

INC Our Thirtieth Year of Service



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INC Awards

Nominate that Special Neighborhood Person for an INC Award!

One of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation's most enjoyable tasks is to acknowledge those $\mathbf{\Phi}$ individuals who have been endorsed, by an organization or individual, for an award because of the outstanding efforts those individuals have put forth to help Denver neighborhoods. Nominations are now open. These awards are presented at the annual INC Presidents Dinner.

There are three main awards named for some of INC's finest leaders, all now deceased. One is the Virginia Oredson Award. Virginia was the secretary of INC for several years in the 1980s and was very active with the Montclair Civic Association. She was a gentle on lady with firm ideas about protecting her neighborhood from crime and problem bars as well as encouraging neighborhoods to work together through INC. The Virginia Oredson Award is given to a person who:

- Has encouraged Denver neighborhoods or citizens to work together in a common effort **O** to solve community problems.
- Has established a record of selfless community service and has encouraged and motivated others to volunteer their services to engage in community improvement.

Another INC award is the **Bill Gross Award**. Bill was the chair of INC in the early 1990s, was very active as president of the Whittier Neighborhood Association, and was an organizer of the Northeast Denver Congress. His particular passion was building partnerships of between neighborhood groups and the Denver police to improve neighborhood safety.

The Bill Gross Award is given to a person who:

- Has a strong record of working with neighborhoods to better public safety in the community.
- Has made Denver a safer place in which to live.

Another INC award is the Walt Kembel Award. Walt was the treasurer of INC in the late \(\omega \) 1990s and was active in the Cherry Creek North neighborhood where he constantly and vocally tried to maintain the neighborhood character of smaller, modest homes in the North Cherry Creek area.

The Walt Kembel Award is given to a person or group who:

- Is an INC delegate or a member of a member RNO.
- Has contributed to INC during the past year over and above normal expectations to develop and promote the organization or has moved INC forward or in new directions in creative or un-expected ways.

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Another category of awards are the "Neighborhood Stars" Denver Good Q **Neighbor Awards**. Neighborhood Stars are nominated by the Board of an INC-member RNO. A Neighborhood Star is awarded to Ω a person who has:

- Worked individually or with a group to make "Denver a Better Place to Live."
- Worked individually or with a group over the past year on a cause or a project **P** that has improved the appearance or the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Send nominations to:

AthmarAtLarge@ecentral.com tions must be received by January 9th, 2009.



December 2008

www. neighborhoodlink. com/denver/inc

INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

17th & 18th Lafavette St Neighbors ABC Streets Assn Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn

Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn **Ball Park Neighborhood Assn** Belcaro Park Homeowners Assn Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn Berkeley Neighborhood Assn Berkeley-Regis United Neighbors Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Assn Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assn. **Broadway Partnership / MDLDC Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods**

Cherry Creek East Assn Cherry Creek North Neighborhood

Cherry Creek Townhouse Corporation

Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn. Cherry Point Homeowners Assn Civic Association of Clayton Colfax on the Hill. Inc. College View Neighborhood Assn Congress Park Neighbors Cook Park Neighborhood Assn

Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Assn **Country Club Historic** Neighborhood (CCHN)

Cranmer Park Hilltop Civic Assn

Crestmoor Park Homeowners Assn 2nd filing

Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc Filing One

Curtis Park Neighbors

Downtown Denver Residents Org East Montclair Neighborhood Assn

Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business

Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc. George Washington Homeowner's Assn. Inc. Globeville Civic Assn #1

Godsman Neighborhood Org Golden Triangle Assn. of Denver Golden Triangle Museum District

Greater Mar-Lee Community Org

Greater Park Hill Community, Inc. Hampden South Neighborhood Assn Harkness Heights Neighborhood

Assn Harman Neighborhood Assn Inc.

Hilltop Heritage Assn LLC Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc.

Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn. Ivy Street Neighbors Assn Lower Downtown Neighborhood Assn (LoDoNA)

Lowry Community Master Assn Lowry United Neighborhoods

Mayfair Neighbors, Inc.

Mayfair Park Neighborhood Assn North City Park Civic Assn Old San Rafael Neighborhood Assn Overland Park Neighborhood Assn Park Forest Homeowner's Assn. Platt Park Peoples Assn

Plaza III Townhomes Association Rangeview Neighborhood Assn. Ruby Hill Neighborhood Assn -

RHINO

SWIC Southwest Improvement Council/Westwood

Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment Corp Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Assn South City Park Neighborhood Assn South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn South Jackson Street Denver Neighborhood

South Park Hill Neighborhood Org Southmoor Park East Homeowners

Assn **Southmoor Park Homeowners** Assn

The Unsinkables

University Park Community Council

Upper Downtown Development Org Virginia Vale Community Assn

Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn Warrens University Community Council

Washington Park East Neighborhood

West Highland Neighborhood Assn West University Community Assn (WUCA)

West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn

Whittier Neighborhood Assn Windsor Gardens Association Wyman Historic District Neighborhood Assn

Associates

Bonna Gayhart City Council Pres/Dist 10 Councilwoman Jeanne Robb Councilman Doug Linkhart

Councilman Rick Garcia Councilwoman Carol Boigon

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann Dennis Gallagher, Auditor

Denver Health Medical Center **Denver Mayor's Office**

Denver Parks and Recreation Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.

FRESC (Front Range Economic Strategy Center)

Gertie Grant

Harriet R. Hogue

Hilltop Association

Historic Denver Inc.

League of Women Voters of Denver Leetsdale Cop Shop

Morrison Road Business Association of Denver

Palace Lofts Homeowners Assn Pam Schenkein

Stapleton Master Community Assn

Stephen Griffin

Transportation Solutions



is published monthly by

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (a coalition of Denver neighborhoods) P.O. Box 181009 Denver, CO 80218-1009 Editor: Ken Beaudrie kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net 303-798-9306

Subscriptions are free. Subscription information and changes of address for non-INC organizations and persons should be e-mailed to kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Articles must be e-mailed to the editor by the 20th of the month.

