

# Inside District 11

SUMMER NEWSLETTER, ISSUE 1

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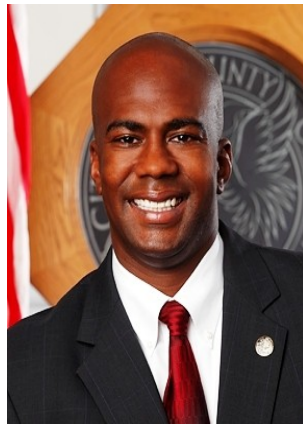
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## A Message From Councilman Herndon



District 11 City Councilman,  
Christopher J. Herndon

I am honored and humbled to serve the people of this diverse and growing district. District 11 encompasses Northeast Park Hill, Stapleton, Montbello, Parkfield, Gateway, Green Valley Ranch and Denver International Airport. The District 11 team consists of myself, Sarah Craft and Alan Pettis. We are here to serve you and welcome your input on how to grow our communities, district and city. Please feel free to call, e-mail, come by the office, or make an appointment to meet with us.

## Mayor Hancock Says Thank You to District 11



Denver Mayor,  
Michael B. Hancock

I would like to congratulate Chris Herndon and his staff as they begin serving the most dynamic district in the City and County of Denver. It was an honor to serve District 11 as your City Council representative for the past 8 years. I thank you for all of the support you gave me during my tenure. Together we were able to accomplish things that have improved the overall quality of life in our neighborhoods. I would also like to thank you for your support in the race for the Mayor's Office. Although we face a few challenges we also have some exciting opportunities to make Denver a world class city that's second to none. Together we will make it happen. "We Are All Denver."

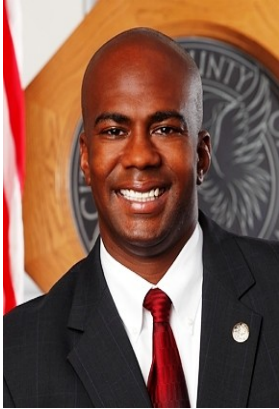
## Meet Your Northeast Denver Elected Officials



**Barbara Deadwyler** was elected to the RTD Board of Directors in November 2010 to take office in January, 2011 representing District B, which includes Northeast Denver and North Aurora. Barbara retired from Kaiser Permanente where she served in the capacity of Senior Project Consultant, Labor Management Partnership Consultant and Master Trainer. Barbara is active in the community and currently serves as secretary of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute and oversees the organizations community outreach programs. Barbara has a long history in the labor movement. Barbara is excited to be on the RTD Board representing the interest of all communities in District B. Her focus is on customer service and ensuring public transportation is accessible, convenient, safe and inclusive. Barbara has three adult children and nine grandchildren.



**Nate Easley, Ph.D.** is Deputy Director for the Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) and President of the Denver Public Schools Board of Education. Dr. Easley is a current member of Colorado Governor Ritter's P-20 Council, serving on the Transitions subcommittee. Prior to joining DSF, Dr. Easley served as Vice President for National and International Programs for the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) in Washington, DC. COE is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the expansion of educational opportunities in postsecondary education for low-income and disabled youth and adults. Dr. Easley has extensive experience helping disadvantaged students realize their dream of a college education and securing grant funding to sustain student programs. His master's and doctorate focused on how higher education can better support the academic success and retention of Black and Latino students. Dr. Easley has worked at the state, national and international levels to create opportunities for first-generation, low-income and ethnic minority students. He has 25 years of experience working with college access and retention programs and professionals. Dr. Easley served as an Upward Bound counselor and assistant director at Colorado State University, President of the Colorado TRIO Association (Colorado ASPIRE), board member for the Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel, and director of the Student Support Services program and the campus learning center at the University of California at San Diego. Dr. Easley is a proud graduate of Montbello High School in Denver, Colorado.



