

RESOLUTION NO. 38-19

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITIZENS FOR 2018 PURSUANT TO CITY CHARTER §3-10(D)

WHEREAS, City Council is required by City Charter §3-10(d) to provide for an annual "Report to the Citizens" in order to maintain accountability to citizens; and

WHEREAS, City Council appreciates its role as the legislative body of municipal government and values the citizen input it receives during the course of its regular business and during town halls and other special meetings; and

WHEREAS, City Council is proud to adopt its annual Report to the Citizens, outlining City Council's activities and achievements from calendar year 2018, and providing citizens with information about its responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:



Section 1. Pursuant to City Charter §3-10(d), City Council hereby adopts the Colorado Springs City Council 2018 Report to the Citizens, attached as Exhibit A and made a part of this Resolution.

DATED at Colorado Springs, Colorado, this 26th day of March, 2019.



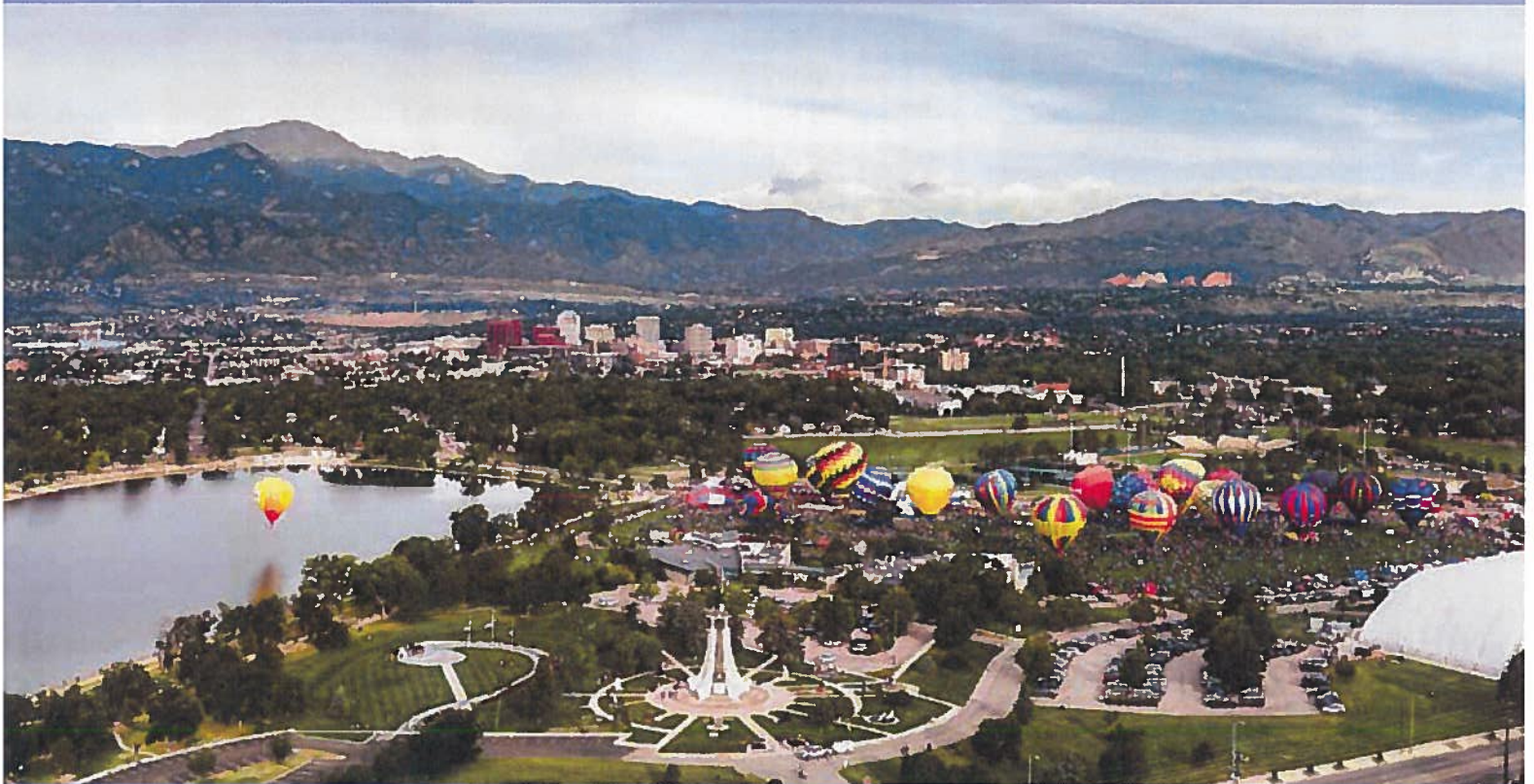
Council President

ATTEST:


Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk




Colorado Springs City Council



Report to the Citizens

2018

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Public Engagement Meetings**
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 Goebler, 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.