INC organizations should send changes to their organization personnel to the membership chair at kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net or 303-798-9306.

INC Delegates' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 8:45 a.m. See this issue for location.

The INC Executive Committee meets monthly at different locations. The public is always welcome. Check the INC website for location and agenda.



Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods – On November 13th at 6:30 p.m. there will be a presentation on the Housing Plan by Denver Housing Authority. On December 18th at 5:30 p.m. there will be a memorial service for the homeless people who have died throughout the region. The event will take place on the east steps of the City and County Building. Please call Meg Costello at 303-285-5220 if you know of a homeless person who has died, On December 7th a Health Forum on mental health and insurance, single payer plan legislation, at 12:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Society of Denver fund raising event for the Stout Street Clinic.

Ivy Street Neighbors Assn – Ivy Street Neighbors, co-sponsors of the Red Ribbon Essay Contest, had a great success with thirty-seven entrants. We were also given a great lunch hosted by Fire Station #3.

Lowry United Neighborhoods – Lowry Vista, Alameda, and Windsor Gardens is an 80-plus acre site under consideration for development by International Risk Group (IRG). But the land was sold to them by the Lowry Redevelopment Authority (LRA) for \$10 that the neighbors now find was the top of a huge undercover agreement by the City, LRA, and IRG. Yikes! We are dealing with this one carefully. Stay tuned!

University Park Community Council – UP's Annual Holiday Sing will be on December 7th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Observatory Park. There will be songs, horse-drawn wagon rides, cider and cookies, stargazing, and Santa!

Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn – Krisana Park loves Ellis Elementary! Principal Khoa Nguyen is one of Denver's 150! Ellis collaboration with Front Range Earth Force continues to be vibrant. The November 13th Green Harvest Silent Auction, 5 to 8 p.m., features donations by sustainable businesses and recycled materials. Families get to bid on items by donating volunteer time. The school is at 1651 South Dahlia. Ellis also is the recipient of the Silver level of Colorado's Environmental Leadership Program.

From the Chair Karen Cuthbertson

As we wind down 2008, I'd like to thank the INC RNO members for a very productive year. We did no want for suggested presentations, meeting locations, or host RNOs, and all of INC's many sponsored events were well-attended and very lively. Our mem-

bership increased and INC members joined several key Commissions / Boards, providing a neighborhood view during complex policy deliberations. The Dollar Dictionary Drive deficit was a disappointment, and - with the current economic climate—we will probably need to re-think how to manage the Dollar Dictionary campaign in 2009. Any suggestions are welcome. However, INC's core philosophy that "neighborhoods are stronger when they work together" seemed well-served in 2008.

Delegate Meeting Recap Larry Ambrose

INC Chair Karen Cuthbertson called the meeting of the DelegaC tion to order on November 8th at 9:00 a.m. in the District 2 Police Headquarters at 39th Avenue and Holly Street. Sarah Foster and Jan Holloway of the Ivy Street Neighbors Association welcomed the delegates. City Councilwoman Carla Madison also welcomed the delegates and noted that she shares the immediate area with Councilman Hancock. Councilwoman Madison reported that she hopes to bring in a Charter School to the Shopping Center that was torched earlier this year but is now ready to be redeveloped.

Karen announced that long-time INC activist and Dollar Dictionary supporter Nancy Jackson died November 3rd. A condolence card was passed around and signed by the many members. She will be missed.

Mike Henry, Chair of Planning and Zoning Committee, spoke to the motions presented to the General Membership by the Committee. Mike reminded the membership that the City is offering to list a second email contact on the RNO contact page on denvergov.org for email notification.

Motion: Open Space Definition—See the letter on page eight. Motion: Outdoor Patio Recommendations—This motion will be published next month.

Recommendation: 1) Limit all outdoor patios hours and uses. Recommendation: 2) Control outdoor patio use in and infringement on the public-right-of-way.

Recommendation: 3) Coordinate permitting processes.

Recommendation: 4) Coordinate enforcement activities.

Recommendation: 5) Monitor noise pollution.

Recommendation: 6) Educate users on the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act.

Recommendation: 7) Clarify the rules for measuring distances in the zoning code and noise ordinances.

The motion was seconded and passed with in 26 in favor, none opposed, and two abstentions.

Motion: Change Considerations for Unsafe Right-of-Way Conditions—See the letter on page nine.

Motion: Changes to Air Pollution Control Ordinance.—This motion will be published next month.

Discussion included a question regarding the definition of administrative citations. The answer: The citations will follow the same process as NIS administrative citations. Another question was raised regarding encouragement and funding of enforcement. The answer: DEH Inspectors are spread thin but this ordinance will allow for enforcement against major offenders.

The motion was seconded and passed with 24 in favor, none opposed, and two abstaining.

Motion: Improving Citizen Involvement in Planning Processes in Denver—See the letter on page thirteen.

Motion: Community Improvement Districts—This motion will be published next month.

The motion was seconded and passed with 23 in favor, two opposed, and two abstentions.

Steve Nissen, Co-Chair of Dollar Dictionary Drive Committee, updated the delegates on the effort to put the Dollar Dictionary Drive "in the black." Steve reported that the letters in the Newsletter were from Kaiser Elementary School. Vicky Gritters was "the lady" noted in the published letter who came to hand out dictionaries. Steve related an anecdote about how special Nancy Jackson was. One year early in the Dollar Dictionary Drive venture, dictionaries and thesauruses were in short supply from the local vendor. Nancy Jackson happened to be in New York and discovered a source for the remainder of the needed books. Nancy purchased the books and stuffed her suitcases to the brim with hundreds of dictionaries and thesauruses and flew the books home with her (She shipped her clothes home separately!). Steve noted that discount tickets are still available for Macy's November 22nd shopping day. Two greeters are needed from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Richard Rosenthal, Office of the Independent Monitor, spoke about implementing the recommendations from the 2007 Annual Report. Mr. Rosenthal noted that the 120-page report was too long and it was hard to discern important points. Next year's report will be shorter and highlight systemic problems and concerns. Surveys conducted revealed that both citizens and police staff reported an 89-percent dissatisfaction rate from the results of the former complaint processes. Denver was the first city to prove that a specially guided mediation process between citizens and affected officers could make a real difference. Citizens and officers who participated in the mediation reported a 90 -percent satisfaction rate with the outcome of the complaint. It has also been established that officers that go through mediation have 50-percent fewer subsequent complaints. Officers are learning through mediation how to better deal with situations. Mediation between police and citizens is done through a professional company.