**Councilman Christopher Herndon** is from Kansas City, Missouri. A 1999 West Point graduate, he spent nearly seven years in the United States Army. He served his first three years in Germany in numerous leadership positions including a peace keeping mission to Kosovo. He completed his military commitment stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, where he earned his Master's Degree in Management, assumed command of a 100 plus unit performing logistical missions in Iraq, and led a unit responsible for the training of newly commissioned lieutenants. In December, 2005, Chris received an Honorable Discharge and relocated to Denver, Colorado. Prior to running for city council, Chris worked at Denver International Airport as an Operations Manager and managed the Englewood Wal-Mart. He gained certification in Lean Six Sigma through the University of Villanova in 2006. Chris participated in several leadership programs including Center for Progressive Leadership, Colorado Institute for Leadership Training and Leadership Denver. Additionally, he worked with Save Our Youth as a teacher/mentor in an 8-week program to help struggling students improve their math and language arts skills. As a Stapleton resident, he served on the Stapleton United Neighbors Outreach Committee. Active in his church, True Light Baptist, he facilitated Financial Peace University helping members improve their financial literacy skills.



**Senator Mike Johnston** represents Northeast Denver in the Colorado State Senate and serves as a policy advisor to New Leaders for New Schools. Mike first entered education as a high school English teacher in Greenville, Mississippi, an experience that led him to write his acclaimed book, "In the Deep Heart's Core." After leaving the Mississippi Delta Mike co-founded New Leaders for New Schools, a national non-profit that recruits and trains urban principals. Mike started his own career as a principal leading two alternative high schools serving Colorado students held in state custody or living in group homes and detention centers. Most recently, Mike was the co-founder and principal of MESA (Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts), a redesigned urban high school in the Mapleton Public Schools that made Colorado history by becoming the first public high school in which 100 percent of seniors were admitted to four-year colleges. He has been an adjunct professor of education law at the University of Denver and has served as an advisor to state and federal political campaigns around the country, most recently as a top education advisor to Barack Obama's presidential campaign and transition. Recently named to Time Magazine's "40 Under 40" and Forbes Magazine's list of the "7 Most Powerful Educators," Mike holds degrees from Yale College, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the Yale Law School. He sits on the board of many local and national organizations including the "I Have a Dream" Foundation and the Urban League. He lives in Northeast Denver with his wife Courtney, who is Deputy District Attorney in Denver, and their two sons Emmet and Seamus.



**Angela Williams** is the current Representative to the Colorado House of Representatives for House District 7. She is also the Agency Principal of the Angela Williams Insurance Agency Inc., an Allstate Insurance Company affiliate. Williams is an active community leader devoting her efforts towards: working families, small business growth; mentoring & leadership development; and ethnic, racial, & gender equality. Before becoming a State Representative, Angela Williams became involved as a volunteer on a number of campaigns, initiatives, and Democratic Party activities. She served on the State Finance Team for then Presidential Candidate Barack Obama and served as Precinct Committee Person. Angela serves on the House Economic & Business Committee, the Transportation Committee, and the House Services Committee. She also serves a National Financial Secretary for the NOBEL/Women and is a committee member of National Conference of State Legislators Business and Economic Development Committee. As an active community leader, Williams was appointed by then Colorado Governor Bill Ritter to the Small Business Advisory Board. Williams is a former 2nd Vice-Chair of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She has also served the Board of Directors for the Downtown Denver Partnership, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Foundation, Stapleton United Neighbors, and the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce Foundation. As a co-founder of Chamber Connect, the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce leadership development program, she has been essential to the professional growth of dozens of Colorado's future minority business leaders. Angela was born in Okmulgee, OK. She is the proud mother of her 26-year-old son Brandon. Williams earned her Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Northeastern State University. Williams is a resident in Denver's Stapleton neighborhood. She enjoys biking, reading, and riding her horse Spyder.

## Inauguration Celebrations

On July 18, 2011, thousands of Denver residents gathered at the Temple Hoyne Buell Theatre in the Denver Performing Arts Complex to celebrate the inauguration of its 45th Mayor along with the Auditor, Clerk and Recorder, and 13 city council officials (6 new and 7 returning – click [here](#) to meet all of your city council officials). Special guests included Governor John Hickenlooper, and former Mayors Wellington Webb and Federico Pena. Inaugural celebrations continued into the evening with a public party hosted by the mayor at Denver's Botanical Gardens. One week following the official ceremony, Mayor Hancock celebrated with Denver's elected officials and residents at five parks throughout the city including Central Park and Green Valley Central Park in Northeast Denver. The purpose of the tour was to connect with Denver residents and make them aware of the new administration's priorities. Later in the month on July 30th, Northeast Denver elected officials, Senator Mike Johnston, Representative Angela Williams and Councilman Christopher Herndon hosted a constituent appreciation picnic at Fred Thomas Park in Stapleton. This event gave Northeast Denver residents a chance to meet and casually speak with their newly elected officials.



