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Mayor Michael Hancock | Members of the City Council
City and County Building
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Subject: **Denveright Documents**

Dear Friends:

Now retired from office, I am proud to be serving in the highest calling we have in our democracy and society – that of citizen. It is in that capacity that I transmit my comments.

With lots of reading time on my hands, I have had the opportunity to review both the draft Denveright Comprehensive Plan and the Denveright Blueprint documents. I plan to review the additional documents released before the end of the comment period. It is a challenging amount of material to read and review.

Blueprint Denver plan was crafted after I left City Council and in the Auditor's Office. But I recall its primary purpose was to further articulate the Comprehensive Plan that had been recently updated. While creating a supplemental document made sense in the early 2000s, I would ask that you consider whether having two very parallel documents continues to make sense. Releasing the Blueprint Plan revision and the Comprehensive Plan update at the same time demonstrates that as currently drafted the two plans have significant overlap, duplication, and redundancy which results in confusion for the average citizen. Citizen Gertie Grant, legendary neighborhood activist, at the recent Design Review Meeting at Loretto Heights voiced these frustrations trying to read and understand all the different strands of this process.

I recommend one of two courses of action at this time:

- (1) Merge the documents into one planning document that brings together the six elements of the Comprehensive Plan with the six parallel sections of Blueprint. Incorporate all goals, objectives, and strategies into a single document.
- (2) Alternatively, create two documents that are more distinct companion plans. Bring all goals and policies into the Comprehensive Plan, and have Blueprint be the companion action plan with the implementation strategies all in one volume. (I believe this approach would recapture the original intent of the Blueprint process.)

I hope you consider revising the comment period to allow for fuller citizen engagement and review. To that end I ask that the comment period for the two general documents – **Denveright Comprehensive Plan 2040 and Denveright Blueprint Denver** – be extended until February 1, 2019.

I would then ask that following revisions to those two plans, and their subsequent review and consideration by City Council, that the second review period take place for the other three documents – ***Denver Moves Transit, Denver Moves Pedestrian, and Game Plan*** – later in 2019. Such a sequenced approach is more citizen-centric, allows for more focused engagement, and extends public participation. This will improve transparency and understandability and readability as encouraged by Association of Government Accountants, see Citizen Centric Reporting.

At this time, I would also like to comment on the very large number of strategies offered in these two plan documents. The Denveright Comprehensive Plan has 166 implementation strategies. The Blueprint plan has 196 implementation strategies. So I have five requests.

- Connect to the Capital Planning Process. The draft Denveright documents do not connect the 362 strategies to the City's capital improvement program. Please let citizens know the responsible agency or department for each strategy. In addition, please explain any interagency or organizational cooperation anticipated with implementing each of the strategies. Also address the timeframe for which each strategy is to be worked on and completed.
- Connect to the Annual Budgeting Process. The draft Denveright documents do not address the relationship of their combined 362 strategies to the City's annual budgeting process. Let citizens know how the many strategies are to be prioritized and incorporated into the City's budget. Identification of Funding Sources. The draft Denveright documents do not address how the 362 strategies are to be funded. Please let the citizens of Denver know specific information on how the City intends to fund each of the strategies.
- Indicators and Targets. Both the Denveright Comprehensive Plan 2040 and Denveright Blueprint Denver include information on establishing indicators for measuring progress on desired outcomes for a selected number of topics. However, there appears to be a disconnect from the material presented on indicators and measures from the 362 specific strategies. Please include benchmarks and metrics for each strategy. Similarly, let the citizens know the process for evaluating and reporting on progress for implementing each of the 362 strategies.
- Reassessment. The draft Denveright documents do not include direction for reassessing or reevaluating any of the strategies that are presented. Please let the citizens know a reassessment strategy – with specific steps – for reevaluating and revising strategies in the two plans.

I close with this quote: *A great city is not to be confounded with a populous one.* Aristotle (384-322 BCE)

Respectfully Submitted, I look forward to your responses.

Dennis Gallagher

Citizen of the City and County of Denver and State of Colorado