The City hired a consultant out of Los Angeles to analyze instances of officer shootings and allegations of police misconduct in Denver. The consultants reviewed past policies to determine if they were the best practices. The report showed that Denver, compared to other cities, had a good record. However, investigations into shootings and allegations of police misconduct were taking two years to resolve. Now a resolution is made within six months. Formerly it took almost a year to implement disciplinary action. Now when necessary, discipline goes through the system smoothly. There is an issue of what to do when officers lie. DPD has now developed a matrix with outcomes that let officers know what to expect. If officers lie, there is a presumption of termination. Mr. Rosenthal took questions from the membership.

<u>Question</u>: Is it legal to use lie detector tests? <u>Answer</u>: They are not reliable, not admissible.

<u>Question</u>: Why not have evaluations that people can fill out? <u>Answer</u>: He has discussed the idea with Chief Whitman and, of course, the idea has pros and cons.

This follow up question ensued: Why not do a pilot project? Answer: It is a good idea.

Question regarding responsible use of firearms: Was the second shot officers fired at a wounded dog running away from them justified? Answer: There is an investigation going on now.

Question: Why was a well-known sports figure escorted to a hotel after arrest? <u>Answer</u>: The individual was given a ride because of safety concerns. The person was arrested, charged, and booked first.

Note: There is a complaint and on-line commendation process.

Michele Weingarden, the Director of Greenprint Denver, made a Powerpoint presentation to the membership the highlights of which are as follows:

Greenprint Denver grows sustainable programs and services to:

- · Protect our environment
- · Conserve resources
- · Improve our economy
- · Make Denver a better place to live, work, and play

Highlights of the City's Success to Date:

- · 3.2 megawatt gas-to-electricity plant at DADS
- 2 megawatt solar plant at DIA
- · 112,388 trees planted by *The Mile High Million* program
- · Converted Park land to native vegetation
- · 100-percent B20 biodiesel in City diesel fleet
- · Webb Municipal Building LEED-Gold certified
- · Justice Center LEED-Silver certified
- 164 low-flow toilets in City Hall saving 1 million gallons of water in 6 months
- 95-percent waste diversion rate at Red Rocks Amphitheater
- · 69-percent increase in tonnage of recycled materials

Greenprint Denver's 8 Point Plan for 2008-2009:

- · Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- · Water Efficiency
- · Greening Our Homes and Businesses
- · Green Building
- · Expanded Recycling
- · 75,000 Trees
- · City Leading By Example
- · Bicycle Program for the Community

Ms. Weingarden spoke about a pilot project in the Sunnyside neighborhood. The City went door-to-door offering a free energy audit – 2,500 homes were approached. This low-income neighborhood was chosen because of high-energy usage and a large senior population with fixed incomes. Residents who did not pass the energy audit were offered free repairs (if they qualified for assistance) or were provided information about discounts and rebates available for repairs. Ms. Weingarden also announced that there are rebates for qualifying individuals good through the end of December for up to \$300 for attic insulation.

With the intention of creating a legacy from programs developed at the DNC, the City intends to continue to promote:

- · City Facilities Upgrades
- · Green Vendor Directory
- · Water Efficiency
- Bicycles
- Green Festivals
- · Public Recycling

Ms. Weingarden took questions from the membership.

Question: Can streetlights be turned off earlier? <u>Answer</u>: It is a good idea.

<u>Question</u>: Is it unfair not to include multi-unit complexes? <u>Answer</u>: We need to talk as a community about how to pay for expanded service. For more information email green-print@denvergov.org or go to www.greenprintdenver.org

Ishmael Guerrero, Director of the Denver Housing Authority (DHA), presented extensive information about his agency of 300 employees, 60-percent of whom are unionized. DHA serves 10,000 families. Their Mission Statement is "Every individual or family shall have quality and affordable housing in communities offering empowerment." DHA manages more than 10,000 dwelling units, invests \$123.5 million into the local economy. and gives out total tax credits of \$69.2 million. Its projects include Curtis Park/Five Points Revitalization and the Benedict Park multi-phase development. Mixed income development and DHA has invested \$1 million in the Cleo Parker-Robinson facility. Three towers are Mulroy, Walsh Annex, and Hirschfield Towers - 359 units. DHA spent twenty million dollars to upgrade energy efficiency for an annual savings of \$1.8 million. DHA continues to put capital investment in existing facilities including \$73 million in 2008. Their homeownership program has enabled 123 families to purchase homes. DHA has a Youth Development and Employment program and their Opportunity Centers offer employment track, homeownership track, and other services.

New emphasis will be placed on developing the West Light Rail corridor.

Mr. Geurrero took questions from the membership.

<u>Question</u>: Does DHA have a program to educate low-income homebuyers on how to maintain property?

<u>Answer</u>: Yes but we can do more. Go to www.denverhousing.org to learn more.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Executive Meeting Recap Larry Ambrose

The meeting was called to order by Karen Cuthbertson on November 11th, 7:04 p.m., at 1201 Williams Street. Other Executive Committee members present were Larry Ambrose, Paul Bennington, Katie Fisher, Steve Nissen, Anthony Thomas, Don Tressler, and Brad Zeig. Also present was Zoning and Planning Committee Chair Mike Henry,

A motion to approve the amended minutes of the October 13th and August 11th meetings was made and seconded. The motion passed by acclamation. The amended August minutes will be available on the INC website.

