

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

August 28th, 2017

Dear Mayor Hancock, Members of City Council and Mr. Leid:

The Zoning and Planning Committee of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation met on August 26, 2017 and briefly discussed the proposed "framework agreement" that will govern the National Western Center for the next 50 years and which is expected to be filed with City Council on September 7, 2017. Please note that we had no access to the document to review, because the very lengthy agreement has not been made available to the public and was negotiated and written behind closed doors.

Our committee voted by a vote of 24 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstaining to encourage all of you to postpone the date for final consideration of this agreement for at least a month. This postponement would allow for more citizen awareness and discussion of the contents of this very significant agreement that will affect the city for such a long time and which will apparently remove the National Western Center from involvement by our elected City Council members.

We also request that City Council agree to conduct a public hearing on the agreement. We believe that when approval of a complicated contract or other agreement is rushed so quickly, public confidence is reduced, as witness the continuing distrust of the Platte-to-Park Hill project or the recent health-care bills in Congress.

Please understand that our committee has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the agreement, but we are only expressing that the National Western Center, the nearby neighborhoods and the citizens of Denver will benefit by an approval process for the agreement that is not as rushed and is more open to the public.

Respectfully,



John Joseph Niemann

President, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation