

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
480 S. ALLISON PARKWAY, 80226
CITY OF LAKEWOOD, COLORADO
HYBRID MEETING
MARCH 25, 2024
7:00 PM

To watch the Council meeting live, please use either one of the following links:
City of Lakewood Website: [Lakewood.org/CouncilVideos](https://lakewood.org/CouncilVideos)
or
Lakewood Speaks: Lakewoodspeaks.org

The City of Lakewood does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability in the provision of services. People with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in a City service program, can call 303-987-7080 or TDD 303-987-7057. Please give notice as far in advance as possible so we can accommodate your request.

In accordance with City Council Policy 5.1(A), all virtual meeting participants are advised that technological issues, whether caused by the City's equipment or the user's equipment, shall not be grounds for canceling a public meeting.

How to Connect to Provide Public Comment: Online participants may post written comments of any length to LakewoodSpeaks.org, an online forum for public comments.

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

ITEM 3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 4 – STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ITEM 5 – PROCLAMATIONS

- A. HONORING FELIX WADE COOK SR.
- B. COLORECTAL CANCER - MARCH AWARENESS

ITEM 6 – STAFF PRESENTATION

- A. PROJECT REQUEST FROM THE LAKEWOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

B. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**CONSENT AGENDA
ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

- ITEM 7 – RESOLUTION 2024-15 – APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LAKEWOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION**
- ITEM 8 – RESOLUTION 2024-16 – APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE LAKEWOOD BOARD OF APPEALS**
- ITEM 9 – RESOLUTION 2024-17 – REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LAKEWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
- ITEM 10 – RESOLUTION 2024-18 – APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE LAKEWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION - WARD 1**
- ITEM 11 – RESOLUTION 2024-19 – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AD HOC COMMITTEE**
- ITEM 12 – RESOLUTION 2024-20 – XCEL NON-DISCLOSURE EXTENSION**
- ITEM 13 – APPROVING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**
- A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 12, 2024
- B. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 26, 2024

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA
ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

ITEM 14 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone who would like to address the Council on any matter other than an agenda item will be given the opportunity. Speakers should limit their comments to three minutes.

ITEM 15 – GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. CITY COUNCIL REQUEST

ITEM 16 – EXECUTIVE REPORT

- A. CITY MANAGER

ITEM 17 – CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

A. COUNCIL MEMBERS BY WARD

B. MAYOR

ITEM 18 – ADJOURNMENT

PROCLAMATION

IN HONOR OF FELIX WADE COOK SR.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sadness that the City of Lakewood, Colorado, and the Lakewood City Council acknowledges the passing of Felix Wade Cook Sr., a distinguished member of the Lakewood community; and

WHEREAS, Felix Wade Cook Sr. passed away on Sunday, February 4, in the comfort of his home, and accompanied by his devoted wife of 60 years, Dr. Margie Ball Cook; and

WHEREAS, Felix Wade Cook Sr. served diligently on the board of the Colorado Gives Foundation for 11 years, from 2005 to 2016, leaving an indelible mark on the organization with his unwavering commitment and passion for their mission; and

WHEREAS, Felix Wade Cook Sr. was a stalwart supporter of the Jefferson County community, notably as a CASA volunteer advocating for the most vulnerable among us, demonstrating boundless generosity through volunteerism and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, Felix Wade Cook Sr.'s impact extended throughout Jefferson County, evidenced by his involvement in numerous community initiatives and organizations, including his role on the Jefferson County Judges Judicial Review board, his active participation with the Senior Resource Center and the Action Center, and his dedication to building and nurturing community connections through his involvement with local Kiwanis Clubs, Our Saviors Church, and the West Metro Chamber; and

WHEREAS, Felix Wade Cook Sr. epitomized the values of Family, Education, Community Service, and Philanthropy, leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire and uplift the community for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood would like to express heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for his contributions to his local community.

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the City of Lakewood, I, Wendi Strom, Mayor of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim, that Felix Wade Cook Sr. is honored and remembered.

GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the City of Lakewood, this 21st day of February 2024.

Wendi Strom, Mayor

PROCLAMATION

MARCH AS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, one in 23 men and one in 25 women in the United States will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, amounting to an estimated 145,000 people being diagnosed this year; and

WHEREAS, over 52,000 people died of colorectal cancer in 2020; and

WHEREAS, one in 10 individuals diagnosed with colorectal cancer under the age of 50 are 58 percent more likely than older patients to be diagnosed with late-stage disease (stage III or IV), with incidence rates expected to increase by more than 140 percent by 2030; and

WHEREAS, affordable, take-home colorectal cancer screening options exist, and 60 percent of deaths could be prevented with timely screening; however, one in 3 individuals are not up to date with their screenings; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer incidence and mortality rates are disproportionately higher among minorities, with Black Americans having a 20 percent greater chance of being diagnosed with colorectal cancer, Indigenous communities also have higher rates of colorectal cancer than their white counterparts, and Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews are one of the highest at-risks ethnic groups for colorectal cancer out of any other group in the world; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for colorectal cancer, and it is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States among men and women combined; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that people of all ages know the signs and symptoms of the disease; and

WHEREAS, observing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening.

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the City Council and the people of the City of Lakewood, I, Wendi Strom, Mayor of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim

MARCH AS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the City of Lakewood, this 25th day of March 2024.

Wendi Strom, Mayor

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024 / AGENDA ITEM NO. A.

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Jay Robb, City Clerk, 303-987-7081
Subject: **LAC PROJECT REQUEST - CRIMES OF SURVIVAL**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Members of the Civic Awareness Subcommittee of the Lakewood Advisory Commission (LAC) raised the idea of eliminating low-level violations in Lakewood that are commonly referred to as “crimes of survival” or “crimes of being homeless” and presented a proposal to the Subcommittee, and subsequently to the LAC Executive Committee, to research this issue.

If the proposed project is approved by the City Council, the Civic Awareness Subcommittee would research the topic of “crimes of survival” in Lakewood. Specifically, the full research proposal is described in the attached form from the LAC, which states that “There are several local laws and ordinances that have historically been enforced and prosecuted, such as camping, trespassing, public urination, littering, loitering, etc. Compassion and public perception lead to a decreasing amount of enforcement at all levels, including police, attorneys and municipal courts. For example, Lakewood currently “clears” or forgives almost 100% of “Failure to Appear” violations and most of the low-level violations that brought the person to court. Therefore, the proposed system of ordinance elimination is already effectively in place. In most cases, the alleged offenders are diverted to other resource programs to provide assistance. This project would research the effective policy already in place.

Researching the effect of eliminating these ordinances could save time and money from enforcement activities that could be diverted to other community resources. For example, Lakewood currently provides a grant to the Courts for Outreach Court. This program is specifically meant to travel into areas more accessible and less intimidating to high-risk populations, with the goal of clearing warrants and providing services.

Research is needed to determine whether a more robust community resource program could more effectively and cheaply do the same job as the existing justice system.

Research is needed to determine the positive and negative effects of the existing policies.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The policies and procedures of the LAC allow project ideas to originate within the LAC, but they must be considered and approved by the City Council to become a formal assignment. This process was further clarified and codified when the City Council adopted Ordinance O-2023-16, which amended Title 2, Chapter 56 with the following language:

2.56.075 City Council Research Assignments.

- A. The City Council shall approve all LAC research assignments by a majority vote of City Council. Research assignments may be initiated by either the City Council or by the LAC Executive Committee. However, the LAC may only proceed with an Executive Committee initiated research assignment after approval by a majority vote of City Council.
- B. Upon completion of an LAC research assignment, a representative or representatives of the LAC shall present to City Council briefly summarizing the LAC’s conclusions and recommendations relating to the research assignment and shall deliver a copy of any report and/or accompanying materials to the City Clerk

for distribution to the City Council fourteen (14) days prior to the presentation.
C. Research assignments shall be deemed final after the presentation to City Council.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: None

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommend that the City Council considers and votes on the proposal from the Lakewood Advisory Commission.

ALTERNATIVES: The City Council could vote against the LAC's research proposal.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: This item has been promoted through the regular communication channels to be considered by the Lakewood City Council.

NEXT STEPS: If the proposed project is approved by the City Council, the Civic Awareness Subcommittee will research the questions in their proposal.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Submission Form - LAC Research

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

LAC Research Project Requests to Lakewood City Council

Submitted on	15 October 2023, 12:23PM
Receipt number	3
Related form version	6

Introduction & Instructions

1) What LAC Subcommittee is making this request?	Civic Awareness
2) Please summarize the issue / proposal.	Research the effect of eliminating low-level Lakewood Ordinance violations that are commonly referred to as "crimes of being homeless" or "survival crimes".
3) Provide any history / background information regarding this issue.	<p>There are several local laws and ordinances that have historically been enforced and prosecuted, such as camping, trespassing, public urination, littering, loitering, etc. Compassion and public perception lead to a decreasing amount of enforcement at all levels including police, attorney and municipal court. For example, Lakewood currently "clears" or forgives almost 100% of Failure To Appear violations and most of the low-level violations that brought the person to court. Therefore, the proposed system of ordinance elimination is already effectively in place. In most cases, the alleged offenders are diverted into other resource programs to provide assistance. This project would research the effective policy already in place.</p> <p>Researching the effect of eliminating these ordinances could save time and money from enforcement activities that could be diverted to other community resources. For example, Lakewood currently provides a grant to the Courts for Outreach Court. This program is specifically meant to travel into areas more accessible and less intimidating to high-risk populations, with the goal of clearing warrants and providing services.</p> <p>Research is needed to determine whether a more robust community resource program could more effectively and cheaply do the same job as the existing justice system.</p> <p>Research is needed to determine the positive and negative effects of the existing policies.</p>
4) How would this proposal benefit the community of Lakewood?	Knowing the rules allows all residents to increased levels of assurance. If a rule is eliminated or not enforced, then letting them know will eliminate calls for service, freeing up time for other harm-reduction activities. It would increase trust in our government by clarifying duties and letting residents know what the priorities are.
5) Does this issue fall under the jurisdiction of a city department and would the LAC like to have support from that department if the Council approves this proposal?	

Please attach any supporting documents to support your proposal regarding this issue.

If available, please attach a response from City staff regarding this issue / proposal.

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024 / AGENDA ITEM NO. B.

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Travis Parker, Planning Director
Subject: **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PROCESS**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Staff is providing an informational update on the process to develop Lakewood's next Comprehensive Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Planning Department, alongside staff from every department, has begun the process of updating the City's Comprehensive Plan. A lot has changed since Lakewood's previous Comprehensive Plan, Lakewood 2025 Moving Forward Together, was developed and adopted in 2015 and there are several new opportunities and challenges that need to be discussed with the Lakewood community and addressed in the new Plan.

The updated Comprehensive Plan will define a holistic, shared vision for Lakewood over the next 15 years and identify the goals and strategies to achieve this vision. The plan will provide critical guidance by articulating what community members want to see in their city and how they want their values reflected in the choices that City officials make.

The city will use the Comprehensive Plan as the framework for future decision-making regarding quality of life, land-use, housing, transportation, climate action, neighborhood vitality, equity and more.

PROCESS DETAILS

- Phase 1: Plan for the Plan (Nov. 2022 – Dec. 2023)
- Phase 2: Develop the Plan (started January 2024)
- Phase 3: Refine and Adopt the Plan (anticipated for mid-2025)
- Phase 4: Implement the Plan (2025-2040)

Phase 1: Plan for the Plan (Nov. 2022 – Dec. 2023)

During the first phase of the process, the Planning Department met with staff from every department to reflect on the previous Comprehensive Plan and discuss how the updated Plan can be a useful citywide document and tool for decision-making. Staff also worked with a consultant to “Plan for the Plan” which included several preplanning tasks such as researching best practices, creating a public engagement approach and providing recommendations for the Plan organization and implementation framework.

This first phase also included hosting an informational Open House for City Council and Planning Commission, held on August 21, 2023, to introduce the upcoming process and launching the project website, www.Lakewood.org/EnvisionLakewood2040, which will be used throughout the process as the information and online participation hub.

Phase 2: Develop the Plan (started January 2024)

The second phase began in January 2024 and involves an extensive public engagement process to develop the content of the Plan. The public engagement approach that was created as part of the first phase, includes the following four principles that will guide the entire engagement process:

- **Accessibility:** The engagement process will be accessible, understandable, and welcoming to all who wish to participate.
- **Reach:** The engagement process will involve and inform as many members of the public as possible.
- **Diversity:** Participants will reflect the diversity of age groups, ethnicities, incomes, geographies, and special needs of the Lakewood population.
- **Impact:** Participation will influence and inform the decision-making process for the Lakewood Comprehensive Plan.

Based on these principles, the engagement process will focus on hearing from as many community members as possible, especially those who do not usually participate.

The engagement activities that are planned for this year are centered around getting input on two big questions: 1) “What are our shared vision and values for Lakewood’s future?” and 2) “How do we get closer to this vision over the next 15 years?”. These two questions create the structure of the engagement process, breaking it down into two parts. The answers to these questions will build on each other and will provide the foundation for the content of the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Part 1: To answer the first question, “What is our shared vision and values for Lakewood’s future?”** a series of activities are planned to spread the word about the project and hear from community members about their hopes, concerns and dreams for Lakewood’s future.

The first activity was a four-question survey in English and Spanish that was opened from Jan. 12 through Feb. 29. There were online and paper versions of the survey available. In an effort to hear from as many community members as possible, a prepaid postcard version of the survey (and information about the project) was included with the January edition of Looking@Lakewood in both English and Spanish. Looking@Lakewood is mailed to every household in Lakewood, approximately 85,000 addresses, and the January edition was delivered to mailboxes starting on Jan. 31. Each member of every household (including youth!) were encouraged to take the survey by responding either online or by mail using the prepaid postcard. The survey closed on Feb. 29 with approximately ~2,000 responses. The results will be posted on the project website later in March.

Alongside the survey, staff is gathering additional input through in-person meetings and online activities.

To start promoting the project and the initial engagement activities, staff worked with community members and partner organizations to spread the word to each of their networks about the project. Posters and postcards in English and Spanish were also distributed to as many locations as possible across the city, such as recreation centers, coffee shops, local restaurants and businesses, and other community locations.

The values, vision, and concerns that come out of the survey responses and other activities during Part 1 will help inform the questions and challenges the advisory groups will be discussing and solving for during Part 2. So far, many residents have shared that they love Lakewood's proximity to the mountains, access to beautiful parks and open space, and community (including friends and family). Staff also heard concerns about affordability, homelessness, public safety, air quality, safer transportation infrastructure, housing, and sustainability.

- **Part 2: The process to answer the second question, “How do we get closer to this vision over the next 15 years?”** will be defined in more detail based on what is heard from community members during the first set of activities in Part 1. However, the plan is to form advisory groups comprised of community volunteers, industry experts, key City staff and Planning Commission representation. The goal of the

advisory groups is to help answer this second question by discussing and drafting measurable goals and strategies for the Comprehensive Plan.

The goals and strategies drafted by the advisory groups will then be shared with the larger community to review and provide feedback in similar ways as the first round of engagement.

At the end of Part 2, staff plans to share an update with City Council at a meeting in the fall with a summary of what was heard, discussed and developed during the engagement process so far.

Once both questions have clear answers that represent and reflect the voices and experiences of as many community members in Lakewood as possible including staff, City Council, and Planning Commission, the information will be compiled and formatted into a useful, user-friendly and accessible document.

The goal at the end of Phase 2 is to have a draft of the Comprehensive Plan that is ready to begin the review process in Phase 3.

Phase 3: Refine and Adopt the Plan (anticipated for mid-2025)

During phase three, the draft plan will be shared with the community, city staff, City Council, and Planning Commission to review and provide feedback. A final draft will be refined and updated to reflect the feedback received. The goal at the end of Phase 3 is to have the Comprehensive Plan adopted by Planning Commission and City Council.

Phase 4: Implement the Plan (2025-2040)

Once adopted, the city can begin to actively implement the Plan and continually monitor and evaluate progress throughout the lifespan of the Plan.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: Funding for consultant services to support staff in this effort have been budgeted in 2023 and 2024. No additional funding is anticipated.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: This is an information item for City Council. No action is requested.

ALTERNATIVES: N/A

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Public outreach began in January 2024 and will continue through the duration of the project.

NEXT STEPS:

ATTACHMENTS: None

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Jay Robb, City Clerk, 303-987-7081
Subject: **APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LAKEWOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The staff is requesting the approval of a resolution appointing three members to the Lakewood Advisory Commission for full, three-year terms beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Screening Committee held interviews on February 28, 2024, and unanimously recommended three residents to be appointed to the Lakewood Advisory Commission.

Adoption of this resolution will officially appoint Jason Taylor, Hannah Bergeman, and Eric Roberts to the Lakewood Advisory Commission, to serve three-year terms which began on January 1, 2024, and will end on December 31, 2026.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: None

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approval of the resolution.

ALTERNATIVES: Denial of any recommended appointments.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: This item has been promoted through the regular communication channels to be considered by the Lakewood City Council.

NEXT STEPS: Upon approval of the resolution by City Council, the new members will be contacted by City staff to receive orientation and begin serving on the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Resolution 2024-15

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

2024-15

A RESOLUTION

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LAKEWOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, that:

SECTION 1. The following individuals are hereby appointed to the Lakewood Advisory Commission to fill unexpired, three-year terms which commenced on January 1, 2024, and will end on December 31, 2026.

Jason Taylor, a Lakewood resident;
Hannah Bergeman, a Lakewood resident; and
Eric Roberts, a Lakewood resident.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED by a vote of ___ for and ___ against at a hybrid regular meeting of the City Council on March 25, 2024, at 7 o'clock p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, 480 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado.

Wendi Strom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Robb, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Jay Robb, City Clerk, 303-987-7081
Subject: **APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE LAKEWOOD BOARD OF APPEALS**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The staff is requesting the approval of a resolution appointing a member to the Lakewood Board of Appeals for 3-year terms beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2027.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Screening Committee held interviews on March 14, 2024, and unanimously recommended Douglas Porter three to be appointed to the Lakewood Board of Appeals to serve a 3-year term which began on April 1, 2024, and will end on March 31, 2027.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: None

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approval of the resolution.

ALTERNATIVES: Denial of the recommended appointments.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: This item has been promoted through the regular communication channels to be considered by the Lakewood City Council.

NEXT STEPS: Upon approval of the resolution by City Council, the new members will be contacted by City staff to receive orientation and begin serving on the Board.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Resolution 2024-16

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

2024-16

A RESOLUTION

APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF APPEALS

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, that:

SECTION 1. Douglas Porter, a Lakewood resident, is hereby appointed to the Board of Appeals to serve a partial term that commenced on April 1, 2023 and will end March 31, 2024, or upon swearing of a replacement, whichever date is later.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED by a vote of ____ for and ____ against at a hybrid regular meeting of the Lakewood City Council on March 25, 2024, at 7 o'clock p.m. at the Lakewood Civic Center, 480 S. Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado.

Wendi Strom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Robb, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Jay Robb, City Clerk, 303-987-7081
Subject: **REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LAKEWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The staff is requesting the approval of a resolution reappointing a member to the Lakewood Historical Preservation Commission for 4-year terms beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2028.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Screening Committee held interviews on March 14, 2024, and unanimously recommended two residents to be reappointed to the Lakewood Historical Preservation Commission.

Adoption of this resolution will officially reappoint Heather Peterson and Kelly Cvanciger to the Commission, to serve 4-year terms beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2028.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: None

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approval of the resolution.

ALTERNATIVES: Denial of any recommended appointments.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: This item has been promoted through the regular communication channels to be considered by the Lakewood City Council.

NEXT STEPS: Upon approval of the resolution by City Council, the new members will be contacted by City staff to receive orientation and begin serving on the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Resolution 2024-17

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

2024-17

A RESOLUTION

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LAKEWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, that:

SECTION 1. The following person is hereby reappointed on March 25, 2024, to the Lakewood Historic Preservation Commission to serve a four-year term, which commences on April 1, 2024, and will end on March 31, 2028.

