

Monday, March 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to bring awareness to the constant accidents on the stretch of Highway 85 between 104th Avenue and c-470.

I've been a homeowner in the River Oaks neighborhood since 2014 and have witnessed numerous automotive accidents along this stretch of highway 85, more recently with the 4 young lives lost due to somebody running a red light at Highway 85 and 112th avenue. Not but a week later, another accident happened at that very intersection. Thankfully nobody was hurt. . . that time. I also personally know somebody that died at that intersection more than 10 years ago. I don't know what the solution is, but it's a serious issue and with all the new development and housing in the area and this stretch being one of the very few ways out of the city, it needs to be finally addressed.

Can we set up red light cameras? More policing? Lower the speed limit until you get out into Brighton? I'm not sure. Whose life needs to be taken too soon before somebody does something about it?

In conjunction with the above, I wanted to raise the issue of the trains blocking the intersections at 104th, 112th, and 120th. There was a train blocking the intersection the night that those 4 teenagers lost their lives at the intersection of Highway 85 and 112th Avenue. Could they have been saved if the fire fighters from the South Adams County Fire Station Number 7 were able to reach them sooner? According to *Google*, the fire house is a 1-minute drive (.7 miles away) or if the train is blocking the intersection 7 minutes (3.2 miles) if they have to turn north bound on Havana.

Source:

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/East+112th+Avenue+%26+Lima+Street,+Commerce+City,+CO/39.8997476,-104.8683764/@39.9031976,-104.8758262,15z/data=!4m15!4m14!1m10!1m1!1s0x876c71e638f052b1:0x4bde8d7e2b6303f7!2m2!1d-104.8557546!2d39.8997032!3m4!1m2!1d-104.8573582!2d39.9138768!3s0x876c71f77073a989:0xd05715f3092cde77!1m0!3e0!4e1>

Thank you,



Stephanie Tafoya
Homeowner and residence in
Commerce City / Henderson in the
River Oaks Subdivision

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Shawn Raglin <pilotshawn7@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 5:26 PM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Meeting comment: Traffic problems
Attachments: Buckley Rd southbound to 120th.jpg

Hello,

I wanted to comment on local traffic conditions and voice my concern about adding more housing before road infrastructure is in place.

I know the council approved the construction of new homes to move forward on 112th and Chambers. I am all for expanding Commerce City. I enjoy living here.

However, I am not sure that just looking at that intersection and Chambers road show the whole picture of the current situation with traffic and overcrowded roads. I am all for adding homes AND roads. I want to help prevent the traffic and commute from getting so bad, that people start to move away.

I am attaching a photo, taken on Saturday afternoon, March 12 at 3:14pm. This photo was taken from 120th ave looking Northwest at the intersection of Buckley Rd and 120th. The line of cars are driving southbound on Buckley Rd towards 120th.

I counted about 30 cars backed up before I could not see any more cars because of the E470 tollway bridge. The light at 120th and Buckley Rd was operating normally. There were no accidents or stalled vehicles. The reason for the backup is the two lane road and lack of a right turn lane from Buckley Rd to 120th.

This road is a major access road to Prarie View shopping center from the Buffalo Run area. There are currently townhomes being constructed at that intersection as well, that will add to the overall congestion there.

I am sure I am not telling you anything you don't already know, but I wanted to voice my concerns and share a photo. 120th is a real chokepoint for getting out of the neighborhood, including the 120th and Chambers intersection.

Thank you!

Shawn



Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Rebecca Hudson <rlhudson56@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Buffalo Highlands Park - City Council Meeting 3/21/22

Good morning, my name is Rebecca Hudson I am not able to attend this meeting. So I am sending this email regarding the park that was promised to the residents from both Lennar and Meritage Homes we were told we would have a park. We moved in 2018 and that was a Big selling point for us and we bought into what they were selling.

As I have listened to City Council members and Mayor Huseman ask question regarding the 65 page report they received from Commerce City Staff and Jason Rogers. They were aware of the new plans that changed in 2013 and noticed the change NO PARK to pathway, etc. It didn't effect any of them in how they handled their job No questions or any concerns as to why? They were not moving into this neighborhood so things just continued to go as planned.

Some people who don't live in our neighborhood think we should just get over it, because it's only a park. That is not right because if you lived here you would understand why we feel like we were lied to and the issue is being swept under the rug with the City Staff and Jason Rogers.

