

Peggy Cole's Response to The Littleton Examiner

What are the major responsibilities of Littleton City Council?

- Ensure that the City Charter is followed.
- Approve ordinances & resolutions that ensure the health, safety & welfare of the citizens.
- Establish priorities & policies that guide the development of an annual budget that ensures the health, safety & welfare of the citizens.
- Appoint & evaluate a City Manager to carry out policies & priorities.
- Appoint & evaluate a City Attorney & municipal court judge.
- Approve zoning changes & the Comprehensive Plan, which expresses the vision for the City.
- Appoint members of Commissions & Boards.
- Establish fees for the services the City provides (e.g., sewer tap fees & user rates, storm drainage fees, open space fees, & permit fees).
- Keep citizens informed & welcome their input at Public Hearings, unscheduled public appearances & outreach activities.

What do you see as the most important issue facing Littleton City Council in 2010?

The biggest issue is ensuring the safety, health & welfare of the citizens while dealing with the recession & marketing the City to increase economic vitality.

As a member of City Council, I am focusing on cost containment and am paying very close attention to revenue and expenditures. As the metro area begins to emerge from the recession, I want to engage as many people as possible – City staff, business owners, realtors, journalists, & citizens – to join me in promoting Littleton as a great place to live & do business so that we can fill the business vacancies caused by the recession. Together, we can make a difference.

How will Littleton be better served if you are elected?

Littleton's most important asset is our citizens. As a Council member, I will continue to encourage everyone to share their concerns & ideas. And I will ensure that those concerns & ideas are voiced at City Council. I will also continue to try to

- improve transparency & open government,
- improve efficiency & effectiveness, &
- promote economic & social vitality.

Further comments:

- Improve transparency and open government:
 - publish the budget as a searchable database, online,
 - follow the lead of Fort Collins in its online "spending transparency" Open Book (<http://www.fcgov.com/openbook/>),
 - ask citizens to identify their goals & objectives for the City, tie the budget to goals & objectives, & annually ask citizens to evaluate the City on meeting those goals & objectives,
- Improve efficiency & effectiveness – as we do now, by working with other government entities formally & informally;
 - for example,
 - DRCOG
 - Metro Mayors Caucus
 - Fire/Rescue partnership with 2 districts & mutual aid agreements with other districts – also our wildland fire unit helps with fires elsewhere in the Country.
 - Fire Burn training (e.g., because our burn building is unusable, we used Castle Rock's facility in exchange for providing the training for their new fire staff)
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant (co-owned with Englewood; serves many districts)
 - Animal shelter serving several cities
 - Purchase & maintenance of parks & open space
 - South Platte Working Group
 - Other intergovernmental agreements with the County, SSPR, &/or other entities

- South Area Auto Theft Task Force (Littleton, Sheridan, Englewood)
- South Metro Drug Task Force
- Immigrant Resource Center (formerly LI3) at Bemis Library
- plow snow in exchange for repaving street into Reynold's Landing
- building 3 new playgrounds & improving the neighborhood park at East Elementary School (also involved the PTO)
- last year, during the DNC, helped provide security in Denver & along the Santa Fe corridor
- becoming more energy efficient.
- promote economic & social vitality. For example,
 - At my suggestion, the City is in the process of developing a flowchart to guide developers & others. To address problems that have arisen with oral approvals at various stages of the development process, I believe we also need to implement an approval form that requires a written approval at each step of the process.
 - Continue the Council outreach to large businesses, downtown merchants, auto dealers & others,
 - Continue to support Economic Gardening & Business/Industry Affairs consulting key business people for immediate input/advice on issues,
 - Encourage business owners & citizens to serve as business ambassadors (reaching out to potential businesses &/or assisting other businesses – e.g., in the use of social media).
 - Increase social capital.
 - Ensure that the citizens & businesses know that the Council welcomes their feedback – their concerns, ideas & questions. I believe no City-related question, concern, or idea is too small to share with me as a Council member.
 - Develop volunteer activities for young people who are mainly on the “receiving end” to help contribute to society, develop more self-esteem, & overcome a “welfare mentality” – for example participating in fund-raising events that benefit others (such as the car wash to raise money for the family of the man killed by a drunk driver in the NE neighborhood last Sept.).
 - recycling their bicycles, Christmas toys, etc.,
 - helping plant trees on Arbor Day,
 - helping clean up the Museum grounds in the Spring,
 - helping in the Handyman program, where they might also learn to do minor repairs.

These are some of the questions I'd like to ask other candidates.

1. What would you do to improve transparency and open government?
2. What would you do to discourage a "welfare mentality" among our economically disadvantaged children & their families?
3. What would you do to improve fiscal responsibility and accountability?
4. What would you do to make the City more business friendly?

Peggy Cole