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TRAVIS LEIKER FOR DENVER CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE ANNOUNCES ROADMAP TO GET DENVER BACK ON TRACK

Candidate completes 8 months on campaign trail; announces 8-point action plan.

(Denver, CO)—After traveling throughout the city and conducting numerous conversations with community leaders over the past eight months, candidate for Denver City Council At-Large Travis Leiker has announced his eight-point action plan.

The at-large seats are uniquely positioned to build consensus across district boundaries, provide constituent services support to district offices, and interface closely with the executive branch to bring citywide solutions to the most challenging issues of the day.

“Denver will soon elect a new mayor and at least five new city council members,” Leiker stated. “This provides an opportunity to hit the reset button on the Mayor-Council relationship and build consensus between the executive and legislative branches of city government.”

Informed by one-on-one meetings, conversations with neighborhood and nonprofit organizations, calls and texts with constituents, and other important due diligence, Leiker has laid out the top-line themes for his campaign. Leiker continues, “The framework I am outlining today details what is top of mind for many Denverites and central to getting our great city back on track, again.”

Priority 1. Meet Denver’s housing needs through more choice and opportunity. Denver’s cost of living is on the rise, and the rapid spike in housing costs places a heavy burden on Denver residents. Through smart zoning and land use, transit-oriented development and effective urban design, and improved city processes, I believe we can better achieve Denver’s near-term and long-term housing needs.

Priority 2. Implementing a data-centered, fact-based approach to address homelessness. The number of people experiencing homelessness in Denver has nearly doubled in two years. Tensions are rising in response to unsanctioned encampments and growing neighborhood frustrations. This is unacceptable. Homelessness is a city-wide issue, and it requires a coordinated, city-wide response informed by data, best practice, and better management.

Priority 3. Investing in all communities, especially those underrepresented or marginalized neighborhoods. Denver’s quality of life is rooted in its neighborhoods, reflecting

a rich diversity of people and unique community characteristics. We need to invest in Denver's future generations and their families, including promoting equal access to essential city assets like parks, recreation centers, and libraries as well as untapped opportunities. All Denverites should have access to clean air, safe drinking water, multi-modal transit options, green spaces, health care, and nutritious food. Our arts and cultural facilities are world renowned, and they are essential to our success.

Priority 4. Confronting crime and dedicating more council attention to neighborhood safety. Sadly, Denver is poised to surpass the record number of homicides set nearly 40 years ago. At the same time, our public safety agencies and first responders are facing an unprecedented workforce shortage. We can tackle crime through smarter policing strategies, more training, innovative staffing, and building a better relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Priority 5. Effective, efficient, and nimble city government. Internal operations at City and County of Denver have become backlogged and stagnated, making interactions between residents, small business owners, nonprofit leaders, and city staff challenging. I am committed to recruiting and retaining top-talent and fostering innovative leadership through the legislative and budgetary powers entrusted in council.

Priority 6. Improving our electoral process to increase participation and prevent redundancies. It is time to put Denver ahead of political self-interest. Denver is leading the way by implementing the Fair Elections Fund, voting by mail, and improving accessibility. However, we need to modernize and reform local government to respond to Denver's shifting needs and further our shared goals. We must increase participation and design an electoral process that gives way to new leadership and cultivates a fresh perspective.

Priority 7. Actively engage in the city's economic development. The job market continues to grow, but the pandemic has caused us to reevaluate how to support Denver's workforce and sustain economic growth. Boarded up windows, graffiti at vacant properties, and delays within the City are hurting small business and neighborhood vitality. I am excited to partner with the next mayor and other city leaders to attract good, secure, and high paying jobs. We must support our small businesses--including women, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other minority owned businesses--to simulate more economic growth and to create intergenerational wealth and financial stability.

Priority 8. Getting big things done. Bureaucratic infighting and social media grandstanding has reached new levels causing unfortunate levels of inertia. We need more leaders on council with management experience and keen understanding of complex organizations--including recruiting and retaining top talent and driving policy outcomes and organizational action. By taking an all-hands-on deck approach, we can get big projects done on time in the most economically efficient way.

The 2023 election is the most consequential in 40 years. Over the next 90 days, the Travis Leiker for Denver campaign will announce specific policy strategies that will bring real solutions to the table and demonstrate that Leiker is the thought leader Denver needs on City Council and in the at-large role.

For more information and to support this campaign, please visit TravisLeiker.com.

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Travis Leiker is a candidate for Denver City Council At-Large in 2023, and he is currently Senior Director of Development at the University of Colorado. In addition to serving as President of Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, one of Denver's largest and oldest neighborhood organizations for more than six years, Leiker served four years as the board President at NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado (now Cobalt Advocates). In both roles, Leiker led each organization from near bankruptcy to stability and programmatic success. Other professional experience includes work at Conservation Colorado, helping to train a new generation of women leaders to run for office, and work in public policy and issue advocacy. Travis Leiker holds both a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado. He is a 16-year resident of the Mile High City and lives with his partner David and their dog Eleanor.