City Council Member's and the Mayor Huseman please remember the residents of Commerce City voted you in and everyone will notice how you respond to this situation. You never know what can happen in someone else's neighborhood. The Commerce City Staff and Jason Rogers and who ever else have to be held accountable for there mistake.

Thank You and I look forward to hearing the results from this issue/problem.

Rebecca Hudson
Buffalo Highlands Resident

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Rebecca Hudson <rlhudson56@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 6:52 PM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Fwd: Buffalo Highland Park - City Council Meeting 3/21/22

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rebecca Hudson <rlhudson56@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 20, 2022 at 6:23 PM
Subject: Buffalo Highland Park - City Council Meeting 3/21/22
To:

Good morning my name is Rebecca Hudson and I have been a resident of Buffalo Highlands since 2018, we live in Phase 1. When we moved to this property we were told by Meritage that we were going to have a park right by the small roundabout end of 92nd, on the East side of Landmark St. there was extra parking space for future park.

I listened to the meeting that the City Council and Mayor Huseman had with Jason Rogers regarding the 65 page report he sent to everyone. City Staff and Jason Rogers knew of these changes that were occurring since 2013. So was it ok to allow the Builder to remove the Park from the plans and then only have 3% of space to be shared with the 650? on pathways, benches, etc. when they were all done? No one on the Staff or Jason Rogers asked as to why this was taken out of the plans or any concerns they may have had. It is sad that you sit in a position and sign off on things that you have No idea what the future holds and how it will affect residents who move into this area. If you don't live in the Buffalo Highlands community then it's not your problem and it doesn't affect you personally. This is a big issue and it should not have to be swept under the rug, like oh well we made a mistake we will look out next time. We drive around other areas such as ReUnion and Fronterra. They have parks in their communities, why should parents have to drive to another area to take their kids to the park to have fun, or have a picnic.

I want to thank Mayor Huseman, City Council Nobel and City Council Douglas for speaking up for our community. City Council members remember that Commerce City Residents elected you into your positions. They will also be listening and noticing what is going on. You never know when this situation/issue/problem can happen in the near future again, because of Neglect. You are allowing Lennar and Meritage to think it is ok to lie to the Homeowners and not hold up their promise. Meritage has already started building new houses on Phase 4, the longer you wait they will not care and close their ears.

City Staff and Jason Rogers should be held responsible for turning their heads and looking the other way and not asking questions to Lennar or Meritage.

We look forward to having a park in our community. Why do we need to wait for 5 plus years for the park off of 96th & Buckley to be built.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from the results/discussion regarding this problem/issue.

Rebecca Hudson

Buffalo Highlands Resident

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Bernadette Lopez-Swearengen <blopez@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 12:01 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Adams14 schools

I would like to start off by thanking you for your support. Working for the community of Adams 14 has been an honor to serve the students and their families. Parents that I have worked for have taken their child's education seriously that I have witnessed my students' excitement of learning and parents doing everything they can to help their child. I have been able to see my students striving to grow academically and socially through the years. Thank you. Bernadette Lopez Swearengen --

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Eileen Harder <eharder@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 7:14 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Adams 14 School District

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in support of Adams 14 taking on a new external partner so that the district still has guidance but is also able to remain in tact. It is critical that Commerce City has its own schools where students can build their relationships in the community, learn and grow and eventually give back in a natural cycle. Schools are the heart of any community and the district is making many positive and impactful changes so that it can provide the education that every child deserves.

Thank you for your time,

Eileen Harder
Adams 14 District

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Eileen Harder
Director of English Language Arts, Pre-K-12
Adams County School District 14
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Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Hilary Bryant <hkbryant@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:15 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Comments regarding Adams 14 School District

Good morning members of the City Council,

It is an honor to work for Adams 14 School District. I live in the Commerce City community since 1995 and have worked for Adams 14 since 1999. Our daughter attended Adams 14 schools from Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Adams 14 School District is a vital center of the Commerce City community. The District meets the needs of the families of our city. While I respect the attempts of the two unelected entities-- CDE and the State Board of Education officials-- to improve Adams 14 schools, it is my opinion that their methods are heavy-handed and their decisions are made without the slightest idea of the actual needs of the community and the District.

Since Adams 14 is the very first District to be "penalized" harshly for not meeting the State's standards I ask only that the State Board of Education and CDE not make Adams 14 a "scapegoat" or "example" to be held up as a means by which to threaten the rest of the Districts in the State.

