

Hello -

I am unable to attend the City Council meeting in Monday, September 16th as I will be at work, but would appreciate my comments below be included as part of the public record for the hearing in reference to the City's proposed 2045 Comprehensive Plan. Thank you.

Good evening - I have been a resident of Commerce City since 2012 and our family has loved our neighborhood and built lifelong connections here. Until recently, we felt safe, but the increase in residents has brought a rise in crime. We've seen more car break-ins and theft, a problem across the Denver area, and are aware of ways to help reduce these. However, a recent incident in which a nearby home was deliberately shot at with an automatic weapon, aimed at a bedroom window, has shattered our sense of safety and has made us question the kind of growth Commerce City is promoting.

The Greenfield Development will bring many new residents into the area, as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan to "Promote higher density residential near commercial corridors" and connect these PUDs to "existing neighborhoods" like ours. Plans for an apartment complex directly north of our neighborhood have the only entrance and exit going through our neighborhood rather than 104th Avenue or Chambers. This will significantly increase traffic and diminish safety. This change will immediately lower property values as homes that were on quiet streets become part of a busy throughfare. Increased use of our Metro District Park, which is funded by the tax dollars of our neighborhood residents, will lead to more wear and tear on facilities and equipment. This growth doesn't benefit existing residents - it makes it dangerous for our children to walk home from school, the bus stop, or visit the park. More traffic means more crime and a threat to safety.

Our schools are already overcrowded, under-resourced, and staffed by overworked teachers. Traffic on residential streets has risen sharply, as have auto accidents, because these roads weren't built to handle this level of growth. Our only grocery store struggles to keep basic items like milk and eggs in stock due to the increasing demand, driving local revenue to neighboring cities. Fuel costs are consistently higher

here than in surrounding areas. Meanwhile, developers continue to build without addressing these issues or contributing to the needs of current or future residents. They aren't invested in our future—that's why we elect City Council members to speak and act for us.

While the plan claims to improve transportation and safety, it fails to address the fact that more residents will only worsen congestion and collisions on existing streets. Chambers Road, already congested, will become even worse with new residents from the Greenfield Development between 96th and 104th. The plan mentions the disparity between the two school districts but overlooks the fact that Brighton 27J serves four times as many students with less funding. Most of the district's budget goes to building and renovating schools and paying off bond debt (64%, or over \$500 million). As residential growth continues, schools are forced to expand, leaving residents to foot the bill while developers profit.

Please put an end to this aggressive growth that harms residents. Prioritize planning the necessary infrastructure before approving more residential developments. Continuing to play catch-up to unchecked growth costs more in the long term. Now is the time to prioritize the well-being of our current residents and ensure that Commerce City is a safe, thriving community for all. Now is the time to take decisive action that puts residents first.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jenn Onstott