The treasurer's reports for September and October were presented. The ending balance for all accounts was \$12,605.26 in September and \$13,475.53 in October. The Treasurer has amended the treasurer's report to reflect the inventory of books on hand for the Dollar Dictionary Drive. Motions were made and seconded to approve the September and October treasurer's

reports. The motions were passed by acclamation. Karen pointed out we have received several hundred dollars from the web site "Network for Good."

Education – Karen expressed concern that DPS has moved forward unilaterally on a myriad of issues without the involvement of INC, neighborhood residents, or general public involvement. Karen will ask Education Committee Chair Billie Bramhall if she would like to go back to the Delegation and ask for more help to address some of these issues.

Membership – No report.

Newsletter – No report.

Transportation – No report.

Public Safety – Anthony reported that the High Activity Location Observation (HALO) surveillance cameras left over from the DNC are being made available in neighborhoods. It may be possible to request specific locations for placement by contacting the local Districts. Karen will get the official requirements from the DPD and put information in next newsletter.

Zoning and Planning – Mike was pleased that the motions placed before the general membership were passed. Mike wants to be sure that citizen involvement in the planning process moves forward. The Mayor promised INC at their May meeting that he would facilitate moving consideration of INC's proposed process improvements through all affected City departments. Karen will schedule the follow-up meeting with the Mayor to make that happen. Terry Ware, from the City Housing Office, will come to the ZAP Committee with the Housing Plan. Karen attended the meeting of the Strategic Parking Plan and reported that there was little opportunity for real public input. The Strategic Transportation Plan has come out but not many INC Delegates have had time to analyze its outcome.

Steve reported that the Dollar Dictionary is looking to find funding/grant sources. The Anschutz Family Foundation is one possibility. Karen will write a grant request to the Ben & Jerry's Foundation. Mike suggested that a holiday-season mailing be put together asking for donations. Steve indicated now is the time that the brochure is put together. Steve has solicited DU students to do graphics for a new brochure. Karen suggested that the membership be asked for volunteers to help do the graphics for a new brochure. In the mean time, Steve will ask INC's current vendor, Signal Graphics, to send Karen the original source file so that she might be able to edit/update the artwork for the brochure.

Larry and Katie announced the Parks and Recreation Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 12th at 5:15 p.m. to work on a mission statement and to talk about priorities for the next year.

Karen will make the issues-survey part of the Presidents Dinner. The Presidents Dinner Committee members Rebecca Caldwell, Su Morrison, and Kathleen Reilly reported through Karen that the Dinner would again be held at the DoubleTree Hotel at 32nd Avenue and Quebec Street. The tentative date is Thursday, January 29, 2009. They are looking at program possi-

Data Corrections

Keep INC informed of changes in your organization's president and delegates. Notify the membership chair at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net.

Organizations and persons not affiliated with INC should also communicate their desire to obtain this newsletter or submit address changes to the editor at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net.

bilities including a comedian; Larry suggested a speaker from one of the newspapers. Paul brought up the name of Mary Chandler, the architectural writer for the Rocky Mountain News. He will contact her to see if she will speak.

New business: Heather, Mike, and Karen will be meeting to discuss INC's future involvement in the Mayor's Neighborhood Conference.

Don suggested having a disclaimer sign at the literature table noting that opinions expressed in displayed literature were not necessarily those of INC. It was the consensus of the Committee that such a sign is unnecessary.

Don raised the issue of overlapping RNO boundaries. A discussion led to the conclusion that RNOs are bound to overlap in some situations and that the motion passed at the Delegates meeting encouraging the City to enforce current regulations; this would help to eliminate illegitimate organizations. EC members noted that it was every resident's right to advocate for their neighborhood needs and that grass-roots advocacy was fundamental to the governance process. It was agreed that INC would not do anything to restrict this right.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Zoning and Planning By Diana Helper

The INC Zoning and Planning (ZAP) committee met November 22nd. Note was taken of several meetings of interest including the December 6th, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., "Neighborhood Vital Signs" at Manual High School; the December 10th, 4:00 p.m., Zoning Code Task Force meeting at the Webb Building; the December 15th, 5:30 p.m., City Council hearing on the proposed West Washington Park zoning changes; and the February 11th Zoning Code Task Force meeting. There was brief discussion about the Zoning Code website.

Comments from ZAP focused on careful reading of Blueprint Denver to check out statements about one's own neighborhood, right zoning, transparency (especially in Denver Public Schools matters), public right-of-way concerns, effectively distributing information to neighbors, keeping neighborhood meeting discussions civil and productive, educating homeowners about their zoning, emphasizing Greenprint initiatives, requesting public input on required 5-percent City department budgetcutting, notification where there are overlapping neighborhood groups, and restaurant-patio applications.

Marge Gilbert was applauded as one of the 150 citizens named to celebrate Denver's 150th anniversary. There are many INC-related names on this list.

Terry Ware, Director of Business and Housing for the Office of Economic Development (OED), spoke on the current draft of "Building Denver's Future" (Denver Housing Plan) by a 40-person task force. This document is on line on the OED website. Mr. Ware discussed foreclosures, affordable housing, work with Transit Oriented Development, and goals. It was pointed out by ZAP's Charlotte Winzenberg that consideration of Blueprint Denver is not mentioned in this document; Mr. Ware immediately added it.

City Council President Jeanne Robb spoke on revisions to the Neighborhood Registration Form, to be completed before a neighborhood may be considered registered with the City. Changes are being made thanks to Councilwoman Robb who saw an early copy of the INC proposal for this improvement. She and Heather Barry of the Mayor's Office have added a group of questions, based on the present ordinance, for every recipient to answer. These new registration forms will be sent to neighborhood groups by Julius Zsako this month.

