



THE HONORABLE  
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*City and County of Denver*  
CITY COUNCIL

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Dear Far Southwest Denver Community,

I am pleased to present to you the Far Southwest Area Plan, and happy to give it my endorsement.

It is within the lifetimes of many of us who call Far Southwest Denver home that most of this land still consisted of ranches, farms and dairies. Except for the industrial area along the South Platte River, all of Far Southwest came into the City and County of Denver from Arapahoe and Jefferson counties in the post-World War II years.

Over the decades from the Fifties to today, the suburban-style neighborhoods that sprouted across those open rolling hills have defined our lifestyle – single-family subdivisions here, small-scale multi-family townhomes and condos there, each next to large affordable apartment complexes, up the street from a variety of commercial office, medical services, retail stores and restaurants.

That suburban context is broadly defined in the citywide Blueprint Denver land use and transportation plan of 2019, but there has never been a specific neighborhood-level plan for Far Southwest Denver. Until now. The Far Southwest Area Plan builds on Blueprint Denver's high-level general guidance with a specific vision and direction for our diverse neighborhoods. The pieces that make up this plan were contributed by the community at large. It started with the kickoff meeting in August 2024 when 250 of you showed up to tell us what you liked, what you thought could be improved, and what needed to change. It continued through advisory committee meetings, neighborhood gatherings, public events, online and paper surveys, and your comments on the first and second drafts of this plan.

As a result, you will see your voices and your vision clearly represented within these pages, in the policies that will inform decisions on growth and change here for the next 20 years. A growing city requires that all parts absorb their planned share. This document will help guide the path so we can sustain the character that either invited or keeps us here, while welcoming the changes this plan anticipates. In Far Southwest Denver, housing costs remain among the most affordable in the city, and this plan will set a course for intentional growth with development that respects and maintains the rich characters of our different neighborhoods.

The team at Denver's Department of Community Planning and Development exceeded my expectations over the year and a half of work that went into this plan. In my frequent visits to places around our council district, I often saw them setting up informational tables at events, presenting to all of our Registered Neighborhood Organizations, or doing pop-up events at our parks or rec centers. I was impressed with their deep listening, and pleased with how they took your input and wove it into a plan that provides sound policies and recommendations.

But I want to single out the work of Bryan Botello and Abner Ramos, CPD's project manager and assistant project manager respectively. They were constantly on-task, responsive and helpful with me and community members. In addition, the 17-member Community Advisory Committee gave us a diverse set of perspectives as a sounding board for evolving plan policies. Finally, a special portion of my gratitude is reserved for my staff aides, Stacy Simonet and Dana Montaño, who devoted a significant share of their work hours to facilitate the public engagement and input. They do great work for southwest Denver.

Sincerely,

Kevin Flynn