

**City Council District 5 Updates**  
**Cranmer Park Hilltop Updates**  
**Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer**

This July marked two years that I have had the honor of representing the residents of District 5. I ran for office to bring the voice of the people back to city government, and my team and I operate our office with a view to four core values: transparency, accountability, customer service and good communication. In recent months, we have been able to move forward with several initiatives and proposals based on what you, D5 community members, have told us matters to you. Here are some examples:

**Remote Meetings**

Like most meetings, the pandemic made it essential for City Council meetings to be held remotely in the interest of public health and safety. However, the Denver Revised Municipal Code and Charter were silent regarding the use of electronic media to hold and attend meetings, which would have allowed Council to meet virtually. For the past year, I have worked on Charter Amendment 2F and an ordinance amending Denver's open meetings laws to authorize electronic participation and meeting methods during emergencies. This will allow for use of emerging technology and increase community accessibility to Council.

**Community Safety and JAG Grant Award**

It is no secret that our crime rates have gone up dramatically. We have seen a 145% rise in property crime, particularly in package theft and auto theft. We hope you received the informational flyer from our office, sent in mid-June, with contact numbers and information on how we can all be partners in keeping our neighborhoods safe. No District neighborhood has been more impacted by this increase in crime than East Colfax, where residents have seen a 163% rise in violent person-on-person crime in addition to the property crime. To help support the community, our office partnered with DPD and local neighborhood organizations to write a grant application that will pay for staffing for a pilot community policing program along East Colfax from Monaco to Yosemite, and from 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. We are pleased to announce that the State has awarded us over \$260,000 for implementation of this program. The overwhelming support of the District 5 Community – including more than 28 letters and hundreds of petition signatures – put our application over the top. Thank you to all who participated in the process.

**Eviction Protection**

As we look at the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the issues rising to the top is the overwhelming number of people who could face eviction in our city. In response to that need, I advanced an ordinance in partnership with District 9 Councilwoman Cde Baca to create access to legal counsel for any resident facing eviction who makes less than 80% of the area median income (approximately \$85,000 for a family of four). The amount of money Denver spends on post-eviction services around homelessness and sheltering is astronomical. It makes sense to better support our residents upstream in the eviction process. It doesn't mean that

these residents will get to remain in their homes; but it will provide an opportunity to achieve better outcomes for them than an eviction on their credit history that will affect their ability to find housing in the future.

On behalf of everyone in the D5 office, thank you for all you do in our neighborhoods. In particular, we give a shout out to the 70 residents who volunteered at the D5 Spring Parks-Clean-Up Day. On Sunday, October 10 we'll give attention to the other half of our city-managed parks at the D5 Fall Parks Clean-Up Day, so please save the date! As always, feel free to contact our office at [denvercouncil5@denvergov.org](mailto:denvercouncil5@denvergov.org) or 720-337-5555 with comments or questions. Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter and updates at [bit.ly/Council5News](http://bit.ly/Council5News), and we'll also keep you apprised of developments as they happen through these communication channels:



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