

## Newsletter from Colorado Springs City Councilmember Nancy Henjum

Happy Autumn to all District 5 friends and neighbors,

I'm so glad to connect with you through this edition of my Newsletter. Each month, I share updates on city projects, events you can join, resources for residents, and stories from around our community.

Grateful to serve,

**Nancy**

Councilmember, District 5 – Colorado Springs



### Your Input Needed! Survey Closes November 21

Take a short survey to help shape the future of recycling and composting in our city. Tell us about your current habits and what you want to see—your voice matters!

<https://coloradosprings.gov/WastelessCOS>



### Update on Proposed Vehicle Camping Ordinance and Next Steps

Over the past several weeks, many of you reached out to share your thoughts on the proposed amendment to City Code regarding vehicle camping. I received messages from residents concerned about public safety, sanitation, and neighborhood quality of life, as well as from individuals and advocates who emphasized that a vehicle is often the last piece of stability for someone who is working, seeking services, or waiting for housing. I want to acknowledge that **both sets of concerns are real**.

At our City Council meeting on November 10, I introduced a motion to **postpone consideration of the ordinance for six months** (to May 2026). This motion passed on a **5–4 vote**. The decision to postpone was not about delaying action. It was about ensuring that, before we move forward, we do the work needed to make any policy **effective, fair, and workable in practice**.

#### Why a Postponement Was an Important Step

Currently, our community does not have:

- Sufficient **safe parking** or overnight options for individuals living in vehicles
- Clear, coordinated **pathways into housing and services**
- A shared framework between neighborhoods, providers, law enforcement, and the city on how to respond consistently

Changing enforcement **without** those supports in place risks simply moving people from one neighborhood to another — and does not reduce the number of people living in crisis. Ticketing people and having them move in 24 hours, just sends them to a different location and creates a problem for a new set of neighbors while creating greater disruption for the people who are having to live in their vehicles.



## What Happens Next

Over the next six months, I will be working with:

- Aimee Cox, Chief Housing and Homelessness Response Officer
- Fellow councilmembers
- Neighborhood and community representatives
- Outreach and housing service providers
- Public safety (HOT and HOP teams of CSPD and CSFD) and code enforcement
- Faith and nonprofit partners
- Individuals with lived experience

This collaborative effort will focus on **practical and compassionate steps** that can be implemented locally, including:

- Exploring safe parking strategies
- Strengthening case management connections
- Expanding options for families, workers, and individuals who are unhoused
- Improving neighborhood communication and response coordination

My work will be guided by two commitments:

1. Neighborhoods deserve safety, cleanliness, and stability; **and**
2. People deserve a pathway out of crisis — not just repeated displacement.

Thank you again to everyone who engaged, questioned, encouraged, and challenged. Your voices shaped the discussion and will continue to shape the path forward. I will keep you updated on progress through this newsletter.

## CSFD Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) Team Recognition

I have always been a huge advocate for our City's Fire Department for their innovation and commitment to service. Spend three minutes viewing this news report about how the Department's HOP team works on homelessness in our city. It is inspiring! — and it reminds us that though we may lack a comprehensive approach and framework, many of our public and private institutions are doing compassionate and meaningful work.



[This Colorado Springs Man Spent a YEAR Helping One Homeless Veteran - The Ending Will Amaze You](#)

## What is the Pikes Peak Enterprise Zone and How Can You Benefit?

Beginning **January 1, 2026**, new **Pikes Peak Enterprise Zone (EZ)** boundaries will take effect across El Paso County—including updated areas within **Council District 5**. These zones are designed to encourage business investment, job creation, and revitalization in targeted areas of our community.

If you're a resident, small-business owner, property owner, or community partner, understanding whether you fall within an Enterprise Zone can open the door to valuable state tax incentives that help support local economic growth.