Homelessness Initiative Town Hall at Westside Community Center



➤ **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

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. (NOTE: City Council Members also serve as the Colorado Springs Utilities Board and were representing the Board at the reservoir site dedication)

REQUEST A COUNCIL MEMBER

City Council Members also take time to speak with students taking a tour of City Hall and 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 Skrobback at 719-385-5482 or tksrobback@springsgov.com.



Day at the Capital



PlanCOS Open House at Westside Community Center

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Sometimes the area's local governments band together in support of a decision that would not only impact the Pikes Peak Region, but the entire Nation. The Colorado Springs City Council, El Paso County Board of County Commissioners and the Fountain City Council all signed a joint letter to the United States Army in hopes of maintaining and growing the amount of soldiers based at Fort Carson. There was a risk of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team being converted to

a Stryker unit and shifted to one of four other installations. The Army ultimately decided to keep the soldiers at Fort Carson and added two brigades totaling 1,000 soldiers that would transfer to Colorado Springs. In 2018 Fort Carson reached 26,000 soldiers, the highest total since the Vietnam War. The amount of soldiers stationed at Pikes Peak area military installations have a significant impact on the City and region's growing economy. Here is the full joint letter.

April 13, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

In light of the changing global threats and the Army's need to face these threats head on, the entirety of the Colorado Springs City Council, El Paso County Board of County Commissioners and the Fountain City Council remains committed to supporting the diverse needs of our treasured Soldiers and their families and ensuring that Fort Carson remains the best assignment location in the US Army.

With the pending conversion of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) to the 16th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) we feel that these approximate 4,200 Soldiers and their families will best be served by continuing to remain at Fort Carson, the Best Hometown in the Army!

Fort Carson's main post possesses great training ranges, where small unit maneuver, live fire tables and combined arms exercises can occur on its nearly 140,000 acres of land. Additionally, the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in southeast Colorado provides an excellent environment for mounted maneuver exercises on its 235,000 acres. No other location has as great an advantage of high altitude training. Infrastructure is already in place with new construction required since Fort Carson has previously supported two ABCTs. The and road connections already exist for support and movement of the brigades along with additional road and interchange capacity for growth to meet the needs of our Soldiers. The region can easily accommodate the potential addition of a security assistance brigade which would complement the existing units and missions of the Ft. Carson based forces.

While Fort Carson is an exceptional location for training high quality Soldiers, the local communities make it an exceptional location for retaining these high quality Soldiers! Colorado Springs has just been named the 2nd best place to live by U.S. News and World Reports due to the City's job market - which provides ample opportunity for all military spouses and their careers, cost of living, quality of life - which accounts for top quality health care, education, commute time and general well-being, and desirability.

The communities of the region continually demonstrate support for all our Soldiers at Fort Carson through organizations such as the Peak Military Care Network, the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center, the Home Front Cares, and others by assisting Soldiers and their families with financial grants and awards for emergencies, support for health related issues, employment opportunities for military spouses, etc.

As the local elected officials for the Pikes Peak region and with the many reasons listed here, we urge you to maintain these Soldiers and the expanded mission set here at the Mountain Post, Fort Carson.

LOOKING BACK AFTER TWO TERMS

Council Member Merv Bennett sat down to discuss what it's like serving eight years on City Council, winning two terms as an At-Large Representative. Over the past eight years Merv has witnessed the transition to a strong Mayor form of government, served as City Council President and Council President Pro-Tempore, and worked closely with area governments to better strengthen relationships with Colorado Springs.

Over your two terms, what decision has had/will have the biggest impact for Colorado Springs?

It is really hard to say which decision has the biggest impact. So I will give you three in the order of what I feel are the most impactful.

1. I am very proud of the lease with Memorial Hospital to University of Colorado Health (UCH). The hospital was really struggling when I came on Council and the lease completely turned it around and it is serving our community at the highest level.
2. I am very proud of the establishment of the Colorado Springs Health Foundation. These funds, generated from the UCH lease, will serve this community for decades and is very unique. In fact I do not know of another City in the nation with such a foundation dedicated to helping its citizens with health issues.
3. I am also very proud of the collaborative relationship that was built between Council and the Mayor. We work as a team and our great city has experienced great benefits from this partnership. This needs to be what all Cities, States and the Federal Government embrace.

Personally, what is your proudest moment serving on City Council?

Certainly the above would be a part of this but I was honored to serve as President Pro Tem and then President of City Council. The relationship Mayor Suthers and I developed has been extremely productive and rewarding. I am humbled to have been a part of this change in culture.



What advice would you give future Council Members?

- Leave your political agendas at home and focus on what is best for the citizens of Colorado Springs.
- Make sure you consider the long term implications of your decisions.
- Work closely and collaboratively with the Mayor and their staff. They are excellent to work with.
- Make sure the Council's strategic plan complements the Mayor's and Utilities'.
- Work in partnership with your boards and commissions and with the Chamber, Visit Colorado Springs, and others.

How do you view the outlook of Colorado Springs over the next 10 to 20 years?

I view the outlook as very bright provided we continue to work together for the best interests of our great City. There will always be challenges but we need to work hard to find the best and most sustainable answers to critical issues. If we continue to work as partners we can accomplish any issue that comes before us.



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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:
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