Their decision to include the test results from the COVID year of remote learning (March 13, 2020 through March 2021) in their assessment of Adams 14 progress was imprudent and injudicious.

Their decision to force the District to partner with MGT and spend \$8 Million dollars (better spent on student learning) for NOTHING, for not one improvement in AYP, was questionable at best.

Why, we all asked, was their decision to make MGT our partner forced upon the District? There were other options. It seems as if politics and personal popularity played a role in their decision-making.

So much is at stake. Is it not wise or worthy of the State Board, whose actual understanding of the District and the Community is minimal and flawed, to give our new Adams 14 Superintendent and our dedicated Board of Education opportunity to keep working?

Please support Dr. Loria, the Adams 14 Board of Education (elected by the community) and the Adams 14 staff and stand with us as we educate our students

Thank you,

Hilary K Bryant

Federal Programs/Reporting

Adams County School District 14

Phone: 720-322-8143 | Fax: 303-289-3959

5291 East 60th Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022

hkbryant@adams14.org | www.adams14.org

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Thank you,

Hilary K Bryant

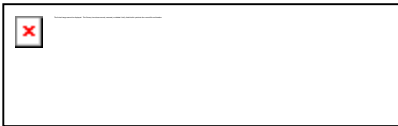
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Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Denise Wilhelm <dwilhelm@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 9:33 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Please support Adams 14 School District

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Denise Wilhelm and I have taught in the Adams 14 school system for the past 10 years now. It hasn't been easy at times. The kids can be tough, the parents oftentimes cannot help their child because of the language barrier or lack of education themselves, and let's face it, we have had so many administrators come and go throughout the years that we have had to learn new processes, teaching strategies, etc. continually. Through it all, a huge group of educators remains committed to this community and our students' success because we believe in them and we have seen MANY students accomplish great things despite the difficult obstacles many have had to overcome.

I am writing to you to ask you to support us in fighting for local control of our community. To fight for keeping this district intact so our students are able to stay together and not be torn from each other because that is exactly what will happen if the district is reorganized or the students attending the high school have to go to different high schools in surrounding districts.

I believe it would be a huge mistake to disband the district or turn it into charter schools. The Adams 14 Community and students are a very unique group of people. The leaders, faculty, and support staff have spent years developing strong relationships and committing to this community. No other school system understands them as we do. In my opinion, this would be the worst outcome that could happen because it would not give them the quality and equitable education that the State is seeking, it would set these students back for years to come because if they were absorbed into new schools, I fear many would simply "fly under the radar" and it would likely take years before a new teacher or system could determine their needs if ever.

Finally, these students NEED us to help them succeed! In my humble opinion, we could have the teacher of the year in every position at every school and they still wouldn't do much better than we are now because it is not a teacher/student problem... It's an equity, cultural, societal, and cyclical problem. Until we address these issues at the state level, will it change or are we just passing these kids off to only FAIL them again? One thing you might not know is that we have had at least 2 independent groups come in to evaluate our teachers and the feedback received was that the majority of our teachers were quality educators. They pointed to the leadership at the very top that was inadequate. Now, we have a superintendent that is dedicated to this community and its learners and I truly believe that we are ready to continue to do the great things we had begun before the Covid pandemic hit this community hard. However, the biggest issue is that the Colorado Department of Education needs to recognize that until they take into account societal, cultural, and cyclical differences, and fight for EVERY student's right to an equitable education they will continue to fail our students and so many students in our state. I realize that they are following the letter of the law, but as a member of the City Council, I am hoping you can suggest that they fight to do away with the ridiculous law of having a test score define a student and school's worth.

Please help us fight for our community of students! Thank you in advance for your time and for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Denise Wilhelm
6th Grade Math Teacher
Instructional Leader
Math Department Chair
Adams City Middle School

Mathematics may not teach us to add love or subtract hate, but it gives us hope that every problem has a solution.

-Anonymous

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Heidi Derr <hderr@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 9:38 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: City Council Resolution on Adams 14 School District

Esteemed City Council Members,

I am writing to you as an employee of Adams 14 School District. I serve our students with Special Needs as a Special Education Coordinator. My primary focus is on our youngest learners ages 3 to 5.

I left the Colorado Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services Unit, to join Adams 14 last year. My reasons for joining the district was knowing Special Education leadership that had joined the district over the past three years and the support I would receive in advocating for preschoolers with special needs. I have not been disappointed.

