



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

## **Mayor Hickenlooper Creates Commission on Homelessness *Community Board To Develop 10-Year Plan To End Homelessness***

**(DENVER)** - Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper announced Wednesday a broad-based community commission to develop and implement a 10-year plan to end homelessness in Denver. With support from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, cities across the country - including Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, and Atlanta - are creating and implementing these 10-year plans. Roxane White, manager of the Denver Department of Human Services, will chair the commission for the Mayor.

The creation of the 36-member **Denver Commission on Homelessness** follows up on a campaign promise by Hickenlooper to mobilize a coalition of key players from City agencies, non-profits, foundations, businesses, the faith community and homeless services providers to develop strategies for addressing the many challenges of homelessness.

“This commission brings together people who have the experience, the skills, the knowledge and, most importantly, the heart, to tackle the challenges surrounding homelessness in Denver,” Hickenlooper said.

Noting that the number of homeless persons in the metro area has increased nearly 80 percent since 1990, Hickenlooper added, “If we are to consider ourselves a truly great city, we must make every effort to confront the multiple complex issues that underlie homelessness. The people I’ve named to this commission are already respected leaders in this effort, and I offer them the full support of the City as we move forward together.”

Hickenlooper said the Commission will begin working immediately to support efforts already in progress to ensure adequate emergency shelter for the winter months. The concerns surrounding aggressive panhandling and the need for a safe environment for Denver businesses, visitors and residents are also top priorities.

Additionally, Hickenlooper praised the homeless-provider community for its recently published *Blueprint to Address Homelessness in Denver* and said the Commission will look to that document as a starting point in the effort to develop and implement a plan for the City of Denver.

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In creating a plan to end homelessness, the Commission will