Tom Hoaglund of Community Planning and Development (CPD) and co-manager of the Strategic Parking Plan spoke about the status of this plan. The next meeting, to present best management practices, will be in late January. Topics include on-street parking, business requirements, private lot operators, coordination with transit station areas, pricing and availability of parking, meters and permit-parking, and implementation of regulations. Karen Cuthbertson asked that bicycle parking and lockers are included. Coordination with the City's Bike, Pedestrian, and Strategic Transportation Plans also is part of this study by CPD, Public Works, and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Aaron Miripol of the Urban Land Conservancy spoke on this group's work with communities and city agencies, as well as "Strengthening Needs." He discussed preservation and development of community assets done by the ULC such as the Tennyson Center for Children, Phillips Center (former tramway facility) with four educational groups covering all ages, and low-income residential sites.

The meeting concluded with an affirmative vote to forward a motion on Affordable Housing to INC members for their approval and submission to appropriate persons. The motion will be printed in the January newsletter.

The next ZAP meeting will be January 24, 2009.

Dollar Dictionary Drive

On Saturday, November 22nd, INC joined other non-profits and provided two volunteers to help with ticket sales at Macy's Cherry Creek Store for their Community Shopping Day event. Mary Walsh and Steve Nissen greeted and sold tickets to hundreds of shoppers as they entered the store. This event offers non-profits an opportunity to earn money for their respective organizations and is a great project of "reaching out to the community" by Macy's. Shoppers earn special discounts with the purchase of a ticket as well as a chance to win a \$500.00 shopping spree.

Our sales of Macy's tickets has helped boost our efforts to meet our budget shortfall for 2008. We are still in the red for this year and could use help from anyone during this holiday 'giving' season. If anyone has grant writing expertise, we could certainly use your help as we finish out this year and begin our 14th year of providing dictionaries and thesauruses to Denver third-graders. Please contact pennissen@cs.com (Steve Nissen).

As always, any donation is tax deductible and can be mailed to: Dollar Dictionary Drive, P.O. Box 18347, Denver, CO 80218 or can be made on line at, www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc. Click on Dictionary Committee icon.



*Chair*Karen Cuthbertson

Vice Chair
Paul Benington

Treasurer Steve Nissen

Recording Secretary
Larry Ambrose

Membership Secretary
Ken Beaudrie

Delegates At-Large
Katie Fisher
Anthony Thomas
Don Tressler
Penelope Zeller
Bradley Zieg

Denver Neighborhoods Working Together

Celebrating 30 Years of Service 1978 – 2008 October 5, 2008

Mayor John Hickenlooper **VIA EMAIL**

Dear Mayor Hickenlooper,

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation is very supportive of efforts to preserve and restore Civic Center Park and, in that regard, believes that the Civic Center Design Guidelines (Guidelines) are mostly well thought out and protective of the existing historic elements of the Park. Nevertheless, there are aspects of the draft Guidelines that the INC membership believe need improvement:

- 1. The most significant change that INC feels is needed regarding the draft Guidelines is to clarify that the Guidelines do NOT provide for an enclosed structure in the southwest quadrant of the Park; that is, the location for what is now referred to as the "South Garden." In particular, the graphics strongly suggest a possible structure and the text of the draft Guidelines does nothing to counter that suggestion. While City staff have repeatedly stressed in their public presentations concerning the Guidelines that a structure is not envisioned, that position needs to be recognized in the actual Guidelines themselves.
- The draft Guidelines should reference open space as a guiding principle. In that regard, not only are north/south and east/ west views important for the integrity of the Park but diagonal views are also important and should be referenced and preserved by the Guidelines.
- 3. The proposed cover for the Greek Theater is not in the Master Plan; therefore, its inclusion in the Guidelines is inappropriate and should be deleted.
- 4. While the Guidelines depict and protect trees on the east side of Civic Center Park, the existing trees on the west side are omitted from the Guideline graphics and are not otherwise recognized and protected. This omission should be corrected so that all of the existing trees are included in the Guidelines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Cuthbertson

Chair, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

CC: Kevin Patterson
City Council Members



November 24, 2008

To: Mr. Peter Park

Mr. Tyler Gibbs Ms. Caryn Wenzara

VIA EMAIL

Lady and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation voted on November 8, 2008 by a vote of 22 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions to support the following motion:

The Denver Design District (bounded by Alameda to the north, Broadway to the east, I-25 to the south, and the rail system to the west) is currently developing a General Development Plan (GDP) and Design Guidelines for consideration by the Denver Planning Board in conjunction with future TMU-30 rezoning.

The April 18, 2008 submission by the applicant to the Denver Community Planning and Development Department (CPD) asks for 1) a 15-year property vesting schedule, and 2) a large percentage of the required Open Space to be on public sidewalks and traffic intersections. INC should communicate to CPD and the Denver Planning Board that it opposes both of these elements because they would set a dangerous precedent and urges that they not be approved.

- A. INC urges CPD and the Planning Board to require Open Space be defined in keeping with its original intent, as calm gathering places, meant for relaxation and neighborly conversations. Open Space should not include space for vehicular traffic, traffic intersections, or public sidewalks. Additionally, Open Space should not be counted on property where the owner does not own the property.
- **B. INC opposes extending property vesting rights** beyond the 3-year period allowed by the Denver zoning code and state law.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Executive CommitteeMembers

Chair Karen Cuthbertson

Vice Chair
Paul Benington

Treasurer Steve Nissen

Recording Secretary
Larry Ambrose

Membership Secretary
Ken Beaudrie

Delegates At-Large
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Anthony Thomas
Don Tressler
Penelope Zeller
Bradley Zieg

Denver Neighborhoods Working Together

Celebrating 30 Years of Service 1978 – 2008

Karen Cuthbertson

Chair, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

CC: Kevin Patterson, Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, City Council Members, Athmar Park Neighborhood Association, Baker Historic Neighborhood Association, Overland Park Neighborhood Association, Platt Park People's Association, Platt Park People's Coalition, West Washington Park Neighborhood Association



