

## HOUSING & BUILDING ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO SPRINGS

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September 10, 2019

Travis Easton, Public Works Director City of Colorado Springs 30 S. Nevada Ave. Suite 105 Colorado Springs, CO 80903

**RE: Stormwater Review and Inspection Fees** 

Dear Mr. Easton:

On behalf of the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs (HBA), we want to thank you for including us in the review process for the proposed stormwater review and inspection fees. We understand the need for additional fees and appreciate the collaboration shown towards an appropriate resolution.

After discussing the stormwater fee proposal with members of the HBA Public Policy Council, several concerns were brought up. In general, HBA members support paying a fee for service, but in the case of the stormwater review process, the existing turnaround times provided by the City for plan reviews are impacting project construction schedules. We understand that the City has hired and is training additional staff and hope that soon review times will be completed more quickly; as the current turnaround times are slowing development and increasing housing costs. In order for us to support this increase, we would request an evaluation within six months to ascertain if indeed the higher fees are resulting in more timely reviews.

The role of the variance committee is another item that should be revisited, specifically the issuance of reoccurring variances. Reoccurring variances should be monitored and approved without having to go through the variance process multiple times. We hope that you will agree to this change in the variance process shortly. More timely policy clarification would also help to streamline the review process.

Thank you again for working through the details with us. We look forward to working towards a resolution that is helpful to both the City and the development industry. Please feel free to contact us to continue the discussion, or if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kevin Walker HBA Public Policy Council Chair