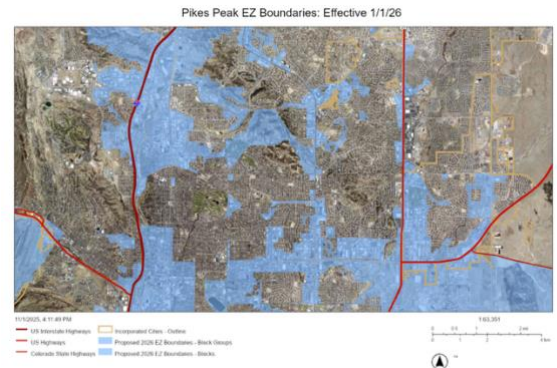


## A Simple Way to Check Eligibility

El Paso County Economic Development has created a **user-friendly interactive map** that allows you to:

- Search any address to see whether it's inside the **current** or **upcoming** Enterprise Zone
- View the **2026 boundary changes**
- Toggle additional layers, including the Commercial Aeronautical Zone, CDBG Program areas, and County zoning information
- Clear and restart searches easily

This tool helps clarify which businesses or properties may qualify for Enterprise Zone benefits—such as tax credits for capital investment, job training, and business expansion.



### Explore the Mapping Tool:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9fde110dfcfb472aba46a2cae6f44078>

Want to Learn More?

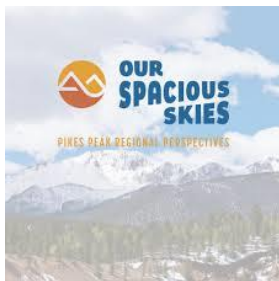
El Paso County provides a detailed overview of the Pikes Peak Enterprise Zone program, including how it works, who qualifies, and how to apply for incentives.

### Enterprise Zone Program Information:

<https://admin.elpasoco.com/economic-development/business-incentives/pikes-peak-enterprise-zone/>

If you think your business or property may benefit—or if you’re simply curious about the 2026 changes—I encourage you to take a look. This is a great opportunity to enhance local investment and strengthen economic vitality across District 5 and the wider region.

## Explore the New Regional Visioning Study: “Our Spacious Skies”



Thank you to the Pikes Peak Community Foundation for their efforts on the recently completed comprehensive report. The initiative known as Our Spacious Skies provides an in-depth look at what residents of the Pikes Peak region (across El Paso and Teller counties) value most about their communities, where they see challenges, and how they envision our shared future.

### Key findings include:

- Strong pride in the region’s natural beauty, outdoor access, and quality of life.
- Concern over housing affordability, growth management, and transportation/mobility.
- A clear path forward: this isn’t just data for the shelf – it’s meant to guide how nonprofits, government, businesses and community groups align their actions and resources.

If you’re engaged in neighborhood planning, community development, policy advocacy, or simply curious about what our region’s residents are prioritizing. This report is must-read.

### Read the full report [here](#).



 **Explore data dashboards and research findings [here](#).**

Take a few minutes to review it—and consider how your work, volunteer efforts or community partnerships might align with the region's voice. This is a strong foundation to help shape our region's trajectory together.

## **Property Protection Recording Notification Service just launched (Thanks to Steve Schleiker, your County Clerk and Recorder)**

I'm excited to share that the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder's Office has 'officially' launched the Recording Notification (Property Fraud) System (RNS), a free tool and a quick way to get alerted when a document is recorded with your name or parcel, helping you spot potential title or deed fraud fast.

### **What RNS does**

- Sends you an email when a document is recorded that matches the names or parcel(s) you choose
- Helps you verify legitimate activity, or act quickly if something looks off
- Adds another layer of transparency and peace of mind for property owners

### **How to enroll (this takes ~ 2 minutes)**

1. Go to the RNS sign-up page: <https://clerkandrecorder.elpasoco.com/recording/property-protection/>
2. Enter the name(s) you want to monitor
3. Confirm your subscription

**Watch a quick overview:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Gxndtg4Ty/>

### **FAQs**

- *Who should enroll?* Homeowners, business owners, and anyone who wants to monitor recordings tied to their name or parcel.
- *What if I get an alert I don't recognize?* Contact our Recording team right away and we'll help your review next steps.
- *Can I add family members?* Yes, you can monitor multiple names.

If you have questions or need assistance enrolling, please email [recweb@elpasoco.com](mailto:recweb@elpasoco.com), or call 719-520-6198.

## **STILL READING?? Councilmember Gold and Councilmember Henjum on November 16!**

We are on our bikes exploring the biking infrastructure in District 4 – the Sandcreek Trail and more! How about a protected bike lane on Cascade in front of the Board of County Commissioners office. We rode mostly on protected and safe bike infrastructure on World Remembrance Day for Road Crash Victims after a solemn remembrance on the steps of City Hall.



