



City Council Communication

AGENDA DATE: July 20, 2026

LEGISTAR ITEM #: 26-042

PRESENTER: Susan Noble

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

☐ Administrative Business	☒ Noticed Council Business
☐ Informational Presentation	☐ Consensus-Building Presentation

BACKGROUND/REQUEST

Councilmember representation modification to Friends of Front Range Wildlife Refuges

The Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges (FFRWR; "Friends") appreciates the support and collaboration with Commerce City. Our mission and values are to support and advocate for the conservation and restoration of Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuges and provide opportunities for the public to experience wildlife near a major metropolitan area in the form of volunteering, events, environmental education, and more. Friends envision a space rich in natural and cultural diversity that fosters environmental education and recreation for neighboring communities. FFRWR and Commerce City have formed a vigorous partnership over many years.

With careful consideration and a review of the current structure and needs of our Board of Directors, the Executive Committee of the FFRWR has unanimously approved an update to our bylaws regarding representation from cities neighboring Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuges (the Refuges). FFRWR is inviting cities neighboring these Refuges to expand our representation according to a recent update to our organizational bylaws. Please see the attached letter for more detailed information.

The Friends organization is grateful for our many partnerships with Commerce City and your support of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Co-Sponsor: Rocky Teter



Notice of Update to Bylaws: Commerce City Council

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Date: 06/12/2026

Dear Commerce City Council Members,

As a nonprofit dedicated to raising support for the conservation and enjoyment of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuges, the Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges (FFRWR) values the partnership we have established with the City of Commerce City. Our collaboration has brought additional resources to these refuges, which have become conservation assets enjoyed by more than 1 million visitors annually.

Given the increased visitation from residents across the metro area, FFRWR recently updated its bylaws to expand representation on our Board of Directors to all neighboring municipalities.

Previously, our bylaws required two Commerce City representatives, receiving one vote. The following update creates an equal representation among cities neighboring the Refuges.

1. The City and County of Denver, the City of Aurora and Commerce City, and any other city with relevant connection to the organization shall be encouraged to nominate a director to the Corporation's Board of directors (the "city representative directors"). The director nominated by a city, shall be an elected official or staff of that city if at all possible. Nominated city representatives still must be voted onto the Board by a majority Board vote and will serve until the end of their term of service or employment with the city, at which point they will either resign or reapply to serve as a traditional Board member. Cities can nominate one individual, and one city representative per city can be on the Board at any one time, receiving one vote.

Currently, Councilpersons Rocky Teter and Susan Noble serve as representatives on FFRWR, and our Executive Committee appreciates their dedication and service. Under this bylaws



change, we ask the City to appoint one of your two current FFRWR Board members as your official representative.

Please contact FFRWR's Executive Director, Vanessa Thurk, for next steps. Once again, thank you for your dedication and service.

Best Regards,

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