Our Preschool Program is robust and inclusive of all students. The staff is dedicated and hardworking to ensure that our youngest learners are ready to launch a successful education experience by giving them a high quality start in academics, social emotional wellness, and functional life skills. The Preschool Program Principal and I collaborate as a team to provide all of our students with research based, CDE approved standards and curriculum with additional support for our students with Special Needs. While students with Special Needs are placed in preschool throughout the school year in accordance with Federal law, the program has a waitlist for students not needing special education. Further, the Early Childhood Special Education team supports Sunshine Head Start and community based Little Giants Preschool.

To lose the Preschool Program, the Special Education services provided within the program and our support of community based preschools would be a tremendous disservice to the children and families in this district.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heidi Derr, MEd, ECSE

Heidi Derr
Child Find Coordinator/Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator
Adams 14 Child Find
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Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Lynnette Steinhoff <lsteinhoff@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:07 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Cc: Robert Lundin
Subject: Adams 14 Support

Good Morning Esteemed City Council,

It has been my distinct honor to serve as the Director of Special Education for the past 2 years in Adams 14 School District. I came to the district with a passion to, once again, connect with a district that shines with community and a vision to bring the very best to our students with disabilities. I have never had a district where I felt so connected to serving all students and families. I am honored to serve all of our students and families in Adams 14.

We have a great team of professionals that are qualified to meet the needs of our very youngest of students (3-5), our school age (5-18) and our young adults (18-21). Our district has seen an increase of resources provided to our students and teachers that are targeted to meet specific needs. I believe that within our district office we have been able to explore a more collaborative approach to serving our building leaders, teachers, support staff, students, families, and community members. This has been a significant need in our district that has been highlighted in the recent months under our current leadership. I firmly believe we have the right professionals in place to make those changes. The work we do together can stand the "test of time" and will show those in doubt just how strong we are when we come together with a common vision.

The thought of losing our high school is devastating and I am saddened to think about our 100+ students with disabilities fate if that recommendation would come to fruition. We have a dedicated special education team of educators that are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of their students. Our current high school administrator has been nothing short of stellar in his approach to serving our most vulnerable population and deserves the right to continue to make changes in the outcomes of our student's lives.

I would be happy to engage in a more in-depth conversation on how we are on a positive trajectory to serving our students in Adams 14.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important matter.
Lynnette Steinhoff

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Lynnette Steinhoff
Director of Special Education
Adams County School District 14
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“Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.” – Rita Pierson

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Mike Rogers <mrogers@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Adams City High School Visual Art Program Videos

To whom it may concern,

I am one of the visual arts teachers at Adams City High School and I wanted to share two videos with you that I think demonstrate how successful our program is. The first video was made last year where the students speak about how the art classes have impacted their lives in general and towards the end of the video, they speak more specifically about how the ACHS art program has impacted their lives. The second video was created to promote the visual arts at ACHS and it shows all of the different types of projects that we do with the students. Some of the footage is from as far back as 2016 but this is because Lisa Holloway (the other art teacher) and I have both worked for Adams14 for over ten years. I feel that this speaks to our dedication to the school. Please feel free to share these links if you feel like it would be helpful.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qm8DQ420IVvPsQQtdaIhQ_XAKFy4FJxE/view?usp=sharing
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n3K_LJO9HykKt4yZrHZsrAKziY9it8Fk/view?usp=sharing

Mike

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Mike Rogers
Art/ Photo Teacher
Adams City High School
mrogers@adams14.org
Google Voice: (720) 446-8471

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Kelly Gomez <kellycastellares@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:59 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Next Year's Promised Salary

Hello.

Dr. Loria recently visited ACMS and assured us that despite everything going on, our salary is guaranteed throughout the next school year. If the district is dissolved, won't that effect any promises (verbal and written) made by the very district being dissolved?

Is the district offering any sign-on/stay-on bonuses for next year?

