

*Michael B. Hancock*  
Mayor



# *City and County of Denver*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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July 8, 2020

Dear Members of City Council:

As you know, last week I announced my support for a proposal from the Colorado Village Collaborative for temporary managed campsites known as Safe Outdoor Spaces. While I arrived at this decision with some reluctance – I continue to believe that indoor solutions provide the best opportunity for housing stability – I recognize that COVID-19 has placed additional challenges in the way of addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Working closely with the Colorado Village Collaborative and its operational and funding partners, our intent is to establish two or three 50-tent temporary, managed campsites in the city. Depending on the site, there may be license agreement, zoning or other approvals required by City Council and the Administration. In some cases, Council approval may not be required. In addition, we do not have a formal process in place to identify sites, regardless of whether they are owned by the city, another public entity or a private enterprise. This is why I am writing to you today.

Nobody knows your Council district better than you. Therefore, I request that each of you, who recently sent me a letter in support of the Safe Outdoor Space concept, identify at least one potential site in your district to support a temporary COVID-based temporary campsite. Ideally, we are looking for properties in the 10,000-square-foot range – enough for 60 people, 50 socially distant tents, restroom and shower facilities, and a common area. The campsite would be operational as long as public health orders and the pandemic are in place.

Please send your recommended location(s) to Lisa Lumley in our Division of Real Estate at [lisa.lumley@denvergov.org](mailto:lisa.lumley@denvergov.org) or 303-507-9061 by Friday July 17.

Thank you for your partnership in this important work, not just during the pandemic but in the years prior. Together with Council and many other partners, we have been able to provide stable housing options to 9,200 individuals and families experiencing homelessness since 2011. More recently, we have continued to lead the way, shouldering much of the burden for the entire metro area by standing up two large 24-hour shelters, providing access to more than 700 motel rooms, installing publicly accessible restrooms and hand-washing stations, and providing free COVID testing and screening.

I look forward to continuing our productive collaboration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hancock", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael B. Hancock  
Mayor