Chair Karen Cuthbertson

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Treasurer Steve Nissen

Recording Secretary Larry Ambrose

Membership Secretary Ken Beaudrie

Delegates At-Large Katie Fisher **Anthony Thomas** Don Tressler Penelope Zeller **Bradley Zieg**

Denver Neighborhoods Working Together

Celebrating 30 Years of Service 1978 - 2008

November 24, 2008

To: Mr. Bill Vidal

> Mr. Peter Park Mr. Kevin Patterson

VIA EMAIL

Gentlemen:

The Delegation of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation voted on November 8, 2008 to adopt the following motion by a vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. We would like to arrange a meeting to discuss this issue with all of you together, since this will obviously require collaboration among all of your departments. We have photographs to show you which will illustrate the ugly and dangerous conditions described below.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation believes that the quality of life for Denver neighbors, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists is diminished by allowing unattractive and/or unsafe conditions in public rights-of-way, particularly including in the areas between street curbs and private property lines. Although these areas, including sidewalks and tree lawns, are regulated to a minor extent by the Denver Community Planning and Development Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department, they are primarily regulated by the Public Works Department. Regulation by the Public Works Department does not appear to consider such issues as the:

- a) Unattractiveness and safety hazards of allowing large or sharp rocks in tree lawns;
- b) Replacement of vegetation with concrete or gravel in tree lawns; or,
- c) Unattractiveness of large graffiti-attracting utility boxes permitted in tree lawns in residential neighborhoods.

INC strongly encourages the Public Works Department, the Community Planning and Development Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department to collaborate with themselves and with registered neighborhood organizations to improve their regulations and enforcement mechanisms, coordination between departments, and clarity for the public about who enforces what. The purpose of such efforts will be to improve the attractiveness, safety, pedestrian-friendliness, and bicyclefriendliness of the public rights-of-way; goals that are supported by Denver's Comprehensive Plan 2000, Blueprint Denver, Pedestrian Master Plan, Greenprint Denver, and the Strategic Transportation Plan. Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Cuthbertson

Chair, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

CC: Mayor John Hickenlooper, City Council Members, Heather Barry



*Chair*Karen Cuthbertson

Vice Chair
Paul Benington

Treasurer Steve Nissen

Recording Secretary
Larry Ambrose

Membership Secretary
Ken Beaudrie

Delegates At-Large
Katie Fisher
Anthony Thomas
Don Tressler
Penelope Zeller
Bradley Zieg

Denver Neighborhoods Working Together

Celebrating 30 Years of Service 1978 – 2008 October 20, 2008

Mayor John Hickenlooper

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Hickenlooper,

At the September 13, 2008 Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) Delegates' Meeting, the **Delegates voted that a letter** on their behalf be written by the INC Parks and Recreation Committee **to Mayor Hickenlooper and all members of City Council in support of the Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan**. The INC Parks and Recreation Committee met October 14, 2008 to draft this letter. Susan Baird, Natural Resources Planner with the Department of Parks and Recreation, was present at both of these informative meetings. INC Delegates represent over eighty Registered Neighborhood Organizations throughout Denver.

The INC Parks and Recreation Committee adopted the following **special recommendations** regarding the Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan:

- **Denver should own and manage** the current system of **Mountain** Parks <u>in perpetuity</u>.
- The City of Denver should steward the management and operation of Denver Mountain Parks in a manner that enhances and promotes their use for its own citizens and for the widest possible constituency.
- City of Denver funding of Denver Mountain Parks is key to their preservation, improvement, beauty, and usefulness.
- The City of Denver should view capital and operational funding of Mountain Parks as an investment that will return economic, cultural, social, and environmental benefits in the future.
- Dedicate revenues accruing from the operation of Denver Mountain Parks – in part or in whole – to their operation, maintenance, and improvement.
- Consider regional funding for Denver Mountain Parks, as well as Mountain Parks of other jurisdictions, as a future possibility.

The General Membership of the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation urges the Denver City Council to adopt and embrace the Denver Mountain Parks Master Plan and the earliest possible implementation of the Plan's recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Cuthbertson

Chair, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

CC: Kevin Patterson, Susan Baird, Denver City Council Members, Vince Carroll, Mary V. Chandler, JoAnn Ditmer



Chair
Karen Cuthbertson

Vice Chair
Paul Benington

Treasurer Steve Nissen

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Denver Neighborhoods Working Together

Celebrating 30 Years of Service 1978 – 2008 November 11, 2008

To: Members of the Neighborhood, Community, and Business Revitalization Committee

Via email

Dear NCBR Members.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation should communicate to City Council that INC has not voted either to support or oppose the proposed ordinance; however it believes that the ordinance should be improved, particularly to ensure that owners of residential properties have a fair opportunity to participate and that registered neighborhood organizations (RNOs) receive notice of proposed CIDs. INC recommends that the ordinance should be amended as follows:

- INC is deeply concerned that the CID ordinance should not lead to a
 situation where certain neighborhoods have their basic city services reduced while other neighborhoods that choose to, and can afford to, tax
 themselves can maintain or increase basic services. This should be emphasized in the ordinance.
- INC strongly objects to the second clause of section 20 -202(a) –
 "or in the alternative, the Manager, without receiving a petition therefore,
 may, as Manager, initiate and propose the establishment of such a dis trict." This clause completely removes any assurance that a district
 will not be imposed without the petitions of at last half of the
 owners.
- In Section 20 -202(b)(3), INC recommends clarifying that "commercial properties" do not include residential apartments or condos for rent.
- INC objects to the paragraph below 20 -202(b)(9) that prohibits a petition-signer from withdrawing from a petition. A signer should have the right to change his or her mind, particularly if the signer relied on information that was misleading.
- INC recommends that, if there are both residential and commercial properties in a district, the members of the Board should be proportional to the breakdown of residential and commercial properties.
- INC recommends that there should be an additional way for a person to be nominated to serve on a board instead of only "from a slate of nominees submitted to the mayor by the Board (20-205(b)," such as a nominating petition from a certain percentage of property-owners or a self-nomination (like most other seats on boards and commissions). Otherwise, a CID Board could be self-perpetuating.