Heather Peterson, a Lakewood resident

SECTION 2. The following person is hereby reappointed on March 25, 2024, to the Lakewood Historic Preservation Commission to serve a four-year term, which commences on April 1, 2024, and will end on March 31, 2028.

Kelly Cvanciger, a Lakewood resident

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED by a vote of ___ for and ___ against at a hybrid regular meeting of the City Council on March 25, 2024, at 7 o'clock p.m. at the Lakewood Civic Center, 480 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado.

Wendi Strom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Robb, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Jay Robb, City Clerk, 303-987-7081
Subject: **APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE LAKEWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION -
WARD 1**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Resolution 2024-18 appoints the Ward 1 representative to the Lakewood Planning Commission for a full, four-year term beginning April 1, 2024, and ending March 31, 2028.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Screening Committee held interviews on March 14, 2024, and recommended Elisa "Emo" Overall to be appointed as the Ward 1 representative on the Lakewood Planning Commission.

Adoption of this resolution will officially appoint Elisa Overall to the Lakewood Planning Commission, to serve a four-year term beginning April 1, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2028.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: None

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approval of the resolution.

ALTERNATIVES: Denial of the recommended appointment.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: This item has been promoted through the regular communication channels to be considered by the Lakewood City Council.

NEXT STEPS: Upon approval of the resolution by City Council, the new members will be contacted by City staff to receive orientation and begin serving on the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Resolution 2024-18

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

2024-18

A RESOLUTION

APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE LAKEWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lakewood, Colorado, that:

SECTION 1. The following Lakewood resident is hereby appointed to the Lakewood Planning Commission for a term identified as April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2028:

Elisa “Emo” Overall, Ward 1 Planning Commissioner.

The terms of the individuals appointed under this Section 1 shall commence upon City Council approval of this Resolution and shall end on March 31, 2028, or upon swearing of a replacement, whichever date is later.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED by a vote of ___ for and ___ against at a hybrid regular meeting of the City Council on March 25, 2024, at 7 o'clock p.m. at the Lakewood Civic Center, 480 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado.

Wendi Strom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Robb, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

To: Mayor and City Council

From:

Subject: **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AD HOC COMMITTEE**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The City Council would like to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review Policies and Procedures.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Based on discussion and direction provided by the City Council at the Council retreat.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: None. This is an action of the City Council.

ALTERNATIVES: Council could decide not to adopt the resolution creating a Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: This item has been promoted through the regular communication channels to be considered by the Lakewood City Council.

NEXT STEPS: If adopted, staff will begin working with the Council Members assigned to the Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Committee to begin scheduling these meetings.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Resolution 2024-19

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

2024-19

A RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING AN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO REVIEW AND DRAFT UPDATES TO THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 4.5 of the Charter for the City of Lakewood provides that “[a]d hoc advisory committees may be created or abolished by resolution or upon motion of the City Council”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 2.02 of the Lakewood Municipal Code, the City Council adopts the Council Policy and Procedures Manual.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lakewood:

SECTION 1. The Ad Hoc Policies and Procedures Committee is hereby established, and membership shall be Mayor Pro Tem Jeslin Shahrezaei, Councilmember Jacob LaBure and Councilmember Sophia Mayott-Guerrero.

SECTION 2. The Ad Hoc Policies and Procedures Committee shall establish meeting dates and times for review of the policies and procedures, shall work with City of Lakewood staff to draft revisions to the City Council Policies and Procedures Manual, and shall provide the City Council with a final recommendation as expeditiously as possible.

SECTION 3. The term of the Ad Hoc Policies and Procedures Committee shall expire upon final action by the City Council upon the proposed revisions produced by such committee.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED by a vote of ___ for and ___ against at a hybrid regular meeting of the City Council on March 25, 2024, at 7 o'clock p.m.

Wendi Strom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Robb, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 25, 2024 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Benjamin Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Subject: **MUTUAL NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT GOVERNING CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING STREETLIGHTS**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The City of Lakewood and Xcel Energy have been negotiating the potential sale of company-owned streetlights to the city for the past couple of years. As part of this negotiation, Xcel Energy requires the city to sign a mutual non-disclosure agreement. The previously authorized agreement requires renewal by City Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: With significant potential for savings of both energy and money, the City of Lakewood began the process of evaluating the acquisition of nearly 8,000 streetlights. The first formal step in this process took place over two years ago when the city provided notice to Xcel Energy that it was interested in the lights. City Council then authorized a non-disclosure agreement so that the two sides could begin negotiations.

The next step in the process was a separation study, which was required by Xcel Energy but paid for by the city. The study has taken several months to complete, and the results are anticipated shortly. With these results, the city and Xcel Energy can move forward with the negotiations in a more detailed manner. For that to happen, the city needs to renew the non-disclosure agreement. If passed, the attached resolution would give the City Manager authority to extend the non-disclosure agreement annually through December 31, 2027.

Once a more detailed assessment of the potential acquisition is complete, staff will provide City Council with an update and identify next steps.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: No budget impacts are anticipated with approval of this non-disclosure agreement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends that City Council review and approve the attached non-disclosure agreement.

ALTERNATIVES: The City Council may elect not to approve the non-disclosure agreement, though this would likely result in the termination of any future conversations with Xcel Energy regarding acquisition of streetlights.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: This item has been promoted through the regular communication channels to be considered by the Lakewood City Council.

NEXT STEPS: Staff will continue meeting with representatives of Xcel Energy.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Resolution 2024-20

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

2024-20

A RESOLUTION

APPROVING A MUTUAL NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT GOVERNING
CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS BY AND BETWEEN THE PUBLIC
SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO AND THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, AND
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE UNREDACTED AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, in conformance with Article 12 of the Franchise Agreement between the City of Lakewood, Colorado and Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) for the furnishing of Utility Service, street lighting service and traffic signal lighting service, as effective in January 2010, the City has served notice to PSCo of its intent to purchase or condemn those company facilities located within the City of Lakewood associated with street lighting;

WHEREAS, the valuation of the street lights has not been agreed upon by the City and PSCo, necessitating negotiation of a value for such street lights (settlement);

WHEREAS, in anticipation of possible litigation, the City and PSCo wish to confidentially discuss whether it will be possible to reach an out-of-court settlement regarding the City's acquisition of the Street Lights, which discussions shall be governed by Rule 408 of the Colorado Rules of Evidence;

WHEREAS, it is important to the interests of the City and PSCo to keep the content of these discussions confidential to avoid outside parties using this information to the fiduciary harm of either or both parties; and

WHEREAS, any settlement agreement reached by the negotiators would be presented to the City Council for action in a public meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lakewood:

1. The Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement governing confidential settlement discussions by and between the Public Service Company of Colorado and the City of Lakewood is hereby approved and the Mayor is authorized to sign an unredacted copy.
2. In anticipation of long-term negotiations between the parties, annual reapprovals of this non-disclosure agreement may hereinafter be signed by the City Manager through December 31, 2027.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED by a vote of ____ for and ____ against at a hybrid regular meeting of the Lakewood City Council held on March 25, 2024 at 7 o'clock p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, 480 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado.

Wendy Strom, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Robb, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF LAKEWOOD**

7:00 P.M

February 12, 2024

Minutes are not a verbatim transcription, but rather an attempt to capture the intent of the speaker by the City Clerk.

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Strom called the HYBRID meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

[View video recording here](#)

Those present were: Mayor Wendi Strom, Presiding
Richard Olver
Sophia Mayott-Guerrero
Rebekah Stewart
Dave Rein
Jeslin Shahrezaei
Jacob LaBure
Roger Low
Isabel Cruz
Glenda Sinks

Absent: None.

Others in attendance: Kathy Hodgson, City Manager
Ben Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney
Jay Robb, City Clerk

Full and timely notice of this City Council meeting had been given and a quorum was present.

ITEM 3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

[View video recording here](#)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the audience remained standing for a moment of silent prayer.

ITEM 4 – STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Strom read the Statement of Conflict of Interest into the record.

ITEM 5 – INDUCTION CEREMONY – FOR NEWLY ELECTED WARD 5 CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Strom introduced Municipal Judge Nicole Bozarth who administered the oath to newly elected Councilor Paula Nystrom.

Second Roll Call - The newly elected member of Council took her place at the dais and the roll call was taken again.

Those present were: Mayor Wendi Strom, Presiding
Richard Olver
Sophia Mayott-Guerrero
Rebekah Stewart
Dave Rein
Jeslin Shahrezaei
Jacob LaBure
Paula Nystrom
Roger Low
Isabel Cruz
Glenda Sinks

Absent: None.

ITEM 6 – PROCLAMATION – FAREWELL PROCLAMATION FOR ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF ED LOAR

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Strom read and presented the Proclamation to Assistant Chief Ed Loar.

ITEM 7 – PRESENTATION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF COLORADO (EDCC) PRESENTING THE EDIE AWARD FOR LARGE COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

[View video recording here](#)

Economic Development Council of Colorado Executive Director Kim Woodworth presented the 2023 award for Large Community of the Year award to Director of Economic Development Robert Smith and Mayor Strom.

ITEM 8 – EXECUTIVE REPORT

[View video recording here](#)

City Manager Hodgson provided an executive report from her visit with the City of Denver at the request of the Council and summarized the recent migrant issues in the City of Denver and the type of volunteering and donations that Denver has asked from residents of the metro area.

CONSENT AGENDA

[View video recording here](#)

Item 9 was removed by Councilor Olver without objection.

City Clerk Robb read the amended Consent Agenda into the record.

ITEM 10 – ORDINANCE O-2024-5 – HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTAL INSPECTIONS (FIRST READING)

ITEM 11 – APPROVING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 8, 2024
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 22, 2024

Public Comment received:

James Mace, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding past meeting minutes.

John Spence, addressed Council regarding the cost of helping migrants.

1 Public Comment received via Lakewood Speaks, see page 12.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded.

Vote on the motion:

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	X	
OLVER	X		NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN	X		SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	11	0

Result:

Approved 11-0, the motion passed.

ITEM 9 – RESOLUTION 2024-8 – LAKEWOOD STRATEGIC HOUSING PLAN

Public Comment received:

Mary Hanssen, representing North Lakewood Neighborhood Associations, addressed Council regarding the City’s Strategic Housing Plan.

Paul Ditson, representing Eiber Neighborhood Association, addressed Council regarding housing challenges in the Eiber neighborhood.

Diane Duffy, representing Daniels Welchester Neighborhood Association, addressed Council regarding housing challenges in the Daniels Welchester neighborhood.

Amber Varwig, Ward 2, addressed Council and gave thanks for focusing on the housing crisis in Lakewood.

Jill McGrannahan, representing Metro West Housing, addressed Council regarding support of the Strategic Housing Plan.

Francisco Flores, an online speaker, addressed Council regarding migrants and the 1965 South Platte flood affecting Colorado and Nebraska.

Judy Striyer, an online speaker, entered anti-Semitic public comments.

9 Councilors recessed from the chambers briefly, and then rejoined the meeting.

Gabe Suttman, an online speaker, entered anti-Semitic public comments.

Zyke Lawmby, an online speaker, entered anti-Semitic public comments.

Connie Rettig, Ward 3, addressed Council regarding problems living in a Metro West Housing building.

Bill Shaner, an online speaker, entered anti-Semitic public comments.

Scott Mason, an online speaker, entered anti-Semitic public comments.

Councilor Mayott-Guerrero moved to recess. The motion was seconded. The Council stood in recess at 8:26 p.m.

Mayor Strom called the meeting back to order at 8:36 p.m.

Crystal Goddard, a Lakewood resident, addressed Council regarding the housing crisis in Lakewood.

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded.

The Councilors discussed the Strategic Housing Plan.

Director of Planning Travis Parker summarized the plan in response to Council questions.

Councilor Olver made a motion to amend the title of the resolution. The motion was not seconded.

Point of Order was made by Councilor Mayott-Guerrero regarding the DOLA grant and discussion ensued.

Councilor Olver explained his opposition to the Strategic Housing Plan and discussed concerning language in the plan.

Vote on the motion:

APPROVAL OF THE LAKEWOOD STRATEGIC HOUSING PLAN.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	X	
OLVER		X	NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN	X		SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	10	1

Result:

Approved 10-1, the motion passed.

**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

ITEM 12 – ORDINANCE O-2024-3 – APPOINTING KRISTIN N. BROWN AS THE LIQUOR LICENSING AUTHORITY HEARING OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei made a motion to adopt Ordinance O 2024-3. It was seconded.

Mayor Strom opened the public hearing at 9:03 p.m.

Public Comment received:

James Mace, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding the Liquor Authority holding Lakewood bars and restaurants accountable.

Connie Rettig, Ward 3, addressed Council regarding having a board overseeing housing issues in Lakewood.

Mayor Strom closed the public hearing.

Vote on the motion:

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE O-2024-3 ON SECOND AND FINAL READING.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	X	
OLVER	X		NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN	X		SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	11	0

Result:

Approved 11-0, the motion passed.

ITEM 13 – ORDINANCE O-2024-4 – AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,329,623 and \$144,000 FROM THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF THESE FUNDS TO PURCHASE, RENOVATE, AND OPERATE A NAVIGATION CENTER TO SERVE THE UNHOUSED

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei made a motion to adopt Ordinance O 2024-4. It was seconded.

Planning Director Travis Parker provided a brief presentation summarizing the need for Ordinance 2024-4.

Mayor Strom opened the public hearing at 9:11 p.m.

Jesse Frazier addressed Council regarding leadership and concerns for the navigation center being used to shelter illegal immigrants.

Linda Pagle, Ward 4, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and requested the City to help organizations that fund children with special needs.

Laurelee Martens, Ward 4, spoke in opposition of the ordinance.

Dawn Austin, Ward 4, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrants.

Wendy Shrader, Ward 4, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrants.

Lindsay Molliconi, Ward 1, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrants.

Mike Muller, Ward 4, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrants.

Michelle White, Ward 3, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrants. She also entered a copy of Chapter 12.18.010 of the City Municipal Code into the record (Attachment A).

Glen Newell, Ward 2, spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Michelle Lazzaro, Ward 5, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrants.

Cassie Ratliff, representing Family Tree, spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Marge Collum, Ward 5, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrant.

Kirsten Cremona, Ward 1, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrant.

Shawn Hagarty, Ward 2, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrant.

Joshua Comden, Ward 1, spoke in favor of the ordinance and about homelessness in Lakewood.

Amber Varwig, Ward 2, spoke in favor of the ordinance and about homelessness in Lakewood.

Brian Loma, Ward 2, spoke in favor of the ordinance and about homelessness in Lakewood.

Deborah Olin spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about crime and cost of living.

Debra Carroll, Ward 2, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrant.

Andrea Galek, Ward 3, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrant.

Jody Nickerson, Ward 2, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrant.

David Thormodsgard, Ward 3, spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Miki Sedivy, Ward 4, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about drug use.

Kristy Thomas, Lakewood business owner, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and about illegal immigrant.

Mayor Strom closed the public hearing.

The Councilors asked questions of and discussed Ordinance O-2024-4.

Planning Director Travis Parker along with Executive Director of Recover Works James Ginsberg responded to questions from the Council concerning current operations and expansion plan for the current navigation center in Lakewood.

Director Parker introduced Kelli Barker, from the Department of Local Affairs. Director Parker and Ms. Barker responded to questions from the Council regarding state grant administration and the property of the navigation center if the project fails in the long term.

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei called the question. The motion was seconded.

Vote on the motion:

TO CALL THE QUESTION FOR A VOTE.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	X	
OLVER		X	NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN		X	SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	9	2

Result:

Approved 9-2, the motion passed.

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei renewed her motion to adopt Ordinance O 2024-4. The motion was seconded.

Vote on the motion:

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE O-2024-4 ON SECOND AND FINAL READING.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	X	
OLVER		X	NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN	X		SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	10	1

Result:

Approved 10-1, the motion passed.

Mayor Strom called a ten-minute recess at 11:42 p.m.

Mayor Strom called the meeting back to order at 11:55 p.m.

ITEM 14 – PUBLIC COMMENT

[View video recording here](#)

Lori Weber, Ward 4, addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants.

Fred Clifford, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants.

Mike Muller, Ward 4, addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants.

Jerry Morris, Ward 3, addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants.

Ian Thomas Tafoya addressed Council regarding housing and zoning in Lakewood

Bernie Ruffanuach, Ward 3, addressed Council regarding focusing resources to other local opportunities.

Amber Varwig, Ward 2, addressed Council regarding their work in the community and discussed asylum seekers.

Erin Kenworthy, Ward 5, addressed Council regarding their work in the community and support provided to unhoused individuals.

Don Gehring, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants and racism.

Shawn Hegarty, Ward 2, addressed Council regarding their work in the community and illegal immigrants.

Joshua Comden, read a list of 26 individuals who are in favor of being a good neighbor.

Elisabeth Moolenar, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding providing immigrants with more resources.

Mike Varenken, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding providing immigrants with more resources.

Caroline Wolfrum, addressed Council regarding the impact of the regional migrant crisis.

Bradley Bruce, Ward 2, addressed Council regarding providing immigrants with more resources.

Adal Raja addressed Council regarding providing immigrants with more resources and affordable housing.

Khaled Alali, addressed Council regarding being an asylum seeker and the contributions immigrants provide to their communities.

Giselle Herzfeld, addressed Council regarding providing resources for asylum-seekers and requested the council for a cease-fire resolution for Gaza.

Mohamed Kuziez, addressed Council regarding immigration and racism.

Linda Amin Badwan, spoke about being an immigrant and racism

98 Public Comments received via Lakewood Speaks, see page 12.

ITEM 15 – GENERAL BUSINESS

[View video recording here](#)

1 Public Comment received via Lakewood Speaks, see page 47.

A. REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei made a motion to approve the special meetings being requested by staff. The motion seconded.

Vote on the motion:

ADOPT THE SCHEDULE SUGESTIONS AS PRESENTED FOR THE 2025 BUDGET PROCESS.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	X	
OLVER	X		NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN	X		SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	11	0

Result:

Approved 11-0, the motion passed.

ITEM 16 – MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

[View video recording here](#)

Councilor Low called for a Point of Order and made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.

Vote on the motion:

ADJOURN THE MEETING.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	X	
OLVER		X	NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN		X	SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	9	2

Result:

Approved 9-2, the motion passed.

ITEM 17 – ADJOURNMENT

[View video recording here](#)

There being no further business to come before City Council, Mayor Strom adjourned the meeting at 1:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Robb, City Clerk

Item 11 - Approving City Council Minutes

Public Comments

Rusty Shackelford

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:07pm

Why aren't you tyrants talking a out item 9? The one agenda that everyone has shown up and tuned in for?! Send the illegal invaders back and prosecute any official that is involved in allowing their illegal presence. No sanctuary status. Send them back. Deport them all. Activate ICE. Do your jobs!

4 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Item 14 - Public Comment

Public Comments

Jesse Landis-Eigsti

· Feb 13, 2024 · 12:54pm

My name is Jesse Landis-Eigsti and I live with my family in Ward 3 of Lakewood. I strongly support the creation of the City Navigation Center and thank the councilors for this and other efforts to support our unhoused neighbors. My dream is for Lakewood to be a place where people lift each other up, regardless of socio-economic status or country of birth. I appreciate both the councilors and the residents who have pushed back against recent messages of hate and fear.

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Zenat Shariff Belkin

· Feb 13, 2024 · 11:53am

I submitted this comment yesterday, and for some reason it did not show up. I am a resident of Lakewood, Ward 4. I am writing in support of the Lakewood City Council looking for viable and collaborative solutions regarding the newly arrived immigrants and the existing unhoused populations, both of which need attention. These are two impacted communities, impacted by systemic and global failures. It is clear that other cities across this country are facing the same conversation, but I urge Lakewood City Council to lead on this issue by finding supportive, collaborative and humane solutions to aiding these two populations in crisis. I, and we are not unfamiliar with the divisive and harmful rhetoric around the new migrants. It is reductive of the bigger systemic issues we are dealing with and does not create an environment for productive conversation and solutions. We cannot succumb to this hate filled framing because it is stirring up an environment of fear, racism, and potentially violence. Let's not fall prey to a framing of "us versus them" – we know the harm this can do. The true danger here is the spread of misinformation and it being accepted as fact. Supporting communities in need is not a zero-sum game, we can find viable solutions and Lakewood City Council is empowered to take the lead on this work. I strongly support and urge Lakewood City Council to act with courage and conviction. Today, I want to note

that I am proud of our City Mgr, staff and City council for their ongoing initiative and courage in finding viable solutions for our neighbors.

