

City Clerk Laura Bauer or Deputy City Clerk Dylan Gibson
c/o City of Commerce City
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1. Why are you applying to be on the City Council?

My name is Bret Walker and I'm excited to seek the open At-Large councilmember seat for the City of Commerce City. Before I respectfully ask for your support and vote, I hereby state that I'm eligibility for appointment according to the statement on the website. I also wanted to share with you who I am. My wife and two children have been residents of City of Commerce City for over 17 years and believe it is a fantastic place to live. I was born and raised in Aurora Colorado and work for the City of Denver. This has given me the unique ability to observe and experience many perspectives of our city with different lenses. During my life, I have seen many changes in Commerce City. Often very positive, but sometimes challenging. We have supported and been a part of many of the changes including meeting regarding the attraction of a grocery store, 5 projects 5 years, and most recently the Bison Ridge Recreation center. To be able to see the impact we've made every day, whether it's building an all ability-inclusive park for all children to enjoy or repaving a pothole-filled road. I would be excited to get to interact daily with the people who benefit from the work we are doing so you're always connected to the purpose of this position.

2. How is your experience and background relevant to being on the City Council?

I feel like I would be a good councilmember for the City of Commerce City if appointed based on my experience and background in local government, workforce development, and management. I have been on the Parks and Recreation and Golf Advisory Committee where I have been the co-chair for over two years, I create, design and manage complex workforce plans, and I understand the processes needed for government to run effectively. I have a passion to help others and I take pride in seeing others succeed via coaching, development and team work.

3. What are your thoughts on the relationship between the Historic City and the Northern Range?

Living on the Northern Range I have seen the division between the Historic City. My family has tried to be part of both through sports, recreation and supporting local business. I believe we need to build better relationships between the two. While being on the Commerce City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board I helped lead the group during the naming of the recreational centers. I encouraged the board to look at names that didn't continue the division. I would continue to look at ways to improve the division and make Commerce City a better place for all.

4. What do you believe to be the three most pressing challenges or concerns in the Commerce City community?

Sustainable growth, future city funds, and Economic and educational divide.

5. What do you see as the three biggest opportunities for Commerce City right now?

Economic development, Infrastructure, and housing. From bike paths, roads to sewer systems, infrastructure is a major key to the future of this city while making housing as affordable as possible. More and more cities are making it easier for businesses leaders to start or grow a business. I want Commerce City to be one of those cities.

6. What concerns, if any, do you have about serving on the City Council?

Some of my concerns is truly moving the city forward while aligning the councils, residents and city staff's goals. The city has major projects and infrastructure improvements ranging from community growth to land use to finances and strategic planning where we might not all see eye to eye.

7. What does Quality Community for a Lifetime mean to you?

My hope for this community is to focus more on prosperity, growth, and inclusion. Without these three we will struggle as a community. Making people a priority while moving the city forward is what Quality Community for a Lifetime mean to me, if we don't ensure that the future works for everyone we will fall behind. I have supported efforts in the city through the Quality Community Foundation (QCF) making sure everyone has a place while building a Quality Community for a Lifetime within the city of Commerce City, CO.

8. What local government or non-profit boards or commissions have you served on?

Commerce City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair 2016 -Present and the University of Nebraska Kearney Alumni Board 2009-2012

9. Have you participated in the Commerce City Civics Academy?

Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to be a part of the 7-week program yet.

10. How long have you resided in Commerce City?

I have lived in Commerce City for 17 years

11. What is your favorite place in Commerce City?

I have many favorite places within Commerce City. We enjoy Paradise Island outdoor water park during the summer along with Buffalo Run Golf course and Bison Ridge recreation center. I also enjoy soccer at Dicks Sporting Field and eating at Bison Grill.

Bret Walker

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EXPERIENCE

Manager Employer Services Workforce | DEDO | Denver, CO

January 2019 – Present

- Lead, coach and guide the Denver Workforce Employer Services team who work with employers and our contractors
- Develop relationships with businesses and hiring managers in targeted industries to evaluate and identify workforce and hiring needs
- Work with the state Workforce teams
- Convene the Early Childhood Education Sector Partnerships
- Support other team members with their Sector Partnerships
- Provide internal workforce development guidance and reporting
- Attend and assist with our Denver County Workforce Development Board meetings
- Manage the state and city rapid response program and attend all workshops
- Work with the marketing team to promote programs and services to both employers and job seekers
- Coach and guide team on developing new and different ways to do our job

Business Development Workforce | DEDO | Denver, CO

May 2016 – January 2018

- Develop relationships with businesses and hiring managers in targeted industries to evaluate and identify workforce and hiring needs
- Identify employers through new business development
- Conduct training needs assessment to determine potential development opportunities, offer customized recruitment and training services to achieve placement and retention goals
- Implement candidate sourcing strategies and solutions for employer accounts
- Proactively seek new avenues to attract candidates. interview, screen and assesses high volumes of candidates per the needs and guidance of the employer
- Deliver Rapid Response program and services, including development and implementation of layoff aversion strategies
- Assist with the coordination of rebranding and a targeted marketing plan based on the Mission and Vision of the Workforce Development Board and Workforce Development unit

Market Director Career Services | Alta Colleges | Denver, CO

January 2014 – March 2016

Business Development Director | Alta Colleges | Denver, CO

October 2009 – January 2014

Account Executive | T-Mobile Business Sales | Denver, CO

July 2006 – May 2009

EDUCATION

Bachelors of Science

December 1999

University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) - Kearney, NE

Major: Organizational Communication

Minor: Business and Marketing

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE & COMMITTEES

Commerce City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair 2016 -Present

Youth Basketball Coach 2009-2017

Youth Tennis Coach 2000-2017

University of Nebraska Kearney Alumni Board 2009-2012