 to 1980 when the City Administration building was built. From 1980-97, City Hall was used for the municipal courts.

On Nov. 30, 2001, after an 18-month renovation to once

again make City Hall a place for city residents to use and enjoy, City Hall was re-dedicated and City Council returned to historic City Hall council chambers.

In January 2014, City Council dedicated two areas within City Hall to exhibit and celebrate citizen artwork. The first, located on the second floor, is a newly designed Citizen Gallery. The second, located on the third floor in chambers, is a gallery dedicated for K-12 artwork.

Today, in addition to holding council meetings, City Hall is host to school tours and numerous citizen and nonprofit group meetings, at no charge, and chambers is used by a variety of groups, including the Liquor & Beer Licensing Board, the Planning Commission, the Utilities Board and various visiting and regularly scheduled groups.





Colorado Springs City Council

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

Phone: (719) 385-5986

Fax: (719) 385-5495

Email: AllCouncil@springsgov.com

 www.facebook.com/coscycouncil

 Follow [@COSCityCouncil](https://twitter.com/COSCityCouncil); [#cscouncil](https://twitter.com/cscouncil)

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:
coloradosprings.gov/citycouncil