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Jeslynn Rodriguez

· Feb 13, 2024 · 8:41am

Here is my position and it's a complicated one because I do think there should be a limit on how many people Colorado , Lakewood or Denver allows to keep coming into the state . The Tax payer and state funds are not limitless and we see that Denver is already making budget cuts . We should help the migrants that are here , because they are here now that's the reality . Other cities in Colorado should definitely help Denver with the contingency that there needs to be a limit , if the border won't limit the amount of asylum seekers then the states have to band together to create a colocation to see who is willing to accept asylum seekers and how many they will accept . No one city should battle this alone and Lakewood thinks it's safe just because it's not a sanctuary city that's not true Lakewood is not to far from Denver and crime will increase if these people don't have access to resources and shelter - does that mean Lakewood should be a sanctuary city - no Denver shouldn't be either and the only reason I say that is because then you guys let people commit crimes back to back like New York until those crimes hurt innocent people everyone should be held accountable for not following the law and if they are breaking the law then maybe removal needs to be a discussion the point of what I'm saying is .. yes Lakewood should help Denver . No it should not be a sanctuary city without a formal vote and third Denver needs to collaborate on a plan not just endlessly provide all resources and money until we're in debt like California. Thank you

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Sandie Weathers

· Feb 13, 2024 · 7:47am

One of the voices that may have been drowned out last night during public comment was that of Ean Thomas Tafoya. I recently had the the opportunity to watch a webinar where he discussed the research and the development that went into the new affordable housing app for the Denver Metro area. This new tool is AMAZING and I encourage all of City Council to learn more about it. A recording of the webinar is on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/fwRnoUNCBNg?si=MxmLfQcPiIA2hBd>.

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Melissa hernandez

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:53pm

Please city council, do not open this homeless support center in Lakewood. Nothing is being done about the panhandling street fires, trash piles, open drug use now (the list goes on and on). Why would you bring even more of this into our city? Why is nothing being done about drug use on the trains in front of children? Please get your priorities straight. Please help us to better our city instead of inviting in more of the Problem. I'm a hard working Hispanic woman who's family migrated here the way you are supposed to. Don't open up pure city to illegal migrants committing crimes! We can't handle more problems! Please! I'm a Lakewood resident.

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Marisol velez

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:14pm

This is a second comment. I work in the shelter system in Jefferson County. I think the fear is that if you have thr services people will come out of the woodwork to get them. The truth is they are here. We have hundreds of families experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County. Families who have children. And individuals who are elderly. Individuals who are disabled. Human beings. They are here they are your neighbors.

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Marisol velez

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:41pm

I work in Lakewood specifically in the shelter sector. We desperately need affordable housing because if not families (not just migrant families) but hard working families cannot afford a roof over their head which is a basic human right. I also urge thr city counsel to base their decisions on facts and not fear mongering. ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE LEGAL AND ARE COMING TO THIS COUNTRY LEGALLY. These are folks who are desperate to work and to give back to this country. Whether people agree or not they are here and now its time to treat them with human respect and dignity.

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ean Tafoya

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:27pm

I support accepting the navigation center grant.

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Mark Andrew

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:26pm

I am all in favor of immigration into the U.S.--as long as it's LEGALLY done. If we as a nation allowed everyone who wanted to immigrate to our country to do so, we'd likely end up with hundreds of millions of people--far more than we could reasonably integrate into our society. And I have yet to hear ONE compelling reason as to why we should be allowing millions of illegal immigrants, mostly unvetted, into our country. No--I do not consider "diversity" as a compelling reason (nor do I understand how, exactly, diversity became The Most Important Thing Ever). Compassion? Sure--I have compassion for my fellow humans--I just don't use it to virtue-signal to everyone my moral superiority. But how "compassionate" is it to allow in a labor force that prevents actual citizens from getting a job? How compassionate is it when hospitals have to close their doors because they can no longer afford to pay for providing services to illegal immigrants? (Yes, this has happened, and IS happening right now, in Denver: <https://kutv.com/news/nation-world/denver-hospital-system-may-collapse-due-to-migrant-crisis-we-are-turning-down-patients-southern-border-trump-biden-colorado-denver-health-post-donna-lynn-immigrants-illegal->

migrants-asylum-seekers-resources). Of course, I realize that bringing up these inconvenient truths makes me a hate-filled, racist xenophobe (to all the morally superior virtue-signalers, anyway).

3 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Taylor Lucero

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:56pm

I've lived in Lakewood most of my life and have no issues with reaching behind and handing a helping hand to people in need, including the houseless and migrant families. It is a shame to see so many folks with so much privilege live in constant fear that folks in need receive support. It is even more shameful that folks have been spreading misinformation about the efforts being made. I hope that those folks were tuning in when the meeting with Denver was shared, and that before claiming falsehoods, look into the resources and volunteer opportunities for themselves.

4 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Kyra deGruy Kennedy

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:39pm

I've been remembering all the people in the world who gave me a chance at a moment in my life when I desperately needed one. I think we often forget that we have those moments -- especially those of us with privileges that we've grown up with. Like knowing that you can take a new job, or take out a loan for a higher education because we know that there's a safety net of sorts to catch us. Whether that's family, chosen family, friends, our churches or places of worship, or in some cases, our government. I think we forget that we get these blessings because of the luck of the draw. That by chance, we were born in America rather than a country we're forced to flee from. And our systems perpetuate this forgetting by telling us that the things we have are ours, that we earned them, and that if we share them, we will not have enough. We forget. I hope, in the coming days, and weeks, and months, as you're deciding how the city will choose to spend it's resources, our resources, that you'll join me in remembering all of the people who made it possible for you to be where you are. I hope that you'll choose to help our new neighbors. That you'll use your voices and power to counter rampant racism and disinformation. And that you'll feel empowered by all of our voices, standing with you, asking you to be brave.

4 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ana Perez Santos

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:25pm

I am a citizen of Lakewood, formerly undocumented. My parents made the heartbreaking decision to leave our home in the 90s. I know the struggles migrants face, and my parents know them even more. Back then, things were extremely difficult, but there were always good people who crossed our path. These folks opened their homes to us, gave my family employment opportunities, served as mentors, and so much more. To be clear, these folks gave willingly and from their hearts. If it wasn't for those folks, we would not have the opportunities we have now. I find it telling of the type of folks I'm surrounded by, when a group of people make false claims, and it takes a City Council to explain how wrong they are, but they still cling to incorrect information. These same folks protest against lending a helping hand to those in most need, because their focus is always on "Me", "What do I get from this?", "How will this impact me?". From my understanding, the

citizens of Lakewood have free will to provide or not provide support to the efforts helping immigrant families like my own. I want to thank the Council for providing actual facts from their meeting with Denver about their efforts to support migrants, as I hope this will make it clear to others they have the choice to step up to help if they choose to.

4 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Daniela Arellano

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:08pm

100% Percent AGAINST Affordable housing !!! Explain to the community who's paying for the "AFFORDABLE HOUSING". Let the community vote !!! Freedom of speech. Where is the "DEMOCRACY". Everyone one on the call 2/12/2024 except for three people are against this motion and you all are deciding to go against your community. Who are you working for because it's not the Lakewood residents.

4 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Eric Schmidt

· Feb 12, 2024 · 8:59pm

I am deeply concerned that the city is flat out REFUSING to enforce snow removal code at Colorado Mills. I have personally witnessed far too many young women with a baby, diapers, groceries TRYING to make it from Target or the mall through a vast field of snow and ice Outrageous, UNACCEPTABLE 🚨 I've heard all from if excuses INCLUDING the ordinance only applies to public (the implications are city owned) walks. Which is NOT the intent perhaps public USE 🚨 BUSINESSES ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE TO REMOVE SNOW 🚨 For the record I am homeless, shared with the mayor how the folks from the city helped me lose MY \$500000 home for \$198000 But I AM FIGHTING FOR MY COMMUNITY 🚨

4 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Brenda Nelson

· Feb 12, 2024 · 6:37pm

Your Job is to protect the Lakewood Citizens. If you are serious about Lakewood not being a sanctuary city, then why don't you proclaim Lakewood as a non sanctuary city. Just as Colorado Springs did recently. The city of Lakewood should put its tax paying citizens before illegal migrants.

4 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Catherine Jackson

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:57am

First I would like to say that I am not opposed to people coming to this country for a better life, but there are federal laws to do it legally! These "migrants" will strain the financial resources of Lakewood, they have brought diseases with them that the US radicated years ago, they can't work or get a driver's license, and they leave litter all over our once beautiful city. People who are opening their hearts to these people are naive in thinking that they are just trying to start a new life.

Some of these illegal immigrants are sex traffickers, drug runners, and criminals. I am very much against the City of Lakewood taking in these homeless illegal immigrants and putting their needs before the needs of our own legal citizens and homeless vets. There will be many unforeseen consequences to Lakewood should City Council puts this through. This is a dangerous step and will create a strain on the citizens of Lakewood. Don't be like Denver, send them back! I AM OPPOSED!

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Laura Chapin

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:56am

I've lived in Lakewood since 2009. I value our diverse, inclusive community. I am appalled that a group of bigoted outsiders are lying in order to stir up hatred and harm our city. I firmly stand with our City Council.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Brigit Stattelmann-Scanlan

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:55am

I stand with ALL the migrants and newcomers to Lakewood. We need to stand up and protect human lives, especially those that face more hardship than we can ever know. We need to ensure that those who seek asylum are safe and have equal access to community resources for the entire community. I want to live in a place that prioritizes this. This IS America and we have the honor and privilege to welcome these people with love and safety.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Dee Pierce

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:55am

I want to thank City Council for putting out statements to quash the racist and vile rumors about Sanctuary City. I want to say thanks for how you have handled everything. And expand the Navigation Center! We need more services like that, here!

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Diana Losacco

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:55am

Everybody counts or Nobody counts. As a Lakewood citizen, as a U.S. citizen, as a global citizen, EVERYONE, everywhere deserves BASIC human rights. If you devalue one of us, you devalue all of us. Ask yourself what you believe YOU are worth? The issue of helping Denver isn't about DENVER, it is about helping a human brother and sister in need. One city, one state, one country can not, nor should not shoulder all the consequences of global humanitarian problems. We are all in this together. What happens everywhere in the world, as you can surely see at this moment, effects each and everyone of us in some way. BE kind. Ask how to help. There is so much we all can do. If we have to live a little more simply so others can simply live, are we up to the task? Unfortunately, the study session for this issue tonight was cancelled due to what the city

is stating: "The report on cold weather sheltering is being delayed, allowing for more time to better understand the impacts of the following areas: •Significant Operations changes were recently made as a result of occupancy limits put in place by fire and building officials. •Jefferson County has recently engaged with the City of Lakewood to a greater degree, including hiring new staff focused on cold weather sheltering. •With additional operational nights anticipated in the near future, a more comprehensive data set will be compiled, including statistics related to the use of overflow options."

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Lisa Scott

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:54am

As a long-time ward 4 resident, the one thing I ask of Council on this issue is compassion and I fear it will be in short supply tonight. Please know that the loud hateful voices on this issue do not represent all of Lakewood. I believe that yes, we should help and support our fellow humans who are in dire straits and looking to us for help. That doesn't mean being a "sanctuary city." We can provide Denver with some support in helping migrants and still respect and follow laws. The fearmongering and misinformation on this issue has been just astounding. We should never be so afraid that we direct hate toward these people. Sure, the logistics are not easy, and I recognize that, but I could never hate the people, the migrants who are bringing their families here. There but for the grace of God go I. If I lived in one of these countries and couldn't care for my children or keep them safe, you bet I would move heaven and earth to pursue a better life for them. It's what parents do. I can put myself in their shoes and have tremendous compassion for them. I hope Council can do the same in making difficult decisions on this issue. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and thank you for serving Lakewood. Lisa Scott Ward 4

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Amber Varwig

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:53am

I want to thank City Council for prioritizing health and safety over anger. For choosing job training, and meals, and vaccines, and Drs, and SERVICES, over those without the personal experience, and even, empathy to understand how needed these services are. I want to thank Council for always following through, and standing up for what is right. We can feed the hungry, and grow business, and have affordable housing. We can, and DESERVE nice things. Thank you for investing in your citizens, even when not all of them appreciate it. Thank you, City Council, for prioritizing people over ideology. With your leadership, we will be the greatest, most innovative city in the Metro Area. Because you believe in *us*!

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Katrina Davis

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:47am

I live in Lakewood and work at Alameda International Jr/Sr high school. We have been enrolling immigrant students and families for many years, even before this latest surge of immigrants. This makes our community stronger and I am so grateful to be able to assist these newcomers in transitioning to a US public school. I am so glad that my own family never had to endure walking

thousands of miles to have a fresh start and leave a dangerous situation. Let's put aside the hate and welcome and assist these new members of our community.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Bill Story

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:42am

It's not just about caring and being a good neighbor, it's about what can reasonably be done with resources that are available. Who pays for services needed? Everyone ok with either adding 20% plus more in all taxes or cutting services to have the money to pay for it? If someone said you should take 3 more people into your home and pay their expenses, would or could you do it? What about the millions that have legally applied to enter the country and can support themselves, where do they fit in? How many can the Lakewood taxpayers pay for? Is there extra money in the current budget? Anyone medically screened for diseases they might be carrying that we have been able to get rid of in this country? Any military aged males had background checks to see if they might be part of "sleeper" cells? If they can't get work permits or driver's licenses, how can they sustain themselves and family? This is getting long so no room for school issues, child trafficking and other issues. How many millions more can our country sustain and be \$34 TRILLION in debt?

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Beth R Weisberger

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:40am

I am writing in support of kindness and compassion for our new migrant neighbors. I am appalled not only by the unwelcoming attitude of some Lakewood citizens towards our fellow human beings, but also that they are using disinformation to frighten and enrage other voters. I believe in an inclusive community, which Lakewood claims to be, and I appreciate the Council's efforts to approach this issue thoughtfully and ethically. Please ignore the voices of hate and bigotry--they are loud, but I do not believe they represent a majority of us. In my opinion, we should do everything possible to help our new residents, while at the same time agitating for better federal solutions and resources addressing immigration in general. Thank you for reading this, and please continue trying to do the right thing. I know being a public servant takes a lot of guts these days.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Melissa LaLonde

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:34am

Thank you to Mayor Wendi Strom and our Lakewood City Council members for clearing up the misinformation that is being spread. Everyone deserves a home and to be safe. I want to continue living in a community that is welcoming and compassionate. I support the effort to shelter the homeless, migrants or not, and to help care for our fellow humans in their time of need.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

KCC

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:32am

I am a new homeowner in Lakewood. I used to live in Sunnyside and there was a big homeless population in my neighborhood. I never felt safe as a single woman, which is why I moved to Lakewood. The migrants are breaking our laws and people want to reward them? These illegal immigrants are using the resources that should be allocated to American citizen and homeless veterans. I do not want my property values to tank and I want to feel safe in my own neighborhood. People who break our laws need to be deported. We cannot support the world's population! We need to take care of our own before helping others. NYC took \$120 million dollars out of the veteran fund to take care of the migrants! Is this what we want? It sends a really bad message to the world- "Keep coming here- American give you free housing, healthcare, food, education, cell phones, prepaid credit cards, etc!" If you're an American citizen, you are forced to fund these law-breakers with your tax dollars! No thank you! I want my community to thrive, not just survive.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Emily Balentine

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:28am

I am a Lakewood resident and I stand with all of the migrants and newcomers coming to our city. It is absolutely critical to protect people's human right to seek asylum to ensure that we are a city that is equitable and can provide resources for the entire community. Everyone deserves human rights, and until this is achieved I will continue to show up and support the immigrant community.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

John Sampson

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:28am

As a retired ICE agent with over 27 years of immigration law enforcement experience, I can say without equivocation or hesitation, that if Lakewood becomes a Sanctuary City, the crime rate will skyrocket, the city will become less safe, and your citizens will be at risk. There is no need for Lakewood to become a Sanctuary City. There are provisions in the Immigration and Nationality Act that helps non citizen victims of crime to report the crime to police without fear of deportation. Anyone who says differently is being less than honest and is promoting a hidden agenda, The vehicle used to assist victims of crime who are not legally here is the U Visa. I worked on the Metro Fugitive Task Force in the 1990's when there was cooperation between State, Local and County Law Enforcement with Immigration. The program worked well in promoting public safety. Lastly, Sanctuary Policies may very well violate Federal CRIMINAL Law, specifically 8 USC 1324. See: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1324> The penalties for violating 8 USC 1324, especially if someone dies as a result of violating this law, are SEVERE. See attached copy of the law. Do you REALLY want to be on record knowingly violating Federal Criminal Law? You might want to share this with the City Attorney and seek their legal advice.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Kathryn Cuddihee

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:26am

I have been saddened to see such misunderstanding regarding the care and support of those new to our community. I do know and see that the vast majority of Lakewood community members are

caring and doing so many little and big things to help those in the shelters who are being removed daily. I have given hundreds of hours and funds to support shelter residents in the last few months. I have made wonderful connections with families just trying to do their best. I am thankful the Lakewood leadership is combatting the misinformation and hatred with basic facts and compassion. It is not up to Lakewood to solve this problem, but we can help when and where we are able. The fear mongering has no place here. I have been able to move thousands of items of donations through my house to new families via my friends, family, buy nothing group and Lakewood Moms group members. I have been challenged and stretched in ways I could not have expected. But I have heartened to see how many jump at the chance to help even by donating a suit case, giving a ride, donating clothes, so many little things add up to big impacts. I am glad to see Lakewood doing their best, and hope those who are against this made up concern will open their minds and hearts! Thank you!