**Mayor Hancock and Councilman Herndon on Inauguration Day**

# Northeast Denver Leadership Week

August 1<sup>st</sup> marked the inaugural Northeast Denver Leadership Week out in District 11. Feeling that students do not see all the opportunities available to them, Councilman Herndon took this idea and created this event. Selected students spent the first week in August touring different areas of the city, meeting civic and industry leaders telling their stories encouraging these future leaders that their opportunities are only limited by their imagination. Several individuals, organizations and businesses donated time and resources to make this possible and the District 11 team extends their utmost appreciation.

Each day was modeled around a certain theme: Northeast Denver, Government, Media, and Safety with Friday having an emphasis on scholarships and graduation. On Media Day students had the opportunity to hear from and ask questions to speakers such as Denver Post editor Greg Moore, 9news anchor Kim Christiansen as well as toured 5280 and the 9news studio.

“We have a responsibility to develop our future leaders. Part of that development is ensuring kids know what is out there and Northeast Denver Leadership Week hopes to provide them a glimpse.” – Councilman Chris Herndon

Receiving nothing but positive feedback from the participants, The District 11 team expects next year’s Northeast Denver Leadership Week to be bigger and better. To learn more or receive details on how you can participate as a student community leader, e-mail Sarah Craft, [sarah.craft@denvergov.org](mailto:sarah.craft@denvergov.org) or call the office 720-337-7711.

*“Selected students spent the first week in August touring different areas of the city, meeting civic and industry leaders telling their stories encouraging these future leaders that their opportunities are only limited by their imagination.”*



**Northeast Denver Leadership Week participants pose for a photo after a tour of the 5280 The Denver Magazine office in Downtown Denver**



**Vista Academy Ribbon Cutting, August 2011**

*“We are beginning a new frontier for this part of town. There are simply those that believe the status quo is working for our kids and I’ll tell you that many parents and many of us who are standing here today knew better. We knew...we needed to make bold, solid decisions to make a difference and, for once, stand for the students.”*  
 – Mayor Michael Hancock

**Pictured right: Students from Swigert McAuliffe International School join elected officials for the ribbon cutting.**

## Back to School in District 11

School came early for some Denver students. With most schools opening August 18th, Montbello High School, and ten other schools in the far northeast began a week prior; part of the turnaround plan prompted by chronic low performance. Montbello High, the centerpiece of the turnaround, is reconfigured to a less traditional look. It will not have a freshman class this year with 10th, 11th and 12th grade phasing out successively. New on campus is the Denver Center for International Studies and the Collegiate Prep Academy. A third new school, High Tech Early College, is located in the former Samsonite building in Montbello. Though there are worries about the changes it has not reduced enrollment at Montbello, currently higher than expected and a sign that there is confidence the changes will produce better academic results. In addition to six extra days of school, students in the 11 schools will receive at least 60 extra minutes of instruction time each day.

“We are beginning a new frontier for this part of town. There are simply those that believe the status quo is working for our kids and I’ll tell you that many parents and many of us who are standing here today knew better. We knew...we needed to make bold, solid decisions to make a difference and, for once, stand for the students.” – Mayor Michael Hancock

Another school opening this fall is Vista Academy High School located on the Evie Dennis campus. Also known as a Multiple Pathways Center, Vista aims to re-engage students that struggle in a traditional setting for the purpose of producing scholars, world class citizens, and global thinkers who are relentless in their pursuit of an education. Vista’s model, Diploma Plus, combines high expectations for every student, a competency-based and standards-aligned approach, a personalized learning environment, and opportunities to make connections between classroom learning and the world outside the school walls. Diploma Plus students are placed into and promoted through three distinct Diploma Plus Phases: Foundation, Presentation, and Plus that allow students to learn content and skills at the appropriate level, regardless of their age or previous credit accumulation.



Also new to the scene is Swigert-McAuliffe International School in Stapleton. Currently, the school consists of Principals Chuck Raisch, Kurt Dennis, twelve classroom teachers, and approximately 300 students. In August, the school moved into its own building at 3480 Syracuse Street, where it offers ECE3 through 2nd grade. In 2012-2013, Swigert-McAuliffe will expand to offer ECE through 3rd grade plus 6th grade. Eventually, the building will house two separate schools--an elementary school on mostly the first floor and a middle school on part of the second and all of the third floor.

