From:	Kristen Van Valkenburg <kristenvanvalk@gmail.com>
Sent:	Monday, April 04, 2022 3:41 PM
To:	Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject:	Support for Buffalo Highlands Oasis Project

Hello,

My name is Kristen Van Valkenburg and I am a homeowner in the Buffalo Highlands neighborhood of Commerce City. I am writing to express my overwhelming support and hope of approval of the Buffalo Highlands Oasis Project being voted on tonight at the city council meeting.

To begin, so many hardworking homeowners have been moving to make this park possible in our neighborhood, a park we were promised by our home builder. We are deeply grateful for this, and grateful for the city council looking to help in the effort.

I'd like to share some of my experience in how having a local park affected my childhood. I had a park walking distance from my childhood home. As a young child my parents frequently packed the family up for park visits, an easy and free family bonding activity. As I grew older, our neighborhood park was one of the first places I was allowed to visit without direct supervision. The neighborhood park offered a safe environment for me to learn to make smart choices on my own as a young adult, while sampling out independence. I hope my future children will get to have these same experiences.

I am afraid without a local park that property values will decrease, homeowner retention will be difficult, and there will not be a safe place for neighborhood children to play. This will result in children finding other more dangerous places to play like the drainage area west of our neighborhood, the open lots filled with construction adjacent to our neighborhood, or in the vehicle-filled streets.

I cannot express enough my support for the city counsel to vote to help build a park in the buffalo highlands neighborhood. If this is received in time, I am fine with these comments being expressed in the meeting on my behalf.

Thanks,
Kristen Van Valkenburg
9555 Quintero St.
Buffalo Highlands