

18 November 2013



Mayor Hogan and members of the Aurora City Council:

The proposed changes to Section 146 of the City Code will permit charitable organizations to construct recreational facilities in residential neighborhoods in south Aurora. It will expand the *Quality of Life* opportunities for communities.

My name is Richard Tashma and I am a resident of Wheatlands, in Ward 6. I have served on the *Wheatlands Metropolitan District* Board since 2010, when residents were first accepted onto the Board. The Wheatlands Metropolitan District is 100% resident-operated, and I am the President of the District.

My fellow Board members and I recommend a Yes vote on this proposal.

Under C.R.S. Section 32-1-1004(8), Wheatlands Metropolitan is a Special District which is authorized to act as a typical taxing authority for infrastructure and maintenance, and also as a *de facto* home owner's association. We are the *sole entity* which interacts with property owners and residents in Wheatlands. Our extended duties include covenant enforcement, architectural supervision, amenities management, and long term strategy and planning for Wheatlands.

Additional recreation amenities are needed in Wheatlands. To that end, the Wheatlands Metropolitan District Board is actively negotiating the details of a Public-Private Partnership with the *YMCA of Metropolitan Denver*.

The YMCA plans to construct, and collaboratively operate, a recreation center on a segment of a parcel which is owned by the Wheatlands Metro District, located at Powhaton Road and Wheatlands Parkway.

The Metro District Board regularly informs the community regarding this P3 by way of agenda items, special meetings, and periodic publications. Several informative *Community Update* documents have been read into the minutes at District Board meetings in 2013. Each of them is publically available on the Metro District web site. The Board has also authorized formation of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee comprised of Wheatlands residents.

Once again, as representatives of the Wheatlands property owners and residents, the Wheatlands Metropolitan District Board of Directors recommends that the City Council approve this proposed zoning change.

It is an honor to address this Council and to represent Wheatlands here today.

Thank you.