

Resolution Supporting The Continued Protection of The Park Hill Golf Course Land Conservation Easement

The Democratic Party of Denver Central Committee Meeting, January 25, 2020

WHEREAS The Platform of The Democratic Party of Denver states in its opening paragraph that *“We stand for individual freedom and **the needs of the community**. We believe government should **serve all the people**. We believe **the economy should be democratically owned and controlled in order to serve the needs of the many, not to make profits for the few**”*; and

WHEREAS The Platform of The Democratic Party of Denver goes on to say that “We must **protect land, water and air** as we manage growth and modernize our transportation and energy infrastructure. We must conserve limited water resources and **expand and preserve Denver’s parks, wetlands and green and open spaces;**” and

WHEREAS the Platform of The Colorado Democratic Party states in its values-centered preamble that “Colorado is beautiful. And we want to keep it that way. Our economy and health depend on it. **The health of our land, air, and water--and the health of future generations--cannot be bought and sold;**” and

WHEREAS The Platform of The Colorado Democratic Party goes on, in its section on Environment, to say that

- “Our local, state, and national leaders must manage growth, pollution, and the extraction of natural resources while **providing for the long term protection of our people, our communities, and our environment over and above the interests of short term needs and profits.**”
- that “**we oppose selling public lands outright** or leasing them at minimal rates, **except for the purpose of conservation** or protection of ecology, habitat, and contained species;”
- that “**We support public and private efforts to conserve and preserve land through open space programs;** we support coordinated regional and state control of growth and open space acquisition;”
- and that “We call for **expanding and strengthening local and state conservation easement programs;**” and

WHEREAS the 155-acre Park Hill Golf Course (PHGC) land is zoned Open Space-Recreation (OS-B) and **since 1997 it has been protected by the perpetual open space conservation easement that Denver taxpayers paid \$2 million for** under the Webb administration; and

WHEREAS the land was purchased in July, 2019 by Westside Investments (WI) at **well over the market value for land designated as open space** but **well under the market value for land to be developed;** and

WHEREAS WI is reportedly **working to find a way to remove the conservation easement from the land;** and

WHEREAS Denver voters **overwhelming supported Referred Measure 2A on the ballot in 2018** to provide \$45.94 million to **acquire additional land for parks, trails, and open space** and to improve and maintain new and existing parks, trails, and open space in Denver; and

WHEREAS the 155-acre PHGC land is **the largest remaining undeveloped tract that potentially could be available to fill the park shortages in Denver;** and

WHEREAS **eight of the nine City Council members elected in 2019** who responded to a survey about the PHGC land during the 2019 campaigns **publicly supported protecting the PHGC land conservation easement;**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, The Central Committee of The Democratic Party of Denver, **call for Denver City Council’s continued protection of the perpetual open space conservation easement** for the Park Hill Golf Course land **and oppose any effort to remove the conservation easement from the land.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that **a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the members of Denver’s City Council** and to a comprehensive list of Denver media outlets.