

November 22, 2013

From Amber Miller, office of Mayor Hancock to the Front Porch

Impact of 2A in Denver

The passage of Measure 2A made it possible for us to catch back up on essential services lost during the recession and gave us the much needed opportunity to also eliminate the annual deficit and restore critical services in neighborhoods all across our city, including great neighborhoods like Stapleton.

Measure 2A has already had a tremendous impact on our city. In fact, a few of the key actions taken, which will continue into 2014, include:

Parks and Recreation

- **MY Denver Program Expansion** – This expansion has allowed all Denver students – elementary through high school – free access to Denver’s recreation centers and outdoor pools. An estimated 31,000 children will be served in 2013, and even more are expected to benefit in 2014.
- **Parks Maintenance Standards** – Prior to the passage of 2A, parks only had the budget capacity to meet 70 percent of its maintenance standards for current acreage. Five new positions have been added to the 2014 budget to increase maintenance standards in 2014.

Office of Children’s Affairs

- **After-School Programming** – Some \$500,000 in funding will continue to be distributed to support and restore investments in Out-of-School Time programs that take place before and after school and during the summer. During 2013, this program served an additional 1,030 children in the summer with another 838 to be served this fall.

Department of Safety

- **Recruit Classes** – Three police cadet classes and two fire recruit classes have been scheduled for 2013. Already, 35 new police lateral recruits have been sworn in. Two classes each for police and fire are anticipated in 2014. By the end of 2014, Denver anticipates to train and hire more than 100 new policemen and firefighters.

Economic Development

- **Business Incentive Fund** – Established in 2005, the Business Incentive Fund provides incentives for companies relocating or expanding with new jobs and tax revenues. Measure 2A increased funding by

\$500,000 in 2013, enabling the Office of Economic Development to attract and retain quality jobs in targeted industry sectors.

- **Business Personal Property Tax Credit** – Measure 2A included a four-year Business Personal Property Tax exemption to companies that purchase new equipment. This incentive will be offered through the end of 2016 but could be extended by City Council. More than 20 businesses have applied for tax credits to support their investments for growing their businesses with 85 percent of the businesses meeting the criteria to obtain a four year tax credit. The additional investments will result in 375 new jobs being created from the \$22.9 million in private investments and over \$35 million in new business investment for business growth.

Denver Public Library

- **System-Wide Hours Expansion** – A \$3.1 million annual funding increase is allowing libraries to increase service from an average of 35.5 hours per week to more than 48 hours per week (a 43 percent increase). The system hour increases and funding will continue in 2014 and an additional \$200,000 was added in 2014 to increase the library's collection in order to meet the new demand generated by the additional hours.

Street Paving Program – With \$4.5 million provided by Measure 2A, an additional 300 lane miles of residential streets in poor condition will be paved through 2016.

Senior and Disabled Rebate Program – Additional 2A funding of \$1.25 million will continue to support a doubling of the base property-tax rebate offered to qualifying seniors and people with disabilities. This funding has doubled the amount paid to property tax payers eligible for the program.

Furlough Days – Funding from Measure 2A allowed the city to cease employee furlough days in 2013, which will be maintained in the 2014 budget as well.