



June 9, 2008

John Hickenlooper, Mayor  
City & County Building  
1437 Bannock Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mayor Hickenlooper:

I write to express my concern about rumors that seem to be swirling with regard to funding for the 2008 Democratic National Convention. As you well know despite the fact that there may be no basis for a rumor, the existence of the rumor is of itself harmful. I want to share my concerns with you and encourage you to help squash these rumors before they go much further.

I suspect that news stories related to a possible funding shortfall for the Host Committee are contributing to these rumors. I have people buttonholing me in coffee shops, corralling me along the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall, even stopping by my house asking how the City will be able to afford the Convention if the fundraising efforts fall short. Specifically people are asking me if Denver will have to use tax dollars to back-load any financial shortfall or even if the City is planning to use bond money to subsidize any shortfall.

I know that you have promised the citizens that tax dollars will not be used for the Convention and I repeat that promise on your behalf to those that question me but the rumors swirl nonetheless.

(Interestingly, I read with fascination the auditing records for the City from 1908 and found that the Mayor and City Council set aside \$25,500 from the General Fund to enable the convention to come to Denver. In today's dollars that would be about \$612,000. Rightly or wrongly, Mayor Speer apparently had no compunction about spending tax dollars.)

I wanted to let you know what I am hearing and hope that you will demonstrate your usual spirit of transparency and openness, which have been a hallmark of your administration, by confirming again that there are no plans to use City money to pay for the Convention or if circumstances now dictate that it is prudent to develop contingency plans for some financing mechanism to offset a shortfall what those plans may be.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Gallagher  
Auditor

cc: City Council Members