



THE HONORABLE

Amanda P. Sandoval
COUNCILWOMAN DISTRICT 1

City and County of Denver
CITY COUNCIL

City and County Building
1437 Bannock Street, Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Chaffee Park, Sunnyside, Highland, and Jefferson Park community members,

The Near Northwest Neighborhood Plan details a vision of a vibrant, thriving North Denver community that respects and honors the past while accommodating the inevitable changes that are part of our history and future. Consistent with my work as your Denver City Councilmember, this vision not only addresses immediate concerns but also takes into consideration the next seven generations. The Plan's guiding principles are driven by community input to preserve or improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, prioritize preventing displacement of people and cultures, and support legacy businesses intrinsic to a resilient community.

By prioritizing preservation, the Near Northwest Neighborhood Plan seeks to minimize the loss of both the people and places that are essential to our community. Among the recommendations are the creation of a preservation bonus policy, incentivizing adaptive reuse, and preservation opportunities included in the Nuestras Historias context study, and the Discover Denver surveys of Jefferson Park and Sunnyside neighborhoods. The Plan also recommends support for Discover Denver surveys of Chaffee Park and Highland neighborhoods. If recommendations are followed and codified, increases in market-rate housing will coincide with preserving or increasing housing that is affordable to incomes below the area median income and reduce involuntary displacement due to demolition and lack of options.

The Near Northwest Neighborhood Plan also makes recommendations for new parkland and recreation improvements that seek to enhance our quality of life. It documents the community's desire for expanded amenities and programming at Aztlan Recreation Center. The Plan also recommends a new recreation center at Zuni Park, potentially incorporating community services such as a library.

One of the most distinctive additions to the Plan is the inclusion of support for legacy businesses. Legacy businesses are the foundation of the Near Northwest Area's history and culture. Investments in these historical and cultural institutions will ensure they continue to support the vitality of our community.

I am proud to support the Near Northwest Plan, as it reflects the care and passion that our community shares for the future of our neighborhoods. However, and I cannot over-emphasize this point, *the realization of the Plan hinges on the implementation of its recommendations by the City*. I am grateful to all who have participated in the process, thank you for your time and input. I look forward to your involvement in ensuring our recommendations become reality.

In Solidarity,

Amanda P. Sandoval

Council President Pro-Tem Amanda P. Sandoval
City & County of Denver, District 1