



SUMMER NEWSLETTER - JULY 2025



A Transformative Experience at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government

OVER THE PAST 3
WEEKS...

I had the privilege of joining 46 remarkable classmates at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government—an international cohort of elected officials and public leaders from across the United States, Ireland, England, Pakistan, and Canada. Representing diverse sectors of city and state government, we came together to deepen our understanding of public service and sharpen our capacity to lead.

BY 82% OF THOSE
VOTING



For years now, I have been very clear in my comments in Council chambers, articles in this newsletter, and official votes, that I think flagpole annexations are an irresponsible way to grow. While our City certainly does need more housing that is attainable and affordable, flagpole annexations far from the City create pockets of incorporated areas that are difficult to serve and maintain. They also stretch our most precious natural resource – water – since

Colorado Springs Utilities is obligated to provide service for all development within City limits. Furthermore, such annexations jeopardize public safety (think additional calls for service and increased response times) even as there is widespread recognition that response times need improvement.

I believe your City leaders (both in Council and Administration) need to show that we understand what the voters are telling us. We need growth that is responsible, considers impacts on all our resources while still balancing the needs for a thriving economy. This is an adaptive not a technical leadership challenge. While I will bring everything I learned through my experience which you will read about in the next article, your thoughts and approaches are welcome and needed!



Urban Planning with the Urban Land Institute

CHECK OUT ULI
COLORADO HERE

On Friday July 11, 5 of your City Councilors participated in an Urban Planning workshop led by the non-profit ULI Colorado whose mission is to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities. We worked as teams in an experiential learning session to create a development plan that would be presented to a city council. It was extremely instructive and valuable experience. Would you be interested in participating in such an experience? As referenced in the earlier article on Karmen Line and responsible growth, this kind of learning experience could support greater understanding of and engagement in the planning process. Reach out if you are intrigued.



Calling all startups! Are you a pre-revenue or early-stage founder building an innovative tech company?

[APPLY HERE](#)

The **XI Accelerator** is a Colorado-based, *low-fee, no-equity* program designed specifically for emerging technology startups and founders who are:

- Pre-revenue or have a few customers but are ready to scale.
- Pre-seed or seed stage of their journey.
- Innovating in any technology field.

Selected companies gain access to tailored mentorship, strategic resources, and a collaborative environment designed to accelerate their growth. Past participants have seen incredible progress in refining their products, securing investment, and building sustainable ventures.

Exponential Impact's Accelerator program provides mentorship, resources, and support to scale your business. Applications are open now!



*Youth Activist
Training (YAT) helps
youth be engaged!*



YAT is a unique Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission weeklong summer camp program for youth 13-17 to build advocacy and activism skills and find out more about how they want to make a difference. In addition to visits from local water safety activist Liz Rosenbaum, Professor Sarah Hautzinger leading a Talanoa Climate Dialogue, and head chef and educator Izzy Nunez at Food to Power, I spent an hour with the group in City Council Chambers while they learned more about how City Council works and how to engage with their local elected officials!

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT: Please provide input!

The City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County are hosting a series of community open houses this July as part of a regional **Housing Needs Assessment**—and your voice is important!

These come-and-go events are a chance to learn about local housing challenges and share your own experiences and insights. Your input will help shape housing strategies and solutions across El Paso County.

Attend in person or virtually—whatever fits your schedule best. All sessions offer the same information and materials.

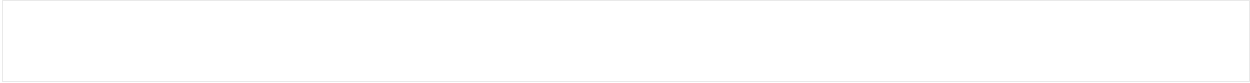
[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND VIEW EVENT DETAILS](#)

Grateful to Serve!



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