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Lucy Bisconti <lbisconti@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 11:25 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM

Hi I would just like to say as employee of the district that with the new Superintendent and the school board we have now. I hope and pray that the State would give Adams 14 another chance i have faith that things can be turned around for the better. Because of Covid it made things more difficult. Please give Adams 14 another opportunity to fix things. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: jessica villalobos <villalobosjessica181@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 11:57 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM

To whom it may concern I just wanted to write to express my gratitude and complete support for my district Adams 14 my daughter attends alsup Elementary the teachers staff and everyone there make us all feel so welcome my daughter is doing amazing in school with the support of all her teachers she is on task with everything they are teaching and I feel the curriculum is very on-point I myself attended Commerce City Schools growing up and feel I have benefited from this my entire life. Thank you for taking the time to hear my voice I hope you consider this when evaluating everything thank you again for your time have a good day sincerely Jessica Villalobos

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Laura Pasillas <lpasillas@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM

Is anything we say change the states mind. do they not know that are destroying not our students but also the whole community. What other communityare going to want us.they'll say they are going to bring our scores down too. You the state brought these new org. from out of state and look what they did to our district, You all have it set in your mind to dissolveus and kicked us to the curve or threw us under the bus .I hope you can let uswork and keep our distrct and all the commerce city families together

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Laura Pasillas
Alsup Elementary

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Ramona Gabaldon <rgabaldon@adams14.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 12:01 PM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Input about Adams 14

Hi. My name is Mona Gabaldon , I'm a parent of a student at ACHS and a teacher in the district. I'm writing to express my concern and voice for the future of our schools. First of all, my daughter is a sophomore at ACHS and because of all the uncertainties right now, we are both feeling very concerned. First of all, as I have expressed many times this year to MGT and other district leaders... our kids (my daughter) deserve to have a good education, an education that is uninterrupted and secure.. our kids have hopes and dreams and want to graduate!!! My daughter is aware of all the challenges and uncertainties our district faces and we are directly affected with these uncertainties as her school ACHS and my school Central Elementary have been under the stress of many opinions, changes and judgements. Despite all of this, my daughter does not want her school to shut down. She loves her school and has adjusted well to ACHS... she is a student with high honors , a GT student and very motivated. She is proud of her school, has good relationships with adults, and is comfortable to speak to the principal about any concerns she has about her studies or safety. ACHS also needs Mr. Garcia. He has provided and followed through with three very important factors to students and parents this year. One, stability... our kids need structure, consistency, and stability! They need to know their principal and teachers care about them enough and believe in them.... to come back to ACHS. Mr. Garcia has shown he cares about the students at ACHS and has expressed a desire to come back to ACHS next year. Next, his relationships with students and parents have made us feel welcomed, supported and heard. He is approachable and has good relationships with students. My daughter "likes" him and feels that he cares about the students at ACHS. For example, he gets involved by covering classes for teachers and going out of his way to check in with students that may need support. Finally, he is committed to his position as principal of ACHS, to Adams 14, and most importantly to our students.

I have taught at Central for 8 years and I am very dedicated to my school, the students, and to the district. I have also expressed my concern about Central to every person I could who came in to gather data on the school. One of my biggest concerns about Central is the extreme social/emotional behaviors we have at our school. Our students are highly impacted by poverty and I strongly believe this has an impact on student achievement. For example, my students come to class often tired, hungry, emotionally distraught or a combination of them all. I also feel very offended about some of the opinions that have been formed and shared about our school. It is very hard to listen to business people/politicians share opinions and judgements about our school and our students. We have struggled with student achievement but we have also worked every minute everyday to do our best for our students too. The staff at Central has been together for many years and we have not chosen to "leave" Central in the mess it's in, like so many of our previous principals and administrators have... Central has struggled through so many changes at the district level with management and with our own management in the building. All those inconsistencies have also impacted Central in a negative/stressful way. Without systems and leaders in place, it is VERY difficult for a struggling school "to get back on it's feet." Therefore, all the scrutiny we have faced over the years has made us more resilient and more committed to our students at Central. Furthermore, not only have most of our staff stayed around to support our school, but our students and our families LOVE Central, that is our school and their support for many needs they face as community members of Central. Families rely on us daily to help them and kids look forward to seeing us because they know WE truly care about them and we will do anything to help our students and our families. Central is a place where families find comfort and love and they need us, like we need them..... I hope you will consider all these factors and so much more when deciding the fate and future of our students, because again our kids deserve the

best!!!! My daughter deserves the BEST!! Despite all the other nonsense and drama that the district is going through, OUR KIDS DO NOT NEED TO LIVE IN FEAR OF LOSING THEIR SCHOOLS!

Sincerely, Ms. Gabaldon

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Ramona Gabaldon

Central Elementary

rgabaldon@adam14.org

4th grade teacher