Swigert-McAuliffe is in its first year of being an International Baccalaureate school. The IB Primary Years Program will be incorporated into the curriculum starting in the 2011-2012 school year, but the accreditation process takes at least three years. When the middle school opens in 2012, it will also be International Baccalaureate. Swigert-McAuliffe is an innovative school and also uses Singapore Math's Math in Focus curriculum.

# Viva Streets

On Sunday August 14, 2011 LiveWell Colorado and BikeDenver hosted Denver's first Ciclovía, "VivaStreets". The purpose of this community event was to bring neighbors together and endorse Colorado's healthy, active culture. 23rd Avenue, between City Park and Stapleton was transformed into a car-free parkway for all Denverites to enjoy. The streets welcomed walkers, bikers, runners, strollers, hoola-hoopers, dancers, paraders, musicians, and anyone wanting to play in the streets for the day. Councilman Herndon and three of his City Council colleagues attended the festivities, this is what they had to say:

*As the recent Viva Streets "ciclovía" showcased, bikeable and walkable neighborhoods are core to our city's health and an important tool for addressing Colorado's rising obesity rates. Viva Streets, wasn't simply a fun street fair. It was an example of what makes Denver great — the willingness of our city's leadership and citizens to embrace an active lifestyle, make changes to our environment that support physical activity, and most importantly, view and use our city's streets, sidewalks and neighborhoods as venues for exercise, recreation and community.*

*And, walkable and bikeable communities have benefits that extend far beyond keeping Coloradans healthy. They connect families with schools, parks, shops and each other and result in cleaner, safer neighborhoods.*

*What we and the 7,500 people who attended Viva Streets experienced was a glimpse into the positive changes that occur when our environment is built for active transportation — getting people moving on bikes, on foot and for fun. We challenge Denver to experience our streets as more than just a pathway for our cars, but also as a vehicle for long-term health.*

**Albus Brooks**, City Council District 8

**Susan K. Shepherd**, City Council District 1

**Mary Beth Susman**, City Council District 5

**Christopher J. Herndon**, City Council District 11

*"As the recent Viva Streets "ciclovía" showcased, bikeable and walkable neighborhoods are core to our city's health and an important tool for addressing Colorado's rising obesity rates."*



**Denver City Council Members (mentioned above) and Representative Angela Williams (far right) enjoying the Ciclovía on their bikes**

# Important Resources in District 11

## [311– Denver’s Help Center:](#)

201 W Colfax Ave, First Floor  
Denver, CO 80202

### **Hours**

7am - 8pm, Monday thru Friday  
8am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday

**Within Denver call: 311**

**Outside Denver: 720-913-1311**

**Emergencies: 911**

**Service for Hearing Impaired: 720-913-8479**

**Email:** [311@denvergov.org](mailto:311@denvergov.org)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/denver311](http://www.twitter.com/denver311)

**Website:** [www.denvergov.org/311](http://www.denvergov.org/311)

## [District 11 City Council Office:](#)

4760 Oakland St., Suite. 175  
Denver, CO 80239 (until October 1st)  
[christopher.herndon@denvergov.org](mailto:christopher.herndon@denvergov.org)  
Phone: 720.337.7711

## [Denver Human Services:](#)

4685 Peoria Street,  
Denver, CO 80239 (Montbello Office)  
Phone: 720.944.3666

## [District 2 Police Department:](#)

3921 N. Holly St.  
Denver CO 80205  
[rhonda.jones@denvergov.org](mailto:rhonda.jones@denvergov.org)  
Phone: 720-913-1000

## [District 5 Police Department:](#)

4685 Peoria Street,  
Denver, CO 80239  
[Lisa.Fair@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:Lisa.Fair@ci.denver.co.us)  
Phone: 303.376.2275

## [Denver Public Schools:](#)

900 Grant Street,  
Denver, CO 80203  
[Info@dpsk12.org](mailto:Info@dpsk12.org)  
Phone: 720-423-3200

## [Denver Workforce Center at Montbello:](#)

4685 Peoria Street, Suite 251  
Denver, CO 80239  
Phone: 720-865-4800

## [Solid Waste Management:](#)

2000 W. 3rd Avenue  
Denver, CO 80223  
Phone: 311  
[DenverRecycles@DenverGov.org](mailto:DenverRecycles@DenverGov.org)