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November 11, 2008

INC Recommendations for CID Improvements

• INC strongly recommends that, if a petition is submitted to the Manager, he or she should be required to notify RNOs that encompass any of the land in question and to provide the date of the City Council hearing and the opportunity to comment to the RNOs. Ideally, anyone wishing to initiate a petition for a CID would communicate with the RNOs, but that should not be presumed. It should also be required that anyone initiating a petition to establish a CID should be required to provide a copy to the RNOs within 5 days of beginning to circulate a petition.

Thank you for your consideration,

Konen Cuthber

Karen Cuthbertson

Chair – Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, Inc.

CC: Denver City Council Members

Congratulations on the INC / Neighborhood Advocates Who Made the "Denver 150" List!

If you have not read the article about Denver's 150 Unsung Heroes (www.rockymountainnews.com/pages/news/special-reports/denver-150-capsules), please take a look. It is truly gratifying to see that so many folks who have spent countless volunteer hours advocating for neighborhood quality of life made the list! It is also very impressive that so many are INC members / former members! This speaks volumes about the ongoing efforts that INC spearheads or assists and of its members' determined mindset to guide policy decisions affecting neighborhoods. If any INC member is not acknowledged below, please accept the Chair's apologies for the oversight:

- Jerry Arca Downtown Denver Residents Organization
 - Gladys Bates Greater Park Hill Community
- Jan Marie Bell Ruby Hill Neighborhood Assoc, SouthWest Improvement Council
 - Jane Craft West Washington Park
 - Sandy Douglas Cole Neighborhood
 - Margaret Escamilla Globeville Civic Assoc
 - Amy Ford FAX Partnership, Lowry Community Master Assoc
 - Sarah Foster Ivy Street Neighborhood Assoc
 - Marge Gilbert Greater Park Hill Neighborhood
 - Paulette Hirsch Globeville Civic Assoc
- Sally Kurtzman Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods and Lowry United Neighbors
 - Randle Loeb Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods
 - Paddy McClelland Platt Park People's Assoc
 - Dana Miller Krisana Park
 - Dan Ridgeway College View Neighborhood Assoc
 - Dave Walstrom Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods
 - Bill West Curtis Park Neighbors
 - Roz Wheeler-Bell Greater Park Hill Community



November 24, 2008

To: Mayor John Hickenlooper

City Council Members

Ms. Kelly Brough

Mr. Peter Park Mr. Scott Robson Mr. Julius Zsako

Mr. Bill Vidal Mr. Kevin Patterson Mr. Terrance Ware Ms. Molly Urbina Ms. Crissy Fanganello Mr. Andre Pettigrew

Executive Committee Members

*Chair*Karen Cuthbertson

Vice Chair
Paul Benington

Treasurer Steve Nissen

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Denver Neighborhoods Working Together

Celebrating 30 Years of Service 1978 – 2008

VIA EMAIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ms. Heather Barry

Please be advised that the Delegation of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation voted 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention on November 8, 2008 to support the following position statement and to encourage all of you to work with INC to improve citizen involvement in planning in Denver. We believe that this would be an appropriate joint effort to celebrate Denver's 150th anniversary.

IMPROVING CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING IN DENVER In early 2008, the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) adopted priorities, which included, among others:

- 1. To advocate for the **improvement of the Neighborhood Registration and Notification Ordinance** and its implementation.
- 2. To advocate for standardization and improvement of processes for citizen involvement in planning in all city departments.

A subcommittee of ZAP met three times to discuss these issues and proposed the following to the INC delegation for approval on November 8, 2008 and transmission to the Mayor and City Council:

Introduction: Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC), a coalition of more than 100 Denver neighborhood organizations and Associate members, believes that Denver's registered neighborhood organizations (RNOs) should be more proactively and meaningfully involved in planning for the future of our neighborhoods and the entire city.

INC agrees with the American Planning Association's 1998 Policy Guide on Neighborhood Collaborative Planning, which indicates;

- "Neighborhoods should be recognized as building blocks of overall community development."
- "Citizen participation should be required in sufficient form and detail to ensure the broadest possible participation opportunity for the widest variety of residents and stakeholders."
- "Cities need to involve and educate elected and appointed officials and municipal employees about the importance of neighborhood plans and the planning process."

INC Recommendations for Public Participation Improvements in Denver Planning

INC believes that the city and RNOs will benefit from an improved, proactive, and meaningful involvement of citizens, including, but not limited to RNOs. The city and citizens working together is a win-win combination. Through-out the history of great cities, major accomplishments are the result of citizens working together with their city administration. Denver is the sum of its neighborhoods, which are the sum of the citizens who dwell there.

Citizens who would like to take part in discussion of public issues are unpaid volunteers, not represented by lobbyists or lawyers. **Grass-roots neighborhood representatives can contribute valuable perspective and knowledge to policy discussions** that professionals, experts, and city officials and staff often do not have.

In 1979, City Council, with help and urging from INC, passed the Neighborhood Registration and Notification Ordinance (NRNO), which extends official recognition to RNOs and requires notification of RNOs in advance of decisions being reached on matters affecting their neighborhoods. City Council encouraged neighborhood groups to conduct business in an organized, representative, and fair manner that is designed to obtain informed participation from as many neighborhood citizens as possible.

INC has a strong interest in maintaining and improving Denver's process of public participation in city issues, particularly those affecting neighborhoods. **INC encourages the Mayor and City Council and all city departments and agencies to establish and enforce high standards for welcoming and encouraging citizen awareness and participation**. Currently, some agencies are very neighborhood and citizen-friendly while others appear to have minimal interest in citizen involvement.