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Eva Frickle

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:25am

Thank you to the City Council for directing staff to meet with Denver to find a way to help with this challenging humanitarian crisis our community is facing. It's a great starting point for discussions on how we, as a city/community, can best assist those fleeing horrific circumstances in search of a better life for themselves and their families. The newcomers have traveled through unimaginable hardships to get here. No-one takes on such a journey lightly, unless they are desperate. Those speaking out against helping these human beings need to think of what they would do under similar circumstances. They also need to face their hypocrisy of their actions, having less than 2 months ago celebrated the birth of a migrant refugee. I am an immigrant and 25 year resident of Lakewood. However because I am an immigrant of the "right" colour, language, geographic region and education, no-one has ever challenged my right to be here. Any questions I do get revolve around why I moved and if I happen to know the tiny village that someone's great great grandparent came from in Scotland. Yes I came the so called "right" way. And so have the newcomers from Venezuela and other regions. They have court dates and appointments to check in with ICE. They are NOT here illegally. Honestly even if they were, we should help them. I would be utterly thrilled if Lakewood were to become a sanctuary city. Having personally dealt with the Immigration system in the US I can tell you it is broken. It is expensive, time consuming and totally Kafkaesque in it's complexity. And I was dealing with it in my native language. I could write a whole treatise on the subject and how the immigration system needs a complete overall - in fact many already have. It is a very different system from the one pre 1921 when many of the relatives speaking against supporting the newcomers came through Ellis island. There aren't enough words allowed here to discuss the US's foreign policy actions that have contributed to the destabilization in Latin America and the collapse of the Venezuelan economy. Suffice to say, it is a major factor in the number of people fleeing that area. Now they are here, we are morally obliged to help them. I have been thrilled to see the incredible outpouring of support for the newcomers from waves of volunteers who have stepped up to fill the gaps in government support. From providing food and clothing to literally opening their homes to provide safe housing, these people have shown what community should look like. On a personal level I've been providing underwear, menstrual products and other items through the non-profit I work with as well helping in other ways. So please, direct our city staff to do everything we can to support the newcomers. It's the right thing to do.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Sarah Claus

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:12am

I've never been prouder of Lakewood than I've been to see people organizing left and right to HELP and make a HOME for our new neighbors. Keep this support strong. Stop putting obstacles in their mind. Lakewood has room to include people from a range of backgrounds. Stop wasting time focused on if this should happen.....let's simply talk about how to make it happen!! Offer shelter. Support our schools. Support work access. And challenge the bigotry. There's no space for THAT in Lakewood.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Nate M Wightman

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:08am

Thank you Council and Mayor.. I truly appreciate all of you. I may not agree with everything, but I so appreciate what you sign up to do in support of Lakewood. I will be in support of the monarchs tonight as they also migrate and they are here to support our Council and Mayor. I can say my support tonight is wholeheartedly in support of our Council and Mayor. You are our elected representatives and in that I do trust that you can ask good questions and find equitable solutions to our local issues. The border problem needs to be solved by Congress and sadly they choose to do nothing. Locally we have a humanitarian crisis that the State and Cities of Colorado need to respond to. How we all show up for this humanitarian crisis will define us into the future. I hope that you all feel comfortable to respond with compassion, as a good neighbor, with empathy, and in support of our sister cities in Colorado. Lakewood is more than what was on display last week. Thank you all again for choosing the hard work of governance. Smiles.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Donna Mather

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:06am

I support the decision of our duly elected City Council to act in the best interests of our community while recognizing the limitations we face in support of Venezuelan asylum seekers. I am confident you will do what is right and that you will continue to dispel the rumors and hate from some of our intolerant neighbors led by a well known former councilwoman and the chair of the Jefferson County GOP.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Marci Stathis

· Feb 12, 2024 · 11:04am

The legal citizens of Lakewood should be the priority of the people elected to govern this city. Lakewood constituents are paying too much in taxes now. It is unfair that we should have to sacrifice our hard-earned tax dollars for something that we haven't voted on, nor have even been asked about. Please care for the senior citizens, veterans, and US citizens who are here legally that need help. If the illegal immigrants are not looking for handouts, and they want to work, the

bureaucratic nightmare of becoming a US citizen needs to be rectified. Then they can support themselves and their families without incurring huge expenses to we taxpayers, because they will be tax paying citizens themselves.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Vanessa Mayer

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:56am

I would like to express my support for our new migrant neighbors. I am a man of three kids and I am teaching my kids how to love and help others. Denver needs our help, and I would love to see the beautiful community of Lakewood step up to provide support, whether that is financial, emotional, or physical support.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

John Claus

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:56am

I'd like to thank Mayor Strom and a majority of City Council for correcting the anti-immigrant disinformation which appears to be spread through the Jefferson County Republican party. I'd also like to publicly admonish former Councilor and two time mayoral candidate failure, Ramey Johnson. I appreciate Ramey taking time away from shilling her husband's climate change propaganda film to NewsMax and other right wing media, but directing that energy into spreading xenophobia, bigotry, and hatred is a new low. I'd also like to admonish former Councilor Janssen for partaking in the recent hate rally where Tom Tancredo was dredged from the swamps to make a cameo appearance. Shame on all who organized this fear mongering campaign. Given the history of US intervention in Central/South America (please read about the School of Americas at Fort Benning https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Hemisphere_Institute_for_Security_Cooperation), the least Lakewood can do is embrace our neighbors from the South and help bring them into our community. Please change municipal codes to help private homeowners house and care for these families on their own properties without fear of punitive fines due to antiquated zoning codes. Work with the County, State and Federal government to fund access to housing, work authorizations, and easier transitions for their children into our school system. We voted for Mayor Strom and this new Council to make positive change. Don't let the angry, opulent, Christian fascists deter you from what needs to be done. Please treat our new neighbors like humans who deserve love, respect, and empathy.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ron tapler

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:55am

Lakewood is left leaning. That is why we have a democratic mayor. Regardless of party, I believe we all stand together when it comes to turning our community into a sanctuary city. If you put this question on the ballot you will have a minimum of 85 % that would say absolutely not. Denver announced today they are cutting 5 million from city services. We don't want that here. Ron T.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Paola Grimaldo

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:47am

EVERYONE in Lakewood should have the right to basic human needs regardless of legal status or socioeconomic status. Our newly arrived neighbors have undergone a tremendous journey that no one would dare take unless for dire conditions in their home country. Through direct volunteer work I have connected with them one on one and can assure you, they want to work and to be able to provide for themselves and their families, they just need a helping hand while they get back on their feet. Please support them, we were all immigrants in this country at some point.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Sarah Nelson

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:47am

As a Lakewood resident, I am proud of my fellow community members who have stepped up to meet the needs of newcomers in and around Lakewood. I am also dismayed at the misinformation being deliberately spread by political operatives in an obvious attempt to harass and intimidate the people who actually had enough community support to win their elections. I appreciate the time and energy the Mayor and Council devote to Lakewood, and I hope that you will let compassion and empathy guide you despite the onslaught of lies and angry rhetoric. Let's keep building an inclusive community.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ed Shaw

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:46am

I moved to Colorado in 1978. I did not want to live in Denver, I liked Lakewood. Denver is trying to slow down their invasion, because Denver does not have space to be the "happy place", they think they are. I give as much as I can to help people, don't tell me I am racist, you don't know me. We have enough beggars on our streets, we don't need more. Help American citizens first, help legal immigrants first, as I help my family first.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Dorothy Walker

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:42am

I know the citizens of Lakewood can rise above the divisiveness and fear and worry about our "own" hardships as a community. I do not envy the position of our city council, having to navigate the divided nature of our community on this topic, but I encourage them to take the high road, and welcome our new immigrant neighbors as best we can. We all have a lot of learning to do about a respective cultures. But we can get there with a bit of loving curiosity and acceptance, that's more helpful now than fear and greed. I feel so proud of my community when I see just how hard individuals are working to welcome and educate our new neighbors on how things are done here. Working together can accomplish so much.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Steven Buckley

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:29am

Anyone who has not read the "Briefing on Lakewood-Denver Meeting" posted on Lakewood's website should do so to be better informed. <https://www.lakewood.org/files/assets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/briefing-on-lakewood-denver-meeting.pdf>. But if you don't want to read that document, here's the Cliff's Notes. Denver made two asks of Lakewood: 1) "Denver has requested the City of Lakewood's assistance in referring interested parties to the City and County of Denver website." 2) "Denver invites Lakewood and community members throughout the metro area to participate in volunteer and donation opportunities that can help migrant newcomers." (Direct quotes from that summary document.) So, my fellow Lakewood residents, here is the situation. Our City government, and the City government of Denver want you to know that Denver has a website that explains where people who need assistance can get it from Denver, and that you, as a member of the community, can choose to volunteer, if you want to, to maybe possibly consider helping someone in need. If you feel like it. As for my family, we've chosen to donate some money to people who are helping the needy, and to further donate a little bit of our time. I needed no City government to tell me that it was okay for me to volunteer to help people and willingly give of my time and money, but neither do I mind that my City government is officially encouraging people to do what they can to help, and in fact I am glad that they are doing this. The level of vitriol, fear, and misinformation that is coming alongside these two VERY milquetoast requests from our neighboring municipality who is struggling to handle a full-on humanitarian crisis is shocking and sad. Is everything about political theatre nowadays instead of just helping people? Are we incapable of having mature conversations about any topic that includes political buzzwords like "immigration"? God help our country if that is so. "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself." - Leviticus 19:33-34

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Nancy Meuster

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:27am

No, just NO. We remove services from tax payers to provide for illegals. We need to provide for our VET and homeless citizens. This is just crazy. Stop being a sanctuary city!!

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Jodi Lundin

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:21am

Thank you to Mayor Wendi Strom and our Lakewood City Council members for clearing up the misinformation that is being spread by a minority of Lakewood citizens. This seems to be a coordinated effort throughout the entire Denver metro area with the goal of spreading hate and targeting vulnerable members of our communities. Lakewood is a city of inclusivity, good will, and neighbors who care about each other and has no home for xenophobia, racism, and hate. It is in all of our best interests to understand the needs of the most vulnerable, whether they are migrants or unhoused. I hope we will work cooperatively to help humanity and I am already impressed by the efforts of many in our communities. This small group of very loud citizens intend to intimidate our public officials, citizens who disagree with them and vulnerable human beings. I hope the majority of us in Lakewood will demand an end to this.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Hanah Harris

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:16am

I would like to voice my support for welcoming newcomers to our city. Our community, and communities across the Denver metro area, are being presented with the opportunity to welcome waves of newcomers. We have a choice: we can act with compassion or leave people in the (literal) cold. Although many people are passing through on their way to a final destination, some of them are planning to stay. They will become our new neighbors, and we should treat them accordingly. We should be proud to welcome these new arrivals into our community. Lakewood should develop a short-term plan to manage the immediate needs of those who are living without shelter. The city should also lead the way in developing a long-term plan to integrate new arrivals into our vibrant community with native-language services and resettlement plans.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Amanda Raker Kimmelman

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:12am

As a resident of Lakewood, I'd like to commend our City Council and leaders for stepping up to offer help and solutions to newcomers to our country, state and city. We are a country of immigrants. Over centuries, immigrants have made our country great. History tells us that many of our own families faced hardship, persecution, bigotry and disdain for their own paths to the US. We would be wise to remember this as we look to our current state and future. "A rising tide lifts all ships." As we look for solutions, offer help and build community, we are all better for it. Our economies are better in the long run because of immigration. We can afford to make this investment and we should offer help where we can. I'm proud of my neighbors as I watch many of them care for immigrants and offer sustainable support for their betterment. I am proud of our city for being part of the solution. This is a tough situation for many and we are better for working together, offering support and remembering each other's humanity as we work through it.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Luis Antezana

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:08am

As members of the diverse and vibrant community that is Lakewood, we stand at a pivotal moment where our actions and words can significantly influence the lives of those who have chosen to embark on a new journey among us. The arrival of new immigrants to our city is a testament to their hope and courage, while also an opportunity for us to enrich our social fabric and collective experiences. Research consistently shows that communities which actively embrace and integrate immigrants tend to thrive economically, socially, and culturally. A study by the National Academy of Sciences underscores that immigrants bring a wealth of knowledge, skills, and innovative perspectives that contribute to job creation, economic growth, and vibrant cultural exchanges. These contributions are not just numbers on a balance sheet; they are the lived experiences of our neighbors, colleagues, and friends who enrich our daily lives. I know they have been mine. Moreover, the gesture of welcoming by our local city council sends a powerful message of inclusion and solidarity. It fosters an environment where Lakewood neighbor feels valued,

respected, and empowered to contribute to the community. This intentional integration helps in building strong, resilient communities where diversity is not just tolerated but celebrated. In embracing new immigrants with open arms, we are laying the foundation for a more prosperous and harmonious society. Let us be guided by hope and the undeniable evidence that our collective future shines brighter when we come together, recognize our shared humanity, and work towards a community where everyone can thrive. Let this welcoming gesture from our Lakewood City Council be the first step towards building a legacy of kindness, understanding, and unity that will define our community for generations to come.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Christine Tapler

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:04am

The City of Lakewood should not be considering helping Denver with it's immigrant crisis. Denver created it's own problem by becoming a sanctuary city. These migrants as people are now calling them have committed a crime. We do have a border and they crossed it illegally. Citizens who have committed no crime should not be forced to pay higher taxes to provide for these people. They have nothing and they made their own choice of coming here. We should be taking care of our own homeless, elderly and vets, before we take care of another country's. For the City of Lakewood to decide to help Denver with it's issues without knowing what it's citizens what is beyond intolerable. You are supposed to be civil servants, that means you are supposed to help your citizens, not other country's citizens. Your citizens are hanging on by a thread due to the rising inflation and you want us to give me and more, without regard for our own well-being. This has to stop, it's more beneficial to be illegally here than it is to be a citizen here in our own country. These migrants need to return to their own countries and be taken care of by their own governments. Don't tell me that we can house, feed and supply work for all of them, you are only lying to yourselves. You will topple the great USA from the inside this way.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Rev. Alwen Bledsoe

· Feb 12, 2024 · 10:02am

I am so grateful Lakewood has opened up the Navigation Center for our unhoused neighbors. And I am so grateful for any services that can be offered to our new immigrant neighbors as well. We are a nation of immigrants, and study after study has shown that immigrants contribute far more to their communities than they take. Helping people to work and to thrive is what the U.S. can do well when we put our minds to it. I am saddened by the hatred and misinformation I am seeing in my town toward our unhoused and our immigrant neighbors. I hope we will rise to the call to care for those in need as all of us need a hand up from time to time. As a Christian, a pastor, a mom, and a citizen I want to see my town and country be lands of welcome, hope, and new beginnings.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Lance L. Long

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:41am

As as lifelong Lakewood resident and business owner of an established dental practice with almost 70 years in the community. I am very concerned about the homeless/migrant situation. We have

had them sleeping in the crawl space of out office, drug use, trash and overall destruction of our property. We continue to lose employees and patients because they have become uncomfortable with our area. How long is Lakewood going to let me minority continue to dictate policy of the majority of Lakewood citizens? One of our patients (who was homeless for 6 years) said, "when you feed the wildlife-you won't believe how many more that attracts". Word travels fast on the streets! Sanctuary status in Lakewood makes no sense unless your objective is to destroy this once lovely city.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Leanne Thompson

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:29am

Dear Mayor and City Council, Please vote NO to bring illegal immigrants (a.k.a. migrants) into Lakewood or use our taxpayer money to assist them in any way! By providing help, you are facilitating more crime, Fentanyl deaths among children, sex-trafficking, gangs, diseases that were irradiated are back, health facilities are going bankrupt and cannot handle citizens, and more. You will need to close facilities like Denver that support our kids or provide services to your Lakewood citizens. They don't speak English, so students that are already failing lose classroom time as teachers have to accommodate the migrants. They get free money and phones while Lakewood citizens are working hard to pay their own rising cost of bills, groceries, and gas. It's ridiculous the City Council Members and Mayor that are supposed to make Lakewood one of the best cities in America to live with our values and traditions, even consider spending money on illegal immigrants. Our city is under your watch, stop any talk or support of illegal immigrants in Lakewood, and please vote NO! Sincerely, Leanne Thompson Concerned Lakewood Citizen

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Lenore Herskovitz

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:23am

Divisiveness has reached a fever pitch as the opposing sides on the immigration/migrant issue advocate for their respective positions. Insults and name-calling exist on both sides. The commonality shared by all is that they are concerned citizens, they just differ on how to resolve the problem. What role, if any, has the City played in creating such an antagonistic climate? For one, most of the policy making takes place behind the scenes, not a real trust builder. Secondly, the decision makers too often remain anonymous. Think of the Dec. 6 facilitation meeting regarding the Belmar development - no city staff were identified by name. At the requested meeting for "good neighbor" options to help Denver with problems created by the influx of migrants, no officials are identified from either City. Why? By the time the public is informed about a policy, it is a done deal and there are numerous excuses as to why the course can't be altered. One of the frequently used buzz words of late is "community engagement" ("partnering" is also a favorite) yet rarely does input from the public have any impact to change a pre-determined outcome. To cite a few examples: Short-term rental policy that had so many restrictions removed it barely resembled the public's wishes; sundowning the Strategic Growth Initiative within 24 months rather than merely eliminating the 1% growth cap which would have satisfied both the State and voters; and the Belmar Park development residents who are consistently told that nothing can be done now, but we'll do better moving forward. The constituents often feel they don't get information in a timely fashion and what they do receive is vague which leads to misinterpretation and the spread

of misinformation. The City tends to be reactive rather than proactive, trying to put out fires that they themselves have set. Wouldn't it be great if we had community meetings held with the staff (generic term used to include department heads, city attorneys, the city manager, etc) where the public could interact by asking direct questions to the decision makers and get clarifications when needed? Ward meetings address this on a smaller scale. Our last Ward 1 meeting was excellent because our Councillors had invited James Ginsburg, the executive director of RecoveryWorks to speak. After his presentation, he answered questions. This format could be applied on a larger scale when "hot button" issues arise. The city is well aware in advance when something is going to increase public interest. Why not get ahead of it? Kudos were offered because the city now established a website with clarifying information about the meeting between Denver and Lakewood and listing resources to contact. The new communication manager, Angela Ramirez posted this link on Nextdoor. Yet confusion still exists because the Mayor has stated that Denver was only requesting volunteer help and various donations rather than any sheltering services from Lakewood. Yet Mayor Johnston of Denver has repeatedly stated the dire need for housing. Was Lakewood just not asked for this help? This seems to be mixed messaging and leads to speculation. Having the decision makers (Travis Parker, Kit Newland or anyone from the City who attends these meetings) talk directly to the public goes a long way to create transparency and accountability. Because there is very little direct communication between Lakewood residents and city officials lack of trust is pervasive. Even the Lakewood Request line sets up a barrier to reach departments directly (this is a helpful service if you are uncertain who can resolve your problem but otherwise you should be able to avoid the middleman and make direct contact). In the most recent edition of "Looking at Lakewood" a format change was noted. Rather than having each ward Councillor report on updates for their specific community, only one ward will be featured in each issue (one or both of the Councillors can contribute). This limits the public's access to information on what is happening in all wards through the perspective of the Councillors. Unfortunate. Additionally, I would hope that the trend for office meetings and coffee chats will supplement and not replace the all important Ward meetings. It is imperative that these group interactive dialogues continue on a monthly basis. Please prioritize representing the residents who elected you rather than being a good team player. At times this will require you to question and disagree with staff recommendations. Stand firm in your beliefs and speak for those who do not have access to direct communication with appointed officials. We will support you if you promote transparency and accountability. Hopefully, this will establish trust, mitigate the spread if misinformation and mitigate divisiveness.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Rhiannon Wenning

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:10am

Thank you to Mayor Wendi Strom and our Lakewood City Council members for clearing up the misinformation and hateful spew of lies some of our white community members are spreading in our community. Lakewood is a city of inclusivity, good will, and neighbors who care about each other and has no home for xenophobia, racism, and hate. We, the residents of Lakewood, will not stand for this xenophobia, hate, and falsities, and condemn our neighbors and community members who want to make Lakewood a NIMBY and racist city. As a teacher in our community who is serving our newly arrived residents and our unhoused residents, our new community members and unhoused folks need access to basic services like food, shelter, clothing, health care, and jobs. We need a place in Lakewood that would help provide these services to those who need them the most.

Lakewood should be a city that provides these necessary services, and I am proud that my tax dollars from DOLA are being considered to be used to create a Navigation Center that will serve our most vulnerable community members. I am privileged to be able to afford a home, food, and the necessities of life that I need, and we should be using our privilege and resources to help those in need and provide dignity and compassion to those who need it the most. Everyone deserves a home, to be safe, and to be members of a community that they can raise their children in, work in, and to live in a community that is welcoming and compassionate. Let's continue to work together to make Lakewood that community.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Bea Ogaz

· Feb 12, 2024 · 9:10am

The migrant issue hits close to home as I myself am an immigrant. I came here when I was six years old. I became a citizen when I was a senior in high school. I spent most of my life in the border city of El Paso, Texas, but I now call Lakewood home. What we are seeing now, is an huge migrant influx that I have not seen before in my lifetime. El Paso, unlike the majority of Texas, tried to welcome as many of the migrants as possible. They did this for a while until they could no longer sustain the number of people in their city and they had to stop letting people in. They too, had to start bussing migrants to other cities. This is a national issue that needs to be addressed at the Federal level. There is no plan coming from the top. I think the City has very good intentions and should do what they can. But the pressure that is being applied to our members of council needs to be applied to our President and our three members of congress. Pettersen, Bennet, and Hickenlooper are no where to be found. They are too busy in D.C. passing a bill that will give \$95 billion dollars to fund death and war instead of being concerned with the crisis that is happening on their own soil. We need congress to provide immediate Federal aid. It saddens me as a new Lakewood resident to see the amount of bigotry and hatred that is being spread. Immigrants are not criminals. They are trying to survive and make a better life for themselves. I would like to remind most of the people writing in that they too are the descendants of immigrants. What happened to "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" This is what true patriotism really looks like.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Hannah Joy Bloom

· Feb 12, 2024 · 8:59am

In the middle of the winter, EVERYONE deserves the right to safety, shelter, food and water. I heavily support offering people aid who have traveled a long way in an effort to improve their life and their family's lives. It is easy to complain about others "taking what's yours", but how would you want someone to react if you needed help?

