



# Commerce City Senior Commission Approach & Strategy

April 10, 2017

# Purpose

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- Discuss how to establish a council-appointed senior commission.



# Background

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- Aligns with Council Goal Number 5
- Moves the needle on the outcome of participatory and inclusive community
- Regularly identified during council retreat
- Grassroots support and engagement



# Proposed Mission

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- Foster greater understanding of senior citizens by listening to their concerns, recognizing their contributions, encouraging greater senior citizen participation in community issues, and providing advocacy for senior issues as they pertain to the City.



# Proposed Roles & Responsibilities

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- Advise the City Council on matters of particular concern and impact affecting the older adult community of Commerce City,
- Advocate for issues of importance to older adults within the community,
- Be an information resource about available services, programs, and resources for older adults,
- Serve as a forum for the expression of ideas, needs, concerns and goals relating to community issues, particularly as they may affect seniors,
- Offer hands-on experience and learning by and for seniors of our community, and
- Provide opportunities to participate with other citizens in activities and programs that benefit all of Commerce City



# Proposed Structure

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- Comprised of nine regular members, two alternates, two elected officials and three ex-officio members representing senior programs
- Serve two-year, staggered terms.
- Members can be residents, business owners/employees, or patrons. Desire individuals who have an interest in older adult/senior issues or are seniors themselves.
- City Council selects ex-officio, non-voting members from a list of organizations or agencies that serve city's senior committee.

*Note: This is similar to City of Centennial's commission structure*



# Examples of Commission Outcomes

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- Review data/analysis
- Assess service gaps and needs
- Provide input and advocate on important issues:
  - Housing
  - Transportation
  - Social Services
  - Poverty
  - Hunger
  - Aging in Place
  - Health
  - Safety/Welfare
- Create a [senior resource website](#)
- Promote available senior resources
- Engage with other senior commissions in region
- Host informational events and seminars



# Estimated Costs

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- In-Kind Support
  - Meeting space
  - Staff
    - Meeting preparation
    - Meeting attendance
    - Solicitation of applicants
- 15 hours/month
- Hard Costs
  - Light refreshments
  - Event/meeting travel
- \$2,000





# Draft Implementation Strategy

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- March:
  - City Council members meet with interested community members
  - Discuss desired outcomes, structure
- April: City Council Study Session
  - Present draft approach
  - Secure approval to move forward
  - Approve resolution
- May: Older Americans Month
  - Launch & promote commission
  - Select and appoint members
- June: Hold first meeting
  - Establish schedule
  - Identify desired year one outcomes/milestones





# Questions & Next Steps

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