On the other hand, **RNOs need to communicate effectively with their members and be representative of their neighborhoods**. Today, there are over 210 RNOs in the city with a wide range in type, area, and representation. They include neighborhood associations, homeowners associations, historic districts, business associations, business improvement districts, historic districts, and organization coalitions. Areas represented range from one city block to a quadrant of the city. Some RNOs effectively communicate with their constituents about important issues and some do not.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To empower Denver to make the best use of help from its citizens and to empower citizens to work productively with the city, three elements are essential: **Accurate Registration** of neighborhood organizations with the city; timely **Notification** to RNOs by the city regarding city projects, proposals, and plans and **Participation** of citizens beginning at early stages of city projects, proposals and plans.

I. Registration—The city must have an accurate list of neighborhood organizations, including, as required by Section 12- 94 of the NRNO,: names and contact information of all current officers; time and place of meetings; the number of persons the organization represents; number of paid members, if any, and number of active participants; whether the organization publishes a newsletter and, if so, how frequently, number of copies and method of distribution; methods used to communicate with members and the neighborhood; the schedule for electing officers and other items the city may require. This information should be submitted at each annual

INC Recommendations for Public Participation Improvements in Denver Planning

registration (not just the initial registration) to help the public discern which organizations are actively and effectively representing their areas, and which may be "one-person groups" or with "one axe to grind". This information should be available to the public. INC urges the Community Planning and Development Department (CPD), which manages the registration process for RNOs, to implement this change of registration process immediately for the 2009 registration period and not to re-register groups that do not submit all such information annually. **No ordinance change is required** to implement this recommendation.

II. Notification—City ordinances and departmental processes have improved greatly over the years in their requirements of notification to RNOs, but a number of glitches remain in the system, and a number of additional items need to be added to the required-notification list. Also, the timeliness of notification needs improvement in a number of cases. Because RNOs do not meet more than once a month, at least 30 days' notice is needed. An RNO cannot develop a fair, informed, and representative opinion without adequate time and discussion.

INC recommends:

- 1. Amending the NRNO to place additional proposed actions in the list of required RNO notifications, including
 - a. New view plane ordinances and amendments to view plane ordinances;
 - b. Design review of historic landmarks and structures in landmark districts;
 - c. Closure of roads; and
 - d. Show-cause hearings for liquor and cabaret establishments.

This will require changes to the NRNO.

- Improving the notification system by using a central record source to determine RNOs for notification and developing an administration-wide policy regarding the use of email to notify RNOs.
- 3. Giving RNOs at least 30 days notice of proposed actions. Anything less than that does not give RNOs sufficient time to develop a response to notification. The Board of Adjustment Zoning and the Department of Excise and Licenses give 45 days' notice, which works very well. Unfortunately, CPD currently gives only 15 days' notice of rezoning applications. CPD should give RNOs at least 30 days' and preferably 45 days' notice of rezoning applications.
- 4. Amending the NRNO to spell out RNO roles and responsibilities, including:
 - a. Reviewing and recommending an action, policy, or plan to the city, council, mayor, and any city agency, commission, or board on any matter affecting the neighborhood.
 - b. Assisting city agencies in determining priority neighborhood needs.
 - c. Recommending budget items for neighborhood improvements.

INC Recommendations for Public Participation Improvements in Denver Planning

III. Participation—RNOs should receive early notice of any city plan or project proposal that will affect its area, in order to have time to consider and respond in the beginning stages. When RNOs learn of such plans and project proposals only after they are nearly completed, it appears as if citizens' participation is not going to be taken seriously. Excellent points neighbors may make, from their experience in the area in question, should have been included in the plan much sooner. To add them later is often difficult or impossible, resulting in a plan that could – and should – have been better.

The process of developing and implementing city plans and project proposals should be transparent and provide meaningful opportunities for citizen participation. Plans should also be compatible with other city plans affecting the same area. Most importantly, plans need to be implemented and the public, including RNOs, should receive reports on the implementation of plans and projects.

City plans include comprehensive plans, neighborhood plans, corridor plans, TOD plans:

- o Comprehensive plans should provide the framework for neighborhood plans.
- Where there are identifiable neighborhoods, comprehensive plans should reflect neighborhood plans.
- Neighborhood plans should support the broader needs of the community and region.

Where there are identifiable neighborhoods:

- o Neighborhood perspectives should be incorporated in decision-making and planning policies.
- o Neighborhoods should participate in the city's budget process to truly reflect neighborhood needs and interests.
- o Funding neighborhood priorities should be linked to local capital improvement plans, service area boundaries, community and human resource allocations, and other community resource strategies.

Members of RNOs should be included on city boards, commissions, task forces, and working groups regarding all matters that affect Denver neighborhoods and notices of vacancies on such groups should be sent to RNOs and other citizens.

Conclusion: INC member organizations and delegates stand ready to work with the City to implement these recommendations.

A great advantage is held by a city that works well and productively with its citizens. There is a feeling of confidence that the city is listening, and, when the city is listening, the citizens feel truly engaged in improving the city. With the positive approach and earnest effort of both city and citizens, the city and its citizens are winners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Konen Cuthban

Karen Cuthbertson

Chair, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

CC: Paul Kashmann, Rory Seeber, Daniel Chacon, Chris Osher, Joshua Cole, Gertie Grant

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

2009 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood representatives who believe that neighborhood organizations deserve a greater participation in city government and possess a shared vision that individual neighborhoods are stronger when they work together and learn from one another. To join as a member neighborhood organization, the organization must be registered with the city as a Registered Neighborhood Organization. Log on to Denvergov.org for details. The names of Patron members and associates are listed in bold in our newsletter.



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Organization Address:			
Agent's Name:			
Address:			
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Send newsletter via: E-mail [] U.S	S. Mail [] De	on't want n	iewsletter []

Bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

PO Box 181009

Denver, CO 80218-1009

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

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