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Amara Hildebrand

· Feb 12, 2024 · 8:56am

Immigration has always been part of our nation's rich and prosperous history. Hopefully it will continue to be as it is important for our evolution. I am a tremendous supporter of immigration; our small business of six professionals employed a new American in 2021. I have been working with the African Community Center (ACC) since that time to try to place other documented immigrants in STEM positions. ACC is one of three resettlement agencies in Colorado that works very hard to help new Americans connect with the resources they need to thrive. They welcomed a record 1,352 refugees in 2023. The number of undocumented immigrants entering our country is what we need to stop. Laws have been established to protect our citizens from unvetted and undocumented entries. This is to keep the system safe and provide order. It is a felony to aid and abet anyone entering this country illegally. So, to the question of why we wouldn't be a good neighbor to Denver I would say because a vote in favor of supporting illegal migration could mean you would be held personally liable for the repercussions. In addition, "Looking @ Lakewood" references that there were 854 unhoused people in Jefferson County in 2023, up from 493 in 2022. This is 2% of the 40,000 migrants that have arrived in Denver so far. I understand wanting to help people, but we do not have anywhere close to the means to achieve this. Implying that we do is what is inhumane. Not to mention that our resources should be prioritized for those in this country legally. Please be mindful of the resources that you are allocating to this crisis as I believe that you may be found complicit in the crimes of harboring illegal migrants. The message to Denver has to be that we will abide by the law and cooperate with ICE. Resources are for citizens of this country and offering resources to undocumented migrants constitutes a federal crime.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Laura McGee

· Feb 12, 2024 · 8:55am

Why has public comment been moved to the end of council meetings? Obviously, this is not for efficiency, but to shut down public input before the council takes action. This is a serious breach of trust with the public and is not how Lakewood has conducted business for many, many years. We oppose back door deliberations, in violation of the Open Meetings Act, which result in the public presentation of a council consensus--that the Council acts as one. We request the Mayor remember that many citizens did not vote for her. We are also concerned about the coincidence, that the Mayor campaigned on the need for regional government, with Adam Paul quickly being named the regional government director for Denver. We oppose Lakewood's participation as a sanctuary city, whether the council has used that term or not. We oppose the Mayor's campaign of labeling anyone who dissents as someone who spreads misinformation. We have seen for a few years now, a lot of deception from recent councils, and it looks like this is now continuing. It is a very rare thing for the council to bring up such significant policy changes under general business, with an explanation that we need to be a good neighbor to Denver, and that the city manager was dispatched to gather information that generally lower level staff members would have done. Denver has chosen to remain a sanctuary city, refuses to cooperate with federal law enforcement, and yet wants federal funds--our money. The current surge of illegal migrants is directly a result of the presidential administration's sweeping changes to open the border. This is illegal immigration. I do not know one single person in Lakewood who opposes legal immigration. But I know many who oppose incentivised illegal immigration. We do not want to be forced to support this. What democratic party council members need to do, is contact congressional representatives to demand the open border be secured. We should not be asked to provide a neverending pool of taxpayer

dollars to support this. Pay attention to what is happening around the country, and that cities budgets are tanking and services cut in order to support and incentivize illegal immigration.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Jana Clancy

· Feb 12, 2024 · 8:37am

Is everyone aware of the cuts that city councils make to provide for illegal immigrants? At who's sacrifice? Denver is cutting \$180 million from DMV, Parks & Rec, city services. If you have family/children who use the Parks & Rec communities, think about this. Your tax dollars are being used for those who are here illegally. Our govt. can't provide a system to shorten the process for citizenship, yet we should sacrifice our hard earned tax dollars for something that we haven't voted on, or been asked about. There are senior citizens, veterans, US citizens who should be considered first. And if you turn a blind eye to the drugs, trafficking, gangs, and our country's safety, educate yourself. Our own FBI has warned of the Chinese spies "coming as an influx of Chinese immigrants". Venezuelan single men - I'm sure you've all seen the video of the man saying that we "will know who he is". There is great evil in many who intend harm to our country, and these people are not being vetted. A couple more headlines - "States Start Giving Taxpayer Money to Illegal Immigrants, Health insurance program for 'undocumented Coloradans' could cost \$146 million over two years". What are you paying for your health insurance, and why would I want to pay for someone who isn't in this country legally? "Sex Trafficking now \$132 billion dollar a year industry, up from \$32 billion five years ago" and on and on and on. Let's see if we can rival NY and kick kids out of their schools to house illegal people.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Meagan Shaw

· Feb 12, 2024 · 8:25am

Please learn from Denver, Chicago, New York, and other cities we cannot sustain the illegal immigration being pushed on us. We have homeless now that we aren't doing anything about. We have sex workers on Alameda and Wadsworth and Wadsworth and 1st that work with their pimps outside of Walmart and KFC. We have people rushing cars at the Home Depot parking lot on Alameda and Pierce, they also are rushing cars at Garrison and Alameda, and windshield cleaners running into traffic at Wadsworth and Colfax. Our beautiful Lakewood looks more and more like a run down, dirty, gross city. Why would you want more of this? Why would you want to push tax paying legal citizens to a brink of moving out of the city? We aren't the ones who caused this, these people are crossing the border and know they have nothing to live on or live in. They are responsible for their own actions not us. Please do not allocate funds to this disaster in the making.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Vicki Shaw

· Feb 12, 2024 · 7:27am

Take care American CITIZENS FIRST; (tax payers/voters). You are not showing as much compassion for your constituents as you want to act on for illegal immigrants. Your constituents are paying too much in taxes now. Our government is not working for us as you raised property taxes, create additional "fees" and want to keep Tabor money for what? The total inflation impact

over the last 3 years is killing us already as you want to take more from us by re-allocating priorities and funds under false titles. Where is your empathy for a majority of us who already support Multiple CHARITIES and we cannot afford one more charity? Calling us names like xenophobic, loud and racist shows your ignorance to reality of people who DO support many charities of our choice. CHOICE matters in a Republic country. Thank you.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Stephanie Stewart

· Feb 12, 2024 · 6:57am

The people elected to govern the city of Lakewood should do just that - the legal citizens of this city are priority and until you have met their needs you have no business offering our resources to Denver city who obviously can't manage their own! Denver opened a Pandora's box when they declared themselves a sanctuary - it is their problem not ours! The open borders of our nation will continue to funnel illegals - it will not stop and it will overrun any attempt to control or mitigate it! As a citizen of Lakewood I see with my own eyes just how "good neighbors" treat the city of Denver - please care for those who are here legally that need our help!

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Sinthya Calle Zucco

· Feb 11, 2024 · 10:40pm

Anyone who has been volunteering their time and services with the new migrants will tell you that these people are not looking for handouts. They want to work. They want to support themselves and their families. They've crossed thousands of miles, mostly on foot for better lives that they're willing to keep working for. They are here seeking asylum and do not wish to break any laws. Those referring to them as "illegals" are blissfully unaware of the bureaucratic nightmare that is ever changing immigration law. I've seen several family and friends struggle through the lengthy and costly process of becoming American citizens. Our new migrants were bussed here from Texas with barely any shoes on their feet. They were lied to, told that they'd be welcome with open arms and offered work on the spot. Instead, they're being debated about by people who have never even bothered to learn why they're here in the first place or how difficult immigration law is to maneuver. I hope the city of lakewood addresses any false rumors and acts with compassion towards these eager future residents. As a first generation American, I welcome the much needed diversity to our city!

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

James Powers

· Feb 11, 2024 · 9:23pm

"Good Neighbors" don't break laws or make excuses for those who do. Good local governance represents the citizens that put them in office, not the previous mayor (who now works for Denver), not the city of Denver, and not the partisan politicians in Washington DC that our new mayor has meetings with. Good governance does not try to shut down those they disagree with. All the ad hominem attacks against various Lakewood citizens expose that those clamoring to be "Good Neighbors" have no good arguments for their position. If illegal immigration does not cause the problems that concern so many Lakewood citizens, then why is Denver trying to pawn off

these illegal immigrants to surrounding cities? The citizens of Lakewood are under no obligation to help Denver with the problems they created with their stupid policies of rewarding bad behavior.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Missy Lyn

· Feb 11, 2024 · 9:15pm

Using taxpayer money without representing the taxpayer is a corrupt practice. If taxpayers wanted their money to build buildings to house their children for their betterment and education, then that is what that building is to be used to for. If our government, government employees, educators, and politicians are benefiting from the business of importing illegals and offering them aide-while not addressing the constituents on who becomes accountable for the increase in financial strain, petty crime, theft, assault and murder. Why is it incumbent upon us to take that risk? The elected government officials need to be honest with us in what they are doing. This is slavery-human trafficking, sex trafficking, child sex trafficking and anyone who says otherwise is most likely ignorant or profiting from this.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Grant Shelly

· Feb 11, 2024 · 8:41pm

The utter contempt for the citizen tax payer here is unbelievable. This is one of the most giving countries in the world and what the taxpayer gets in return is to be called racist. We live in a culture that is simply evaporating and within a country that prioritizes its own citizens last. We have fentanyl tent cities, homeless veterans and citizens who can barely afford housing here. Yet we want to give things to non-citizens that we don't even give to our own. This foolishness will only usher in the next wave of migrants. 40K becomes 80K next time, after that 160K. This problem is exponential and endless. How much is enough? We live in a country that values legal immigration, not illegal immigration. This is a race to the bottom. Denver's irresponsibility should not become Lakewood's. Do not take services from our citizens and children for non-citizens. Do not become a sanctuary city and enforce the existing laws.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

CARA HART

· Feb 11, 2024 · 6:47pm

We have a humanitarian crisis here in Lakewood, and the greater metro area. It doesn't matter whether people have been here a long time, or just got here. It doesn't matter in which country they were born. If people are unhoused, if they are hungry, if they are at risk from cold, we cannot turn our backs on them. I support the effort to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and help the sick and the cold. Most importantly, we must demand that the Colorado State and Federal governments provide a path to work permits, so that new neighbors, who want to work and support themselves, can do so legally. I find it unconscionable that some people argue that we should watch the people in front of us suffer, in order to send a message to others to not come here. There's no secret immigrant telegraph to deliver that message. There are people here now whose lives are at stake.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Lenora Plimpton

· Feb 11, 2024 · 2:48pm

I would like Lakewood to immediately begin providing shelter to new immigrants. This is an unprecedented crisis and there are children and babies on the street. We must do more. The bigots and xenophobic people cannot win just because they yell louder and use fear to turn harden peoples' hearts. Lakewood has signs all over saying we are building an inclusive community, well, let's build it!

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Kathi Baird

· Feb 11, 2024 · 2:23pm

Thank You for your plan to encourage the citizens of Lakewood to assist Denver in caring for the new arrivals coming from the border. Unfortunately, there are members of the community, and outside the community, who are trying to distract you by creating a crisis with claims that Lakewood is becoming a sanctuary city and causing some Lakewood residents to feel invaded and fearful. Please don't listen to those voices. In cases of natural disaster, communities come together to help their neighbors recover from the catastrophe. Why is this situation different? Instead of spreading fear and hatred many Denverites are taking it upon themselves to provide food, clothing and shelter for these newcomers. I believe that a number of Lakewood residents are willing to rally around those responsible Denver citizens if they knew where to find organizations to donate resources which is the goal of your research. Posting information on the Lakewood.org website is a great start to get the information to the public. Please keep up your good work and don't let the "loudest voices" discourage you.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Dale Trone

· Feb 11, 2024 · 2:05pm

Dale Trone Ward 5 19 year resident. I would like to thank the Mayor and Council for their action in trying to proactively gather information and participate in a discussion with Denver staff on new immigrants. The last thing Lakewood needs is for Denver to give them a RTD pass and driving them to a W line station, like Texas did to Colorado. I urge you to continue having open lines of communication with Denver on the new immigrant topic. Second please continue discussions with Jeffco schools about the converting Molholm school to a much needed rec center for the Two Creeks Neighborhood. Third, there has been lots of discussion about 69 trees. Note a property adjacent to Lakewood's only true sanctuary; Sanctuary Park is up for sale. I don't know exactly where the boundary line is but adding this property to Sanctuary Park would likely save hundreds of trees if not over more than thousand trees.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Angie Burt

· Feb 11, 2024 · 11:59am

Action must be taken to protect the wildlife and open space of Belmar Park. The increased traffic in the area, and moreover, the inherent lack of planned parking are deeply concerning. We urge the Lakewood City Council to consider and remedy these concerns before the planned projects move forward.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Valerie Passerini

· Feb 11, 2024 · 10:19am

Empathetic and welcoming residents of Lakewood make me proud to call this city home. While pitchforks of the past may have given way to the tiki torches and keyboard warriors of the present, I am heartened by the community response of my neighbors mobilizing to help migrants desperate for work who have made an arduous journey with the clothes on their back. It is nearly impossible for us born here to imagine ever having to do this. For those who mention "our OWN homeless and our OWN vets" I am excited to see you join in the efforts to help these groups. If you need specific direction, Soldier's Angels is a great organization.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Monte Brueggeman

· Feb 11, 2024 · 9:23am

Like others have said, I believe Lakewood should spend it's time and resources on the LEGAL citizens of LAKEWOOD and NOT Denver. Be a 'good neighbor' on your own nickel, and not of the taxpayer. Denver was the one tooting it's Sanctuary City horn these last several years, and look where it got them! Now they're talking of furloughs and reductions of city services to pay for it, and if Lakewood chooses this path it will be the same for us as well. Denver did this to themselves, and there's a good reason many surrounding cities want no part of it - it would be wise to learn from the mistakes of Denver.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Denise Luepschen

· Feb 11, 2024 · 8:25am

Lakewood residents were understandably concerned by the City Manager meeting with Denver authorities to find out how we can help Denver with its overwhelming migrant crisis. A previous Denver mayor or two did make a big deal about Denver being a welcoming city for immigrants both legal and illegal. The logical consequences of those boasts (visible on the Internet worldwide) are coming to fruition, and Denver is cutting fire, police, and recreational services for Denverites to pay a small part of the extra \$180 million already spent accommodating unvetted, undocumented people. It feels good to help helpless strangers, it can be very addictive. It's especially easy to help when it's Other People's Money. The honeymoon period of welcoming bewildered newcomers is coming to an end as the fallout becomes evident. In New York migrants form pickpocket rings and steal minibikes to rip purses out of women's hands. Chicago sees organized shoplifting rings of migrants in the city and its suburbs. In Lakewood migrant men harass motorists by weaving in and out of traffic with an unwanted window cleaning service that women motorists find quite intimidating. Migrants acquire cars and drive without driver license or insurance, they work handyman jobs without having business licenses, knowing codes, or paying

taxes, easily undercutting prices charged by established businesses that had to follow all the rules. We are already in a situation where the laws apply to legal residents and are magnanimously ignored for migrants. The City Manager said she welcomes resident input - and residents have given City Council more input than ever desired, to the extent Lakewood is famous internationally for its concerned residents unwilling to be steamrolled into anything resembling sanctuary-city status. Please keep in mind the long-term consequences of supporting illegal immigration: increased numbers of people feeling entitled to disregard laws, higher crime rate, overwhelmed hospitals raising rates for all who actually pay their bills, to say nothing of impacts on schools and courts. Lakewood residents are stretched thin with high rents and rising prices. How will an infusion of poverty do anything in a limited market but cause rents to climb? How can Lakewood address its own homelessness and affordability problems when newcomers require heavy subsidies of everything set aside for our own poor? It's so easy to accuse concerned Lakewood taxpayers of being racist and fear-mongering, when the fact is that we are paying attention and we have absolutely everything to lose. City government leaders were elected to serve the people of Lakewood, not the world's poor drawn by Denver's choices, with no end in sight. Each effort to help Denver with its crisis increases the attracting magnet of migrant flow into Lakewood, sucking Lakewood residents into our own crisis.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Phillip Weingarten

· Feb 11, 2024 · 6:31am

How is it ethical to invite illegal aliens or faux-asylum seekers to live in Lakewood or Colorado if we don't have any affordable housing for existing residents? We should not spend a single dollar on services for foreign nationals. Whether you call them illegal aliens or migrants makes no difference to me, they're not welcome to my tax dollars. Heavy police enforcement is necessary. Lock them up for loitering, theft, harassment. Whatever possible. Then drop them off inside Denver city limits. I had one man with a squeegee lurking in Sprouts parking lot giving me mean looks at he leered at me. That is not the community I voted for. Councilwoman Glenda Sinks responded to an email on this issue and (paraphrased) told me this concern was a national issue, not a local one and that my congress person is the best person to resolve my problems at the grocery store in Lakewood, CO. Shameful! We need local action to mitigate the disastrous national policies enacted by our current President... not to mention our governor and the mayor of Denver. Let's not double down on bad policy that's bankrupting our cities.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

James Kinney

· Feb 11, 2024 · 12:57am

Lakewood's City Council's established Core Community Values, and Commitment to Citizens, which are both found in Lakewood.org, include commitment to transparent government, open and honest communication and a commitment to provide education and information. City Council, which includes the Mayor, has also committed itself to focusing on quality results, promoting an inclusive environment for all citizens, respecting the traditions of the community, and honoring Lakewood's neighborhoods' values. City Council's Policy and Procedures Manual (also found at Lakewood.org), approved on May 14, 2018, contains the official policies and procedures City Council (Council) has developed and approved for themselves, to which their duties, proceedings,

meetings and conduct all must conform. The authority for the Council Policy and Procedures Manual comes from the City of Lakewood Home Rule Charter and the Council's approval of their Policy and Procedures Manual (Manual). Manual, Section 05.16, establishes official Council policy and procedures for Study Sessions. Study Sessions are a regular event conducted to familiarize the Council and the public with detailed information and aspects of subjects under consideration in advance of the date the subject is to be before Council on the regular Council meeting agenda. Study Sessions are scheduled to be held on the first and third Mondays of each month, to facilitate coordinated study of subjects in preparation for upcoming regular Council meetings, which are scheduled for the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The public may comment at Study Sessions and their comments add to the overall value of information presented and collected at a Study Session. A public comment period follows each presentation within a Study Session, prior to Council discussion. Council Study Sessions create the opportunity to present, question, understand, analyze, discuss and debate broad and detailed information, aspects and options associated with the subject, all the while allowing invaluable communication among Council, City staff and the public to occur. Participation in Study Sessions allows Council an opportunity and means to fulfill their Commitment to Citizens and focus on their Core Community Values, which were briefly introduced in the first paragraph. Unfortunately, a disturbing and harmful trend has developed in City governance concerning the required use of Study Sessions in Council proceedings. Council chose to cancel a significant number of Study Sessions throughout 2023, and that trend of cancellations of Study Sessions is continuing in 2024. Holding Study Sessions, usually on both the first and third Mondays of the month, is required policy and procedure for Council. Failure to conduct Study Sessions deprives City Council and the public of the necessary information, facts, perspectives, and a means of quality preparation necessary to make the best decisions for the Community on issues coming before Council for consideration and decision making. The Council and the entire Lakewood community benefits from presentations and discussions during each Study Sessions. Council must ensure the scheduling and conduct of valuable, high quality Study Sessions, as they have required of themselves, for good reason, in their Council Manual.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Mar Miller

· Feb 10, 2024 · 11:25pm

Having personally worked with city council members, Lakewood police, local nonprofits, and residents, I am dismayed at the level of mistrust, disinformation, and slander against those that are trying their best to find solutions, and what feels like impossible times. The individuals touting nothing but fear mongering and xenophobia offer no solutions themselves, but will not allow those that are seeking solutions to find ways forward. This does nothing to help the city of Lakewood, but seeks to tear down others in an effort to protect individuals' own ego and fragile worldviews. I want to thank Wendi for doing an outstanding job at combating misinformation in our community and working (what seems like tirelessly) to provide critical services and ways forward for those in need. No single city counselor is responsible for homeless encampments. No single individual will be able to convince an entire community to stop panhandling on Colfax medians. No mayors, current or past, have been able to eradicate gang activity in the city. These are systemic issues. It behooves us as a city and a community to think strategically, compassionately, and agilely an order to find a path forward for the future - for all of us. The whataboutism, strawman arguments, and unabashed spreading of lies does NOT reflect the outlook of the entire Lakewood community.

Thank you to those in service leading this city; you were elected with such confident margins because many of us believe in the path you are forging. Yours is thankless job; I do not envy your position.... But if my thank you, in unison with others, can help bolster your strength to keep going - please accept my sincerest gratitude. We need you. We need you to keep fighting for the light and good in this world so Lakewood can find its way forward. I left my hometown to get away from the hate and racism that drove my home community into MAGA-frenzy. Now that I call here my home, will do whatever I can to help you prevent Colorado from becoming like them. I stand with Mayor Strom and City Council.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Sunny Hackman

· Feb 10, 2024 · 4:40pm

I am a Lakewood native. I love Lakewood. A picture of Belmar Park by Ray Knaub commissioned for Lakewood's 25th Birthday hangs in my hallway. My grandfather immigrated from Germany and settled in Lakewood on a 5-acres parcel growing cherry and apple trees, and selling pheasants to local restaurants. Lakewood has been a safe and beautiful place to live throughout the years, but I am fearful for it's future. I live on the boarder of Lakewood and Denver and can see with my own eyes what the migrant challenge has done to Denver, especially as I drop my daughter off downtown to catch the bus home. It is so sad to see Civic Center Park decimated and fenced off for public use, and the tent cities on every corner. This is the direct result of poorly thought out and unsustainable thinking on Denver's part and Lakewood should absolutely NOT follow their lead by committing resources to Denver's migrant influx. Denver choose to be a "Sanctuary City", Lakewood has not. Common sense and ancient wisdom says, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to compete it?" The orchestrated immigrant crisis is the epitome of fiscal irresponsibility. What about our Veterans? What about our homeless population? What about our mentally ill? The migrant crisis is a tsunami wave coming straight for the heart of Lakewood. Being a good neighbor does not mean sacrificing the soul of our city and that is what it has done to the City of Denver. It will do the same for the City of Lakewood. We should not participate or partner with Denver as they suffer the consequences of their poor fiscal and irresponsible choices. El Paso County, Colorado had the right response to problem of the heavy migrant influx as they decided in January 2024 to the following position points: El Paso County will not be designated as a sanctuary county. El Paso County continues to encourage legal immigration through established channels. El Paso County urges the federal government to secure the border and work toward reform. El Paso County will continue to make decisions guided by fiscal responsibility, adherence to legal frameworks, and an unwavering commitment to residents. May the City of Lakewood follow El Paso County and not the City of Denver, for the security and safety of our residents.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Sandie Weathers

· Feb 10, 2024 · 4:25pm

The migrant influx has become a very heated issue for many. Regardless of which side of the issue you are on, the question remains the same. "How does this city plan for an unexpected influx of migrants during winter?" This is a hard question for our council to answer. I wish I had a magic wand to solve this and make everyone happy. I don't. I don't have the answers, but what I do know

is this.... It doesn't help when people are spreading misinformation. Lakewood is not considering becoming a sanctuary city, nor is it going to convert vacant schools into migrant housing. When lies are spread, it makes it hard for everyone to come together and have meaningful conversations. It also doesn't help when people make bigoted and hateful statements. Statements floating around on social media like "they're criminals" are rooted in racism and again do not belong in any meaningful discussions. I ask anyone that is spreading misinformation or hatred to please stop. This is not going to help anyone. It only serves as a distraction for our leaders who are trying to figure this out and come forward with thoughtful and effective solutions. Many of those who have written in so far have stated that this is a Federal issue. I agree. However, these folks are here already. Many of them didn't choose to come to Denver during winter, they were bussed here by Texas. So what are we going to do? Are we going to work together and come up with a plan, one based in compassion for our fellow human beings? Or are we going to scare people by spreading lies and misinformation? I favor the first option. I would like to elaborate on my stance that this is a Federal issue. Since the Obama era, the US has been imposing sanctions on Venezuela. The idea was that these sanctions would "defend democracy", but the truth is, this was just our country trying to control their elections. The sanctions harmed more than helped. They caused severe instability and food insecurity for the Venezuelan people. Venezuelans became so desperate, that over seven MILLION of them decided to leave their homeland. Is this karma? Maybe. All I know is that our City Council did not create this problem, but they are trying to help solve it. City Council, for most people, serves as our first point of contact with our elected officials. I want to encourage everyone to take your concerns one step further. Please write to your three members of Congress (Pettersen, Bennet, and Hickenlooper) about what they are going to do to help. What is THEIR plan? From my viewpoint they are failing all of us. They are too busy trying to get money for wars to maintain our global imperial stronghold instead of taking care of the people at home. They do this in the name of defending democracy. They are not. Look at Denver, they are over budget \$180 million. Our military budget is currently over \$800 BILLION, yet our Congress still asks for more. Enough! There is more than enough money to create a meaningful and practical solution to this crisis, but it is obvious that our country would rather kill people than feed them. Let that sink in. P.S. Don't let your elected officials blame the "other" party for this crisis. Both are at fault.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Anne Marie

· Feb 10, 2024 · 3:13pm

It's disheartening to read and hear the overwhelming amount of misinformation being spread about the migrant crisis — inclusive of the very unscientific "if we provide help to the migrants, it only encourages more to come". These statements showcase incredible ignorance about what life is like in corrupt countries like Venezuela and why/how people fleeing such dangerous countries end up here locally. I hope the city of Lakewood will explore ways to not just be a "good neighbor" to Denver (because that's not what this is about), but rather how to handle the inevitability of this humanitarian crisis increasingly making itself present here. The "we need to focus on our own" mentality feels very NIMBY and ignores the reality that this problem will not go away. So many Lakewood citizens have graciously joined the grassroots community efforts to help this migrant population; it's time for the city to do its part.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Annette Hein

· Feb 10, 2024 · 2:43pm

I hope that Lakewood will step up and help our new neighbors. America is a nation of immigrants and we should welcome and support people who are working hard to build a better life for themselves and their families.

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Carl Youngblood

· Feb 10, 2024 · 2:06pm

Lakewood is not Denver. There are reasons that we chose not to live in Denver and the invasion of homeless immigrants, the resulting strain on city budgets, and an increase in crime is at the top of the list. This attempt to "assist" Denver will create a de facto sanctuary city, regardless of what you call it. Almost every major Democrat-run city in America has been, or is in the process of being, turned into a crime-filled, bankrupt, slum. Denver, a city of 713,000 people, has absorbed nearly 40,000 migrants in a little over a year, more per capita than any other U.S. city. It is second only to New York in the total number of foreigners who have arrived since 2022. According to the Wall Street Journal, "The influx is straining the city's budget, crowding schools and hospitals and swelling the ranks of the city's homeless population. Denver has spent more than \$42 million in the past year to house and feed the new arrivals. Public schools have ballooned by more than 3,000 students, creating a budget shortfall of roughly \$17.5 million. The city's safety-net hospital has seen at least 9,000 migrant patients in the past year, costing at least \$10 million in unreimbursed care." This is nothing more than the attempted implementation of the Cloward & Piven social strategy, the immigrants being nothing more than pawns in the game: The four steps of the Cloward-Piven Strategy: Overload and Break the Welfare System Have Chaos Emerge Take Control in the Chaos Implement Socialism and Communism through Government Force

11 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Karen Sweeney Tucker

· Feb 9, 2024 · 3:44pm

The time for immediate and sustainable change is now for Lakewood. We need to create information networks of receiving immediate support for our new neighbors in their native language. We need creative ways to incentivize developers to keep green space and provide public wash rooms and safe shelters for everyone who lives off of Colfax or near large encampments or voucher hotels. I don't think it is worth anyone's energy to debate folks who only drum up outrage thru dog whistle community meetings declaring their white entitlement.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Tori Sanchez

· Feb 9, 2024 · 2:22pm

I am deeply saddened by the emergence of xenophobia within our community, evident in various local forums. Each day, we are confronted with fear-inducing rhetoric targeting migrants, ranging from accusations of resource depletion to baseless claims of increased crime rates. While other government expenditures are accepted without question, this issue evokes passionate reactions

driven solely by fear and a racist inclination to exclude migrants. As the daughter of migrants who were fortunate to immigrate to this country in the 1980s when citizenship was more accessible, I have numerous relatives still residing south of our borders who grapple with a convoluted immigration process, compounding the challenges they already face. As a nation, we have the opportunity to uphold our values of compassion and humanity by extending support and establishing pathways to safety and opportunity for those in need, rather than succumbing to fear or prejudice. Though I am unable to attend the town hall due to caring for my newborn and toddler, I wish to express my hope that our community commits to pursuing solutions that prioritize the dignity and well-being of all individuals, irrespective of their background or nationality.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Donna R. Miller

· Feb 9, 2024 · 1:29pm

I would like for the city council to work with the Lakewood Police Department to stop the windshield washing immigrants impeding traffic on intersections. They are crossing several lanes and wondering 2 to 3 cars deep trying to get donations from cars stopped at traffic lights. Not only is this a safety concern for the drivers, but for those entering the streets between cars in moving traffic. This is a liability for Lakewood and for drivers if someone gets hit. There are usually between 8 to 12 immigrants at a time on these intersections. It can be almost harassing when they continue to beg even though they have been waved off. Please provide an ordinance or direction to the police and residents on how to stop this nuisance in our city. I agree with most comments regarding our resources being used or potentially used to provide housing, schooling, medical resources to illegal immigrants. Lakewood should not be considered a sanctuary city, and we need to provide first to the legal residents who currently are in need. Illegal immigrants got themselves into the United States through several countries. They can figure it out just like the rest of us how to manage daily living. It is not our responsibility to provide for them.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ronda Frazier

· Feb 9, 2024 · 10:44am

I would like to thank Mayor Strom and Council for their forward thinking in reaching out to Denver regarding how the humanitarian crisis at our southern border is affecting the Denver metro and seeking to understand how. Lakewood can help with the need that is understandably spilling over not only into Denver's suburbs, but also into all border states and the larger cities across the country where migrants are being transported by the Governor of Texas. The City of Lakewood has no control over what is happening at the border, and there is certainly not some imaginary wall that will keep this crisis from spilling over into Lakewood and all suburbs around the country that are in close proximity to our largest cities. I want to see my City government treat these people with the same humanity as they treat Americans. No one believes that desperate people are going to stay out of Lakewood simply because a few frightened residents proclaim that Lakewood is not a sanctuary city. They are already here and more are coming. Our immigration system and our Congress are willfully impotent and, for purely political reasons, refuse to do anything to actually alleviate the problem. This is a global problem. See migrations from places like Haiti and North

Africa. Hang in there Mayor and Council. I for one feel you are approaching this in the most humane and forward thinking way possible at this time.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Joshua Comden

· Feb 9, 2024 · 10:04am

I think it was absolutely great that Lakewood reached out to Denver to see what kind of support Lakewood could help with! While Denver has only requested help with communication efforts to direct new immigrants and volunteers to their website, I believe there is more that the Lakewood City Government can do. First, because of the unique capabilities of the city, it should reach out, like they did with the City of Denver, to the various nonprofits, groups, and residents in Lakewood who have been doing what they can to help the new immigrants. For example, I know there are families in Lakewood who want to host newly arrived families in their homes, but the Lakewood code on the occupancy of non-related people in a single home is both unclear and prohibitive. This should be changed so that we help bring them inside. I am sure there are many other things that the city can help with that will come up in conversations with those in Lakewood who are helping. Thanks!

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Carol Sandstead

· Feb 9, 2024 · 9:56am

All of the individuals that are employed by the city of Lakewood as well as city government officials are working for the residents of the city of Lakewood. We are your employer and our tax dollars pay you. Major decisions that impact the lives of Lakewood city residents should be decided upon by the people. The impact of building an 800,000 square-foot development is overwhelming in many different areas. This type of development needs to be stopped until it is approved by Lakewood city residents.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Randy Walker

· Feb 7, 2024 · 7:01pm

Please learn from the mistakes that Denver has made and recognize that the more services and shelter we provide, the more illegal immigrants will flock here. Furthermore, nothing is being done to stem the tide at the border, so this will quickly reach an unsustainable level for the city of Lakewood.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Joan Jacobson

· Feb 7, 2024 · 5:06pm

I'm disheartened that my fellow Lakewood citizens chose to stir up unnecessary trouble by lying about what our city government is doing. Thank you Mayor Strom and Councilors for setting the record straight. I support being a "good neighbor" to Denver. I've lived in Lakewood for 39 years,

but I often go to Denver for museums, shows, restaurants, etc. Unless these people spreading false info plan to never venture east of our city limit, they should also want to be a "good neighbor." We should also show compassion to people fleeing war and terror. I don't know what all being a good neighbor to Denver may entail, but I definitely know that stirring up emotions with lies and unnecessary panic is not helpful. Please stay strong and brave and calm in the face of the baseless anger and let's continue to be a "good neighbor" to Denver and show compassion to our fellow humans.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Wendy Martinez

· Feb 7, 2024 · 12:47pm

I hope the mayor and city council will act as swiftly to protect the citizens of Lakewood's resources, health, property and property values as they have been to contact Denver about our ability to be "good neighbors" with their immigration crisis. Lakewood's full budget, time and resources should be used to enhance Lakewood - not Denver. As our mayor and city council have loudly proclaimed -- Lakewood is not a sanctuary city, nor have they discussed or proposed that it should be. Since we are NOT a sanctuary city, perhaps a strongly-worded resolution by the mayor/city council, which is voted on and put into the record, would ease the minds of the many Lakewood citizens that are concerned about this subject. The mayor and city council need to work for, and protect, the interest of Lakewood first and foremost. No agreements of any kind should be entered into with Denver without consulting Lakewood citizens on the unintended consequences and sustainability of being a "good neighbor" to Denver -- Lakewood has its own homelessness, crime, mental health issues, etc., that our taxpayer-funded resources need to be used for. The position Denver finds itself is unfortunate; looking to other cities and counties and draining their resources really doesn't solve the problem, it just spreads them to neighboring communities.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Taylan Dillion

· Feb 7, 2024 · 8:19am

I think the issue is that we have a housing crisis going on (especially in Lakewood) and the city council is sending the city manager to "be a good neighbor" and "help with the migrant crisis" and not spending very much attention on the people who live here legally. I've lived in Colorado my whole life, and I'm having a hard time making ends meet due to high housing prices and mortgage rates. Rising home insurance costs along the western slope have been an issue for awhile too. Maybe instead of "being a good neighbor" to the insanity Denver got itself into, you should "be a good government servant" to the people who vote for you which is your job.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ash B

· Feb 6, 2024 · 11:16am

I very much appreciate the transparency and the correction of the misinformation about Sanctuary city status. A prompt and clear response from the Mayor via social media is heartening. The migrant situation is a complex issue. It is also a humanitarian issue. I appreciate the educational campaigns that disseminate information to the volunteers those who want to help (and there are

MANY, Lakewood community members as a whole are so generous!). A great many of us are understandably concerned with the rumor about turning our closed schools into shelters. That is clearly not what has been on the agenda, and I personally appreciate that. This would be a different message had that rumor been true. That said, as an admin of Lakewood's best ;) Buy Nothing Network FB group (Buy Nothing Green Mountain South), which has been a significant source of household goods and clothing and food contributions to the migrant community, I would be happy to offer my knowledge and share my experience in running Facebook groups and mobilizing gifting economies directed to support the migrant communities. I can't volunteer to lead the group, but I can consult on best practices, from the creation of the group to the creation of the community culture to setting the standards and encouraging community participation. Right now there are a handful of groups with very small numbers of participants, and a city-sanctioned community movement like that would be easy to grow and manage, resulting in probably a great amount of sharing of the physical goods that are needed to support people in crisis. Sending all the good will to those of you who do the hard work.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Amber Varwig

· Feb 5, 2024 · 8:52pm

I would personally like to thank Mayor Strom, City Council, and City Staff for their quick action and their responsible and measured statement, regarding the misinformation campaign assaulting Lakewood. This has been a challenging time for all of Colorado, and Lakewood has proven no exception. Sadly, we are seeing more need everyday. But, we have also proven ourselves to be a capable city. We will meet these challenges with your leadership. Thank you for prizing the truth. For standing up to nonsense. Especially when, yet again, the other part has proven itself unworthy. Thank you all for keeping the TRUTH front and center!!

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Carlos Galdamez

· Feb 5, 2024 · 1:31pm

I'm a Salvadoran/Navajo that moved from San Francisco to Lakewood 3 years ago, purchased a home, I love Lakewood, love my neighbors, and I work for the City and County of Denver with direct knowledge on the migrant challenge. I will only share publicly available cited information. Lakewood absolutely should not commit resources to the migrant influx for the following reasons: 1) Core Values: It goes against all City Council's Commitment to citizens and Core Community Values listed on the Lakewood City Council Values website. 2) Fiscal Irresponsibility: To support the migrant influx, Denver has to cut the city budget by 15% for all departments, Denver Health has \$136 million deficit in uncompensated care contributed to by migrant short and long-term care, and with 3,000 new migrant students enrolled in Denver Public Schools (DPS) teachers are stretched thin and DPS is short \$17.5 million from the state, and in 2023 Denver spent \$38 million with a projected \$180 million this year to shelter migrants through shelter providers. Denver is planning to pull \$10 million from its contingency fund and \$15 million from Capital Improvement projects. Lastly, Denver is paying \$90 million for the Denver Post Building while asking for a costly "good neighbor policy" from Lakewood. Denver is not out of space, but rather spending substantial budget - Sources: 9News, Denver7, Fox31, and Axios Denver 3) Impacts on City Staff: To save on budget, Denver employees are being allocated to support migrant sheltering operations

across the city. Meanwhile, there's a city hiring freeze, potential furloughs, and fear that annual pay increases may pause next year. Sadly, it's the very employees supporting migrant response that could be economically impacted. Some city employees are 2 paychecks away from missing a mortgage/rent payment. This would be a tragic cycle in addition to recent private sector layoffs throughout the front range (CBS Colorado). Lakewood city employees would not be immune from the above challenges if involved. 4) Lakewood Social Impacts: This is a national challenge, but Denver continues to push it's a welcoming city to a breaking point while putting pressure on neighboring cities to develop a "good neighbor policy" to support the migrant influx. This, even when Yoli Casas, Director of Vive Wellness said it's time to stop letting more migrants come to Denver (9News). Meanwhile, Denver has migrant panhandling spread throughout. A city the size of Lakewood can't afford businesses to take this impact at Belmar. When residents avoid areas (Colfax and Wadsworth squeegee washers) there are local economic impacts. When Lakewood families see other families begging for money at intersections, it's not a place families want to raise their children and as a result residents leave. We chose to live in the suburbs of Lakewood for a reason, not a city the size of Denver. Meanwhile, our underserved communities will eventually compete for the same resources dedicated to the migrant influx. If Lakewood had any resources to support the migrant influx, then it should have already fixed Colfax or provided more support for underserved youth that need after-school programs, food security, etc. Over 9% of Lakewood already lives in poverty. It's simple, prioritize our existing residents rather than making them compete for resources. Denver's local unhoused are now competing with the unhoused caused by the migrant influx. This is a national challenge and not the challenge of a small city with a population of 170,000 residents and a budget smaller than Denver. If Lakewood received 40,000 migrants similar to Denver, that would be 25% of our Lakewood population. It's both fiscally and socially irresponsible for City Council to commit to these social changes without a vote from us, the existing residents (yes, we're still here). 5) Migrant Shelter/Navigation Operations: Yes, there are safety/security incidents between migrants, medical emergencies, communicable disease, staffing challenges, and migrants expelled from shelter. It's public information (Fox31) that timed out/expelled migrants then take to the surrounding streets to encamp. This is the case for any shelter/navigation center for migrants that have nowhere to go. This has all been covered in the media, including the considerable resource/personnel heavy response these challenges require from first responders. To Summarize: Lakewood City Council wouldn't be upholding its core values, immune from budget downfall, city employee impacts, and social impacts. Apologies for the length of this comment, but I left San Francisco due to poor public policy that kept my underserved community...underserved. I think most of us love Lakewood for its open space, proximity to both the mountains and the city, but most importantly its peace and elderly residents that pass by us in the park with a smile. Regarding this "good neighbor policy" request from Denver, I never asked a neighbor that had less than me for money. In essence that's what this is. Assuming Lakewood City Council's mind is already made up and already spooling city resources (personnel) from tasks deemed important by constituents, just give Denver money, otherwise Lakewood City Council will commit residents to a challenge that isn't a result of our voting, existing public policy, or core values, but rather a long-term inherited challenge and use of space. A national challenge requires a national response, this has been lost and pinned against Lakewood by way of proximity to Denver. We need to rely on our state capital for this national matter. Yes, community based organizations/non-profits will pack council, but please keep residents, fiscal responsibility, and existing challenges in mind. This is not a decision based on political affiliation, but one based on sensibilities with generational impacts on our existing residents that have the most need. Residents of Lakewood are perfectly capable of volunteerism and being a "good neighbor" to Denver on their own. Lakewood government doesn't need to do it for them. Leaving

San Francisco, I can say it's been challenging finding a space and asking that it be peaceful, clean, and safe. I hope Lakewood continues to provide this, otherwise it's the bad public policy of changing the things we love. Sincerely, Your Good Neighbor

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Joshua Comden

· Feb 4, 2024 · 9:22pm

Everyone who believes that Lakewood is/becoming a sanctuary city, or that vacant schools will be used to house migrants, should take note of where they got that information. Then when they find out that information is completely untrue, maybe, just maybe, they should question the quality of the source of that information in the future to make them better informed residents.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Lori K Flores

· Feb 4, 2024 · 7:45am

Just to add to my last comment so everyone is clear..<https://www.uscis.gov/> regarding Immigration definition being unlawful

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Lori K Flores

· Feb 4, 2024 · 7:32am

There has been a growing concern about the vacant schools in Lakewood being earmarked to shelter immigrants. How will Lakewood City Council address this concern? There is a strong opposition to this idea.

10 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Item 15 - General Business

Public Comments

Ken Bowen

· Feb 12, 2024 · 6:59pm

It's beyond the pale to see not one comment on this. It is the actual product of our city's good faith good neighbor effort to assess how we could help. I would think that if all the naysayers and perpetrators of disinformation and especially consumers of it read this document they might be better informed and less combative. But I am probably just hoping without a chance to be real.

4 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF LAKEWOOD**

7:00 P.M

February 26, 2024

Minutes are not a verbatim transcription, but rather an attempt to capture the intent of the speaker by the City Clerk.

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Strom called the HYBRID meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

[View video recording here](#)

Those present were:

- Mayor Wendi Strom, Presiding
- Richard Olver
- Sophia Mayott-Guerrero
- Rebekah Stewart
- Dave Rein
- Jeslin Shahrezaei
- Paula Nystrom
- Roger Low
- Isabel Cruz
- Glenda Sinks

Absent: Jacob LaBure

Others in attendance:

- Ben Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
- Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney
- Jay Robb, City Clerk

Full and timely notice of this City Council meeting had been given and a quorum was present.

ITEM 3 – INDUCTION CEREMONY – FOR JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

[View video recording here](#)

City Clerk Robb administered the oath to the Junior Council Members.

ITEM 4 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

[View video recording here](#)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Junior Council Members, and the audience remained standing for a moment of silent prayer.

ITEM 5 – RECESS - RECEPTION TO WELCOME COUNCILOR PAULA NYSTROM AND THE JUNIOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

[View video recording here](#)

Councilor Stewart moved to recess. The motion was seconded. The Council stood in recess at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Strom called the meeting back to order at 7:30p.m.

ITEM 6 – STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Strom read the Statement of Conflict of Interest

ITEM 7 – RESOLUTION 2024-14 – ENDORSING THE 2024-2025 HEAD START GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING A REQUEST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS FOR THE FINAL YEAR OF THE FIVE-YEAR GRANT CYCLE AND NOTIFYING THE OFFICE OF HEAD START THAT THE CITY DOES NOT INTEND TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS WHEN THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR GRANT CYCLE BEGINS

[View video recording here](#)

There were no in-person Public Comments.

Public Comments received via Lakewood Speaks: 3, See Page 8

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-14. It was seconded.

Mayor Strom opened the floor to Council questions and dialog.

Deputy City Manager Goldstein introduced Director of Community Resources Kit Newland and Recreation and Golf Manager Brent Bollinger to answer questions and provide further information regarding the program.

Discussion ensued regarding amending the resolution.

Councilor Mayott-Gurrero made a motion to remove the final recital clause and section 2 of this resolution. It was seconded.

Councilor Rein made a motion to call the question on the amendment. Councilor Rein withdrew the motion.

Vote on the motion:

AMEND RESOLUTION 2024-14 BY REMOVING THE FINAL RECITAL
 CLAUSE AND SECTION 2.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	ABSENT	
OLVER		X	NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN		X	SINKS		X
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	7	3

Result:

Approved 7-3, the motion passed.

Vote on the motion:

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2024-14 AS AMENDED.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	ABSENT	
OLVER	X		NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN	X		SINKS		X
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	9	1

Result:

Approved 9-1, the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

[View video recording here](#)

City Clerk Robb read the Consent Agenda into the Record.

ITEM 8 – RESOLUTION 2024-9 – APPROVING THE 40WEST ARTLINE FRAMEWORK
 PLAN AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAKEWOOD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

ITEM 9 – RESOLUTION 2024-10 – ADOPTING DESIGN STANDARDS AND
 GUIDELINES FOR STREETSCAPES AND BUILDINGS FOR THE 40WEST ARTLINE

ITEM 10 – RESOLUTION 2024-11 – APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BUDGET AND
 AUDIT BOARD

ITEM 11 – RESOLUTION 2024-12 – APPOINTING A MEMBER TO BOARD OF APPEALS

ITEM 12 – RESOLUTION 2024-13 – REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE LAKEWOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

ITEM 13 – APPROVING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING	JANUARY 8 TH , 2024
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING	JANUARY 22 ND , 2024
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING	FEBRUARY 5 TH , 2024

ITEM 14 – REQUEST FOR SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING	MARCH 25 TH , 2024 at 6:00PM
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING	APRIL 8 TH , 2024 at 6:00PM

Public Comment received:

Natalie Minton, Ward 5, addressed Council regarding Resolution 2024-11 appointing a member to the Budget and Audit Board.

There were no Public Comments received via Lakewood Speaks.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Councilor Stewart.

Mayor Pro Tem Shahrezaei welcomed the new Board and Commission Members.

Vote on the motion:

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	ABSENT	
OLVER		X	NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN	X		SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	9	1

Result:

Approved 9-1, the motion passed.

**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

ITEM 15 – ORDINANCE O-2024-5 – HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTAL INSPECTIONS

[View video recording here](#)

Mayor Pro Tem, Shahrezaei moved to adopt Ordinance O-2024-5. It was seconded by Councilor Steward.

Mayor Strom opened the public hearing at 8:40 p.m.

Shawn Hagarty, Ward 2, addressed Council regarding the affordability of inspections.

There were no Public Comments received via Lakewood Speaks.

Mayor Strom closed the public hearing.

The Councilors asked questions of and discussed Ordinance O-2024-5. Deputy City Manager Goldstein introduced Director of Public Works Max Kirshbaum to respond to questions from Council.

Vote on the motion:

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE O-2024-5 ON SECOND AND FINAL READING.

	AYES	NAYS		AYES	NAYS
STROM	X		LABURE	ABSENT	
OLVER	X		NYSTROM	X	
MAYOTT-GUERRERO	X		LOW	X	
STEWART	X		CRUZ	X	
REIN	X		SINKS	X	
SHAHREZAEI	X				
			TOTAL	10	0

Result:

Approved 10-0, the motion passed.

ITEM 16 – PUBLIC COMMENT

[View video recording here](#)

James Mace, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding fentanyl use in the community.

Mike Muller, Ward 4, addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants.

Tom Gonzales, Ward 2, addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants.

Connie Rettig, Ward 3, addressed Council regarding issues with Metro West Housing.

Cate Buschel, Ward 5, addressed Council regarding Clean Energy Lakewood.

Danny Hunter, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding Clean Energy Lakewood.

Carrie Souenberg, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding Clean Energy Lakewood.

Robert Youngsfield, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding Clean Energy Lakewood.

Neil Preister, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding Clean Energy Lakewood.

Elisabeth Moolenar, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding Clean Energy Lakewood.

Larrent Meillon, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding Clean Energy Lakewood.

Lenore Herskovitz, Ward 1, addressed Council regarding past Council goals.

Arthur Apple, Ward 4, addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants.

Kenley Brunsdale, Ward 4, addressed Council regarding the Planning Commission.

Bernie Ruffanach, Ward 3, addressed Council regarding meeting decorum.

Regina Hopkins, Ward 5, addressed Council regarding Belmar Park.

Miki Sedivy, Ward 4, addressed Council regarding drug use in the community.

Lanay James, Ward 5, addressed Council regarding Belmar Park.

Joan Poston addressed Council regarding an update to a FOIA filed with the General Service Administration.

Wendy Shrader, Ward 4, addressed Council regarding questions about the Homeless Navigation center.

26 Public Comments received via Lakewood Speaks, See Page 9

ITEM 17 – GENERAL BUSINESS

View video recording here

None.

ITEM 18 – EXECUTIVE REPORT

View video recording here

No report

ITEM 19 – MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

[View video recording here](#)

The Council Members made remarks in response to public comments and provided updates regarding upcoming Ward meetings and other events in the community.

ITEM 20 – ADJOURNMENT

[View video recording here](#)

There being no further business to come before City Council, Mayor Strom adjourned the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Robb, City Clerk

Item 7 - 2024-2025 Head Start Grant Application

Public Comments

Ludmila

· Feb 26, 2024 · 7:17pm

HB22-1295 established the Colorado Universal Preschool Program. Do not duplicate what is already in effect! There is not unlimited funds available to spend for whatever pet projects City Council decides to implement! Again Ms. Strom has silenced our voices by shutting down online public comments.

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Amber Varwig

· Feb 26, 2024 · 12:27am

Hello, This Amber Varwig My family was a Lakewood Headstart family. I would like to share what that program meant to my family's success, and why I believe you should absolutely ensure the continuation of it's wonderful and life changing services. I have 3 little boys, and am a single mom. I had taken care of my mom for years, for less than \$500/month. Borrowing money every month and barely scraping by, I was lucky enough to land my boys a spot in Lakewood Early Headstart, which makes home visits to monitor and developmentally stimulate young children, to prepare them for a lifetime of learning. They connected my family with diapers, clothing, strollers, food, and resources that would not have been available to me otherwise. It saved me a lot of money I could put toward my family, my children had things they needed. My children were able to have specific aspects of their physical and developmental growth followed to ensure they would be Kinder Ready, but socialized and under the guidance of an IEP, if appropriate. As we transitioned to preK, my children made advancements I can only credit to Headstart. My son is on the spectrum, ASD2. His interviewer stated she would have rated him a 3 from my stories before his year started in school, months before, and I could credit Headstart with providing him with the services he needed so early in life! Can you imagine how it felt, to hear that? I'm tearing up, as I write. Imagine if we could provide this kind of support to ALL of our nation's kids! I am now making *much* more money, and I credit Headstart with giving me what I needed to pursue that. Thank you, Headstart! The staff was informed, inclusive, accepting and loving. Mses Whitney, Chantel, Angie, and Karwa are some of the most amazing and professional educators I've ever had the honor to meet, and I'm proud that they taught my children, and provided them with love, skills, and support, while supporting community outreach, school involvement, and familial growth, with no judgements. I think it will not be lost on council what a unicorn of an organization I am describing. We should be proud and excited to offer this organization's services to our children, and we should protect it, as it supports working parents, some barely scraping by as it is, by giving them a safe and healthy place for their children to eat, sleep, play, learn, and grow. Some sites offer extended-day for the parents who must travel or work full time. All children are fed Breakfast, lunch, and a snack. What would some of have given to know our kid was covered, or that we were in school? Think of the money it saves the families, and other resources! What an amazing gift to Lakewood right? Why wouldn't we want to protect something that's worked this well, for years? How would we replace the resources the community has come to depend on?

Wouldn't that deplete already strained resources? For those saying it duplicates services, or that we haven't the money because of our new friends- Isn't this exactly what putting your citizens, your children, your future!- above others, looks like? Who would have a problem with this?

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Jeri Coffey

· Feb 25, 2024 · 8:41pm

Since passing the Colorado Universal Preschool Program isn't this a duplication of services? What impact do you anticipate the homeless/immigrant rising population to have on this program? Here's what we the voters passed. "In the 2022 Legislative Session, HB22-1295 established the Colorado Universal Preschool Program to offer voluntary, high-quality universal preschool to every Colorado child in the year before kindergarten. The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) is charged with operating the program to enable families to choose from a mixed-delivery system of high-quality preschool settings, including licensed community-based programs, school-based programs, and licensed home providers. High-quality preschool has demonstrated positive outcomes for children and families in the short and long-term. How Does it Work? All children in Colorado can register for up to 15 hours of free, high-quality preschool in their year before kindergarten through Colorado's Universal Pre-K (UPK) Program. Families may qualify for more hours based on a number of qualifying factors." Lower income is a qualifying factor.

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Item 16 - Public Comment

Public Comments

Connie Williams

· Feb 27, 2024 · 9:59am

I applaud our city council for listening to all public comments, even those that are matters that are not under their control. It must require a lot of patience to listen to complaints and negative comments for hours. Please know that it is also frustrating for us to ask questions and get no response. I understand that is the format for having open forums. But please know It is also difficult for us as well. It is difficult to navigate your website to determine who to contact directly for answers. From now on, I will call and send emails with the hope that I will get answers.

5 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ludmila

· Feb 27, 2024 · 9:52am

As I listened to Ms. Strom and many city council member's rhetoric, regarding the influx of migrants into our community, I will not forget, but always remember counselor Janssen's proposed mil levy reduction and the compassion our city council members had for one constituent begging for the reduction so she could use the \$25 she would save to pay for groceries. City council, we have record crime, be it stolen automobiles or catalytic converters, merchandise thief, record inflation record food prices record rents and we are now told we will be supporting criminals that crossed-the border illegally. Those in support of this new policy that was not voted on by your constituents, and being forced upon us, should sign up and open their homes open their wallet to

support the migrants until either they are or are not granted asylum, which may take up to 10 years. Don't expect your constituents to support your bad policies.

5 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Connie Williams

· Feb 27, 2024 · 9:38am

I am not sure who sets the agenda for city council meetings, but having the public comments at the end of your meetings appears to be a way to dissuade our comments. I am not sure when the order on agendas changed, but even your website says that public comments are opened after the pledge of allegiance. Other agenda items are important, but to hold us in wait to listen to matters that probably don't affect us is requiring a lot of patience and determination to last to the end of the meeting. It is obvious that is your intention.

5 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Cheryl Blahnik

· Feb 27, 2024 · 8:25am

I want to say that I agree with the two people that I heard suggesting that public comment be at the beginning of the City Council meeting. I think it's difficult for some people to be there that late at night and even though they can state their opinion on this format they may not want to do that. Or perhaps the public comments can be split up. Some at the beginning and/or some at the end of the evening.

5 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

you're trying when did Bernie

· Feb 26, 2024 · 8:57pm

my comment is on the Miss truth that the mare gave us two weeks ago that we would not become a sanctuary City by having immigrant moving into the City of Lakewood and I was advised by one of my neighbors who watched a double Lynx bus that look like an RTD bus but was white taking a number of immigrants in to the hotel on 6th and Kipling. 5th last week and it was a big concern because that makes does the sanctuary City there's also going to be a ton of people I don't know how many going into the hotel on I 70 and Colfax that to make this in Century City and get the mayor as well as many others up on the council had agreed that Lakewood would not be a sanctuary City what are we going to be called if we're not called a sanctuary City I also have a neighbor who when it snowed most recently there were a couple of immigrants that work out shoveling the sidewalk in the driveway they were not hired by the home owner but my neighbor said that after they were shoveled been traveling they came up to the front door and ask for \$20 a piece. she did not want anybody to shovel the sidewalk thank you was not going to pay anybody that she did not hire these people could have slipped and fall in and they could have gotten hurt and probably see my neighbor this is outrageous do not allow this in our city and stop calling us not a Century City as your allowance so many people coming in to our town and that we are paying for that and I understand that it's about 127 million that is being done I don't know if that's coming from Lakewood but I know that about 27 million of it it's coming from Lakewood I feel horrible that we are being cold this type of information from someone we should trust and that would be the mayor of Lakewood Wendy strong as well as Cathy the city manager and of course a firm believer that Adam Paul who left to go to work for Denver. with the mayor of Denver has

been very instrumental in making these people into Lakewood since he knows all the ins and outs of what Lakewood has. I am so disappointed and I feel like we are being lied to thank you

Phone-in comment

7 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Flanders Lorton

· Feb 26, 2024 · 8:27pm

As Israel continues to commit genocide in Gaza killing over 100 civilians every day, most women and children, the even more pressing danger has become the policy of forced starvation as the Israeli military blocks humanitarian aid. 300000 people in Northern Gaza are imminently facing complete starvation and many thousands will die. This is all fully supported by the United States at the highest levels of our governments. We are witnessing a second holocaust in Gaza and yet you are silent. Israel and the US are acting in contempt of the ICJ the UNSC and international law. Our governments even at the city level have a moral and humanitarian responsibility to speak out against this horrific atrocity being committed by the Israeli military. Your silence during a genocide will be recorded in the history books. The choice is simple either you agree with the slaughter of 13,000 children or you are speaking up LOUDLY against it. There is no middle ground. Ceasefire NOW

8 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Donald Kinney

· Feb 26, 2024 · 7:35pm

The junior council members need to get home. You should have done this earlier. We as citizens are trying to take our City back and you are intentionally making it more difficult for us to voice our opinion. The citizens have come out to be heard, let's get this meeting going. I thought we recognized Paula on February 12? These things should be done during business hours and not made a part of the meeting. I'm am vehemently opposed to Lakewood becoming a Sanctuary City. Just like Colorado is the laughing stock of the Country, Lakewood is the laughing stock of the State. Word on the street is Lakewood is going down the tubes not only because we have people sitting in positions that they don't know what they're doing, but continue using the tactics of Adam Paul. We placed you in your position to represent us. Do it. Don Kinney, Captain Retired Law Enforcement

8 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Diane Pickard

· Feb 26, 2024 · 5:41pm

I would like to start my comments with appreciation for the work being done to assist the Navigation Center grant. The ever-increasing homeless crisis is in desperate need of attention, and I am happy to see some progress. Ignoring a problem will never resolve it, so I see this as a step forward. I am a concerned citizen whose father was himself an immigrant. His Uncle was his sponsor, and my father assimilated into the fabric of the United States and became a proud American Citizen. Immigration is part of a vibrant American society, and I am happy to see people immigrate to America and make their dreams come true. Responsible immigration that is controlled through laws that protect both the immigrant and American society is paramount. Acceptance of irresponsible immigration causes a crisis. I understand that Lakewood City Council has nothing to do with the influx of over 40,000 immigrants, many of whom are illegal, into the Denver Metro area, but I wanted to give context to what I am about to say. From what I understand

through watching the City Council meeting from February 12, the JeffCo Action Center assists mostly JeffCo residents, and that a small portion of the assistance they provide is given to immigrants. My concern, moving forward, is how this will change with the designation of Lakewood becoming a “good neighbor” to Denver. As we know, Denver is a Sanctuary City. Although Lakewood City Council has assured us that we are not becoming a Sanctuary City, the fact of the matter is that Denver services are overwhelmed, and it will most likely not be long before overflow from Denver will begin to overwhelm any services provided in Lakewood. My concern moving forward is that Lakewood will be continually pressured to accept and support such large groups of immigrants that it will become unsustainable to rely solely on the Navigation Center to support them. The burden will become an even larger crisis, and our city will begin to feel the physical and financial stress of the tsunami of humanity that continues to cross our National borders daily. As Lakewood is pressured into accepting large groups of immigrants, we will be seen as a “sanctuary” by default. Immigrants will flock to our city and stress our resources beyond our capability to function. This immigration crisis will continue as long as we allow it to. It is not tolerant, humane, or loving to encourage people to come here with false hope of an endless supply of help that does not exist. As a city, even though we cannot affect immigration policy, I feel it is our job to push back on the Federal Government to demand that they do their job of enforcing immigration laws to stop the tide of illegal immigration. Our cities cannot withstand the strain it will cause, and as of now, there is no end in sight. I would also like to address another issue that concerns me, and that is the wearing of butterfly pins. To me, they are a political statement, and regardless of whether councilors attest to their willingness to “listen” and “hear” what the community says, it sends a message to the citizens of Lakewood that they have a political bias. I do not recall seeing any of the councilors wearing a City of Lakewood pin on their lapel. Why is that? Is your allegiance to the citizens of Lakewood, or is it to a group that actively supports illegal immigration? As the City Council your charge is to support ALL the citizens of the City of Lakewood.

7 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Lynette Lewis

· Feb 26, 2024 · 3:32pm

My goodness have you not seen what is happening to sanctuary cities? Please no sanctuary city in Lakewood, or Jefferson county. And please do not in anyway turn this in to a Denver, Denver county problem. We need to get the legal people jobs and support them Thank you

8 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ludmila

· Feb 26, 2024 · 2:53pm

As I am being attacked for my comment regarding freedom of speech, I will clarify, numerous individuals were online waiting patiently to be acknowledged, and have our voices heard. Ms. Strom took our rights away when she closed all online public comments. Our freedom of speech was violated! Many stayed online until the “wee hours” of the morning, until the conclusion of the city Council meeting! Some comments wouldn’t, and didn’t matter, as city Council doesn’t listen to the constituents they disagree with. Numerous city council members had already made their decision known before the meeting even began, which was shown to all, by the butterflies on their lapels.

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

A Jewish Woman

· Feb 26, 2024 · 2:22pm

What action is City Council taking to prevent the meeting from being hacked by antisemitic groups? What action is city council taking to apologize for calling law abiding citizens racists and extremists while being silent against openly antisemitic groups? At the last council meeting: 1. At least 3 true racists called in and with explicit language called for action against Jews a. In this instance the council professionally ended dial in comments for the evening 2. Later Pro-Palestine (Anti-Israel) activists appeared supporting Lakewood City Council, illegal immigration, and Palestine a. This group was compassionately listened to by the council Yet council seemed most offended by law abiding citizens, asking council to enforce existing laws in order to prevent mass migration of illegal immigrants into Lakewood. This was shown with the 5 or 6 council members wearing butterflies in support of illegal immigration and in opposition to the “The same group of people who brought you the racist Town Hall”. Later in an email from Rebekah Stewart the group who believes in laws and borders were called “Extremists”. An apology along with actions to show you don’t think your law abiding citizens are racist extremists would be appropriate. I also recommend serious action to investigate the group who called into the meeting damning Jews. Are they a real hate group? Is our neighboring representative Tim Hernandez encouraging this?

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Glen Newell

· Feb 26, 2024 · 1:53pm

It seems clear that there are some for whom truth is not a companion. First, not only was noone *not* allowed to speak, there were many- indeed most- who left even before hearing the answers or results of their demands on the evening of the 12th, and a long list of those who left before they were called to speak. Neither of these things were due to any action on the part of the City Council or Mayor- in fact, they all remained until into the wee hours of the morning to hear the ignorance, bigotry and abuse hurled at them, and each one answered the accusations and misinformation presented. Perhaps if those commenting here would listen, and consider with even a small portion of the energy with which they rage, they would be happier, more peaceful, and have more friends.

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Lindsay Molliconi

· Feb 26, 2024 · 12:44pm

From everything I see and hear this council is actively acting as a Sanctuary City. Wendi recently sent out an email saying: 1. “We are not a ‘sanctuary city’ and have no plans to make changes to that.” 2. Then bragged, “I recently joined other Denver area mayors, in signing on to a letter ... for three things: fast-track work permits, legal services, and federal funding. (Asylum seekers from South America should have the same opportunity to work while they await their hearings as asylum seekers and refugees from other countries).” I interpret this to mean council is afraid to use the term Sanctuary City, but eager to act as a Sanctuary City. The same email stated “We desperately need our federal partners to create laws that do a better job controlling immigration to a level that can be absorbed by our country in a more healthy way.” All I see is Lakewood enabling the federal government and encouraging illegal immigration. What actions is Lakewood City Council independently taking to motivate the federal government to control the border?

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Ludmila

· Feb 26, 2024 · 11:57am

At the last city Council meeting, Ms. Strom, you allowed an extremely vulgar, dangerous, rant continue as your constituents shuttered in disbelief at the unbelievable attack of a certain race during online public comment. You defended the offensive speech as a freedom of speech right. Yet you shut down numerous patiently waiting constituent and denied their right to freedom of speech. Ms. Stewart name calling is very immature and divisive. Insulting your constituents by calling them “extremist” when they disagree with your ideological beliefs, your stance, shows your disrespect for your constituents and their right to a different opinion. Numerous voters in Lakewood and Colorado do not support your beliefs and per your statement must be “extremist”! City Council voted to throw \$9 million+ into an unproven nonprofit that has only been in existence since 2021. This nonprofit has no track record and has produced a financial for only one year! Anyone that donates to a nonprofit always wants to look at their current financial position, where their expenses go, and we have not had that opportunity. Other nonprofits like Mean Street Ministries have been in existence for over 20 years, and have been ignored for years by the city of Lakewood, which now favors this new nonprofit. Based on the one financial, the city of Lakewood will be funding this nonprofit for years to come without the taxpayers approval. Your constituents have the right to donate to nonprofits of their choosing and should not be forced to donate to the city council nonprofits! Why didn’t you postpone the voting on the two major ordinances until everyone had a chance to voice their opinion? Allowing additional time to make public comment on Lakewood speaks after the vote had no relevancy City Council claims Lakewood is not a sanctuary city. Crush the rumors by putting it in writing and voting that Lakewood IS NOT a sanctuary city. If you decide to make a proclamation for a cease-fire agreement, you need to also condemn Hamas for the ferocious barbaric, October 7 attack!

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

A human in Lakewood

· Feb 26, 2024 · 11:54am

By the way, Former Councilor Ramey Johnson and her merry band of racists have been claiming to be worried about crime caused by immigrants? Has anyone asked Former Councilor Johnson why she allegedly hired an alleged pedophile for her previous mayoral campaign in order to hoodwink Latino voters? <https://rameyjohnson.org/> Maybe these nationalists should look inward before casting aspersions on others?

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Leanne Thompson

· Feb 26, 2024 · 11:52am

The action by Mayor Strom to support (even though she didn't sign) the Metro Mayors Caucus letter to fast-track the work permit process for illegal immigrants in Colorado communities is irresponsible especially because it did not go through the City Council for a vote of support on record. These people do not speak English which will cause hazards to other employees and potential lawsuits to the business owners. What if the business does not hire them, can the owner be sued? What if they select a US Citizen instead of an illegal immigrant are there consequences? What happens to the money they are paid? Will the money they make be sent back to their home country instead of staying in America? Will the money be given to the people that helped them get here? Are they paying taxes? Are they getting back our Colorado TABOR refund money like others that did not pay taxes? What about the homeless people Lakewood is "assisting" in

navigation centers that should or could be trained to get these jobs to help them develop a work ethic to become proud of what they can do and build up their self-worth. Lakewood should be supporting and helping them over illegal immigrants. There will be expenses for legal fees. The letter wants federal funding which is ridiculous as we know it won't and should not cover all the expenses leaving Lakewood citizens paying the bills. Lakewood Citizens cannot afford to live here with the increased cost of property taxes and everyday living costs, Help your constituents instead of the illegal immigrants! Please do not fast-track work permits for illegal immigrants until you have real answers to these and all the unintended questions.

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

John Claus

· Feb 26, 2024 · 11:46am

Many thanks to the Council members who passed funding for the navigation center and the adoption of the strategic housing plan. These are wonderful steps forward which fill legitimate gaps needed by our neighbors and other members of our community. I'd also like to thank Councilor Low for his thoughtful, empathetic comments during the last Council meeting. I love seeing humanity shine through during moments like this when Councilors Mayott-Guerrero, Stewart, Cruz, and Shahrezaei step up to the plate. I'd like to thank Mayor Strom in supporting the Metro Mayors Caucus. This is a commendable step forward that will allow our new neighbors to start supporting themselves. Our family and neighborhood have been financially supporting a number of Venezuelan families for the past few months. While we can only offer small jobs, food, shelter, etc., the items addressed in this letter can only be fixed by our state and federal government. Please help embrace these new neighbors and welcome them into our community by giving them a fair shot. Ignore the JeffCo GOP's frail attempts to exploit these economic casualties. Lastly, after the recent tragedy in our neighborhood at 23rd and Kipling, I'd like to see Lakewood fund a Kipling renovation project similar to that of Colfax from Wadsworth to Sheridan. Kipling from Wheat Ridge to 6th is a death trap for pedestrians, bicyclists, and the physically disabled. Wheat Ridge seems to fund these projects with short-lived tax increases (ie. 32nd and Youngfield project). Can't Lakewood do something similar?

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Karen M Fitzpatrick

· Feb 26, 2024 · 11:40am

I am opposed to Lakewood City Council doing ANYTHING to support ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS have broken the law of the land, SIMPLY BY BEING HERE! Why are you offering to help Denver with their Illegal immigration problem, when they brought on the problem themselves by ACCEPTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW OF THE LAND. America has enormous unresolved problems trying to provide for it's own homeless, veterans, seniors, etc. The fact that our government is offering to help support ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND DENIES ITS FIRST RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP ITS OWN CITIZENS. The negative impact of ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS on our schools, for example, cannot be over stated. Their attendance in our schools MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL BUSSING, ADDITIONAL REGULAR TEACHERS AND/OR SPECIALISTS, ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS, ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, FREE LUNCHES, SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS WHO MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN SCHOOL BEFORE, WHO MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE APPROPRIATE SOCIAL BEHAVIORS TO BE IN AN INTENSE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGHOUT

THE DAY, AND WHO MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BASIC SKILLS. The extent to which these children will take away resources from LEGAL children within the public schools cannot be fully estimated. About \$11,000 is allocated by the state per student, per year, for elementary thru high school education. If only 100 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CHILDREN were added to a school district's enrollment in one year, the increased cost from state funding only, would be \$1,100,000. Where is that money going to come from? From what I've seen, it's coming from REDUCED SERVICES FOR LEGAL STUDENTS AND CITIZENS. EVEN GRANT MONEY OFTEN COMES FROM OUR TAXES! Have we forgotten...there is, in reality, no free lunch? We have a LEGAL PROCESS for people to immigrate into the United States and WE VALUE LEGAL IMMIGRANTS. The intentional disregard for the law of the land by government officials SUPPORTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION cannot continue. If Lakewood City Council continues to offer to help provide services to ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE AND AT THE LOSS OF SERVICES TO ITS OWN CITIZENS, COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL FIND THEMSELVES FACING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS. The US cannot take in unlimited numbers of illegal immigrants from all over the world, including unknown numbers of criminals and terrorists, and survive as a nation. WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Tom Quinn

· Feb 26, 2024 · 10:53am

Good Evening Council, I applaud Lakewood's efforts to implement the 2015 Sustainability Plan and the excellent work by the Lakewood Sustainability Division headed by Jonathan Wachtel. There is, however, much work still to be done to implement the plan and move Lakewood forward on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As you approach your 2024 planning retreat I request council make sustainability a high priority. To accomplish this, more funding and staff are needed for implementation of sustainability programs, particularly on clean energy. Thank you, Tom Quinn

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Joshua Comden

· Feb 26, 2024 · 10:26am

I want to thank the council for passing the funding for the navigation center and the adoption of the strategic housing plan. These decisions will set Lakewood to progress in the right direction. I also really appreciated Councilor Low's vocal support for the navigation center; it is something everyone should listen to. He is on a good trajectory. Keep up the good work! P.S. Please open the shelter on Tuesday; it's looking like bad weather is coming. Thanks!

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Jody Nickerson

· Feb 26, 2024 · 7:59am

As I am watching and as I have proposed to council before, I am a firm supporter of being neighborly and understanding to those lured to this country on promises not in place before they came and the process that was not put in place so that their transition was smooth. This is a purposeful trap and agenda this country has placed on our citizens and for you as a community council. There is accountability as to how you will approach this as to appeal to all those concerned -- them and us and the impact on the community. It is apparent that this is becoming an

issue in an election year and should have been top priority when it started in 2020. Having said this, you are expected to be fair and diligent with our homeless and existing hotel problems on Colfax as well as immigrants. Homeless, seniors and veterans need the expedited services you are offering immigrants. I am tracking the progress of the proposed monies and requirements and successes for these programs. The success being out of housing and into their own apartments and houses becoming part of our community. Not just providing services and allowing them to continue to receive benefits when so many others are waiting for the same services. OUT IN THE COMMUNITY PAYING THEIR OWN RENT/MORTGAGE, HAVING THEIR OWN PERMANENT JOB AND PAYING FOR THEIR OWN REGISTRATIONS, TAXES, INSURANCES, ETC. That is truly being neighborly and letting them become active citizens which was their purpose for being here. The individual has requirements to stay in such a program as well as the organizations you allow to be running in our community must show they put the individual on track in their own self-sufficient lifestyle to be able to vote in our community and government elections. They should not vote on anything until they have become a citizen and educated on the issues they are co-existing in and experiencing. This is just from all my experience with the homeless and immigrants weekly and my work experience with the housing authority. I listen to them.

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

Steve Farthing

· Feb 26, 2024 · 7:55am

A Lakewood attorney explains how Lakewood can readily avoid being sued by developers. Copy and paste this link to see the 4 minute video clipped from the Planning Commission meeting: <https://savebelmarpark.com/an-attorney-comments-on-lakewood-secret-review-process/> City Council needs to hire their own attorney that will get them up to speed on running the city.

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Actual Citizen

· Feb 26, 2024 · 7:10am

I/we implore Lakewood City Council to support similar bills to HB24-1128 sponsored by Colorado Reps. Holtorf and Baisley that was just suspended indefinitely by the Colorado Legislature. Colorado has obviously decided to protect the illegal activity going on at our borders and to continue to transport these people to our cities, over the support for their actual residents. Lakewood needs to take similar if not exact actions that Douglas County, Monument and Aurora have taken with respect to illegal migrants. We should not be facilitating programs and policies that have failed not only at the state level in many states, but at the national level. Colorado and any county or city in Colorado should not be the receptacle for other states that have now recognized that sanctuary status is a blight on Americans. Lakewood City Council should also reject all applications by NGO's that would use granted monies from taxpayers with the blessing of City Council for use with any supportive program to house, employ, fund, or otherwise encourage these illegal activities. There are many areas that "migrants" can come to the USA legally and we should not be supporting ANY people that knowingly avoid legal access to our borders. We have seen the devastation this is causing regardless of the media blackouts of events and our elected officials should be focused on their actual citizenry. Our words and concerns should also not be used against us as a tool of retribution by our city officials whether in actions or semantics. Attacking your constituency is not a recipe for success or support, nor should any city official be

agreeing to, signing or implementing declarations in support of statewide policies that go under the radar of residents. How does Lakewood know "whats best for Lakewood" without allowing residents to vote on a proposal?

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Jeri Coffey

· Feb 25, 2024 · 10:24pm

Please direct the police chief of Lakewood to cooperate with ICE on every level to keep criminals off our streets. Please take an action, pass a resolution informing the public that Lakewood will not play the "Sanctuary City" game. Silence tells us you will not act in the interest of public safety. Laken Riley would not be dead today if NYC law enforcement had done their job on Sept 14, 2023 but NYC city government would not let them. You see, they hold the policies that give rise to the definition of a "sanctuary city". Policy's that they believe fight against xenophobia and promote inclusion for all. Sunday a Venezuelan national was charge with the murder of Laken Riley, a 22 year old nursing student in Georgia. ICE confirmed that this Venezuelan national had entered the U.S. illegally. He was arrested by CBP in El Paso on Sept 8, 2023 and was subsequently released per national border policy. He was arrested again on Sept 14, 2023 in NYC accused of potential injury to a child. ICE lodged a detainer request for local law enforcement to keep him in custody until he could be transferred to ICE and put into deportation proceedings. As is generally the case in a "sanctuary city" local law enforcement do not cooperate with ICE. Denver is one of these cities. They refused to keep the suspect in custody for even a few hours while ICE makes arrangements for transportation to pick up the suspect. Laken Riley would be alive today if NYC law enforcement had detained this man on Sept 14, 2023 so that he could be deported. Nip this problem in the bud for Lakewood.

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Thomas Wurtz

· Feb 22, 2024 · 9:10pm

I am requesting Lakewood refuse to be a sanctuary city or in any way assist Denver in managing their massive influx of illegal migrants. I also strongly oppose using any closed school buildings to house migrants, homeless or to be transformed into lower income housing of any kind. These are not strategic solutions to the problems at hand...or to the problems the city of Denver brought upon itself.

9 / 11 Councilors have viewed this comment

James Mace

· Feb 22, 2024 · 9:13am

PIO Daniel Stoutamire, entering the attached document on behalf of resident James Mace.

[Attachment](#)

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City Council Request for Legislative Modifications



Submitted on 6 March 2024, 7:57AM
Receipt number 54
Related form version 7

Council member sponsor(s) Jeslin Shahrezaei and Glenda Sinks

Enter email address to receive a copy of this submission jessshah@lakewood.org

Briefly describe the minor modification being requested I would like to request council action to direct the Planning Commission to review the relationship between University/College use of residential properties such educational entities own within neighborhoods abutting the University/College and the impact upon neighborhoods in which such residential properties are located, and provide recommendations to the City Council for possible modifications to the City's zoning code which will address this matter.

Provide history / background information that supports the request

The zoning code includes a use table that provides that University Use of any kind is prohibited in residential zoning. To determine the scope of that prohibition one must go to the definition of "University/College". Within the definition of "University/College" is a list of uses including "student living units." The definition of "student living unit" was expanded in 2021 by the City to include any dwelling unit that is owned or controlled by a College or University that is inhabited by students of such educational institution. That updated definition was upheld following judicial review. Currently, all University/Colleges within the City that own homes of some type located within a residentially zoned area comply with the prohibition against housing students, however, such residential properties are being used for housing other individuals affiliated with such educational institution(s). Other residents of such housing may not be directly affiliated with the University/College but the act of living there supports the fiscal goals of such University/College. The residents who reside in ward 1 are concerned that the City's zoning code recognizes that using such residential properties in manners that support the needs of a University/College are not residential uses. Community members are eager to find a definition of "University/College" that recognizes that the needs and goals of Universities/Colleges differ from the needs and goals of a residential neighborhood.

Some questions that could be studied as part of this request include:

The current definition of University/College as set forth in the zoning code currently reads:

Student Living Unit: A dwelling unit that is owned or controlled by a College or University and inhabited by students enrolled in that college or university who are related or unrelated.

Question: Should the concept of Student Living Unit be expanded to include all residential uses of residential properties owned by a University?

The current definition of University/College currently reads:

University/College: A place which is accredited by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education providing higher education beyond

grade twelve, which offers either a two year or four year degree in specific disciplines that may include a combination of the following uses but is not limited to: higher education classrooms, higher education offices, administrative buildings, athletic facilities and fields, student living units, laboratories, library, cafeteria, student center, bookstore and auditorium that are owned or controlled by the University or College. Question: Should the concept of University/College be expanded to include all residential properties that are owned or controlled by the University/College within one quarter mile of any identified "University/College"?

General questions regarding residential properties owned or controlled by a University or College:

Question: Should residential properties owned or controlled by a University/College be prohibited from use as an STR?

Question: Should residential properties owned or controlled by a University/College be prohibited from use as any form of guest residence for persons who either work for or perform a service for such University/College?

Question: Should residential properties owned or controlled by a University/College be prohibited from use as a residential property in any manner that provides financial compensation which supports the goals and needs of a University/College?

If it needs expedited handling, please provide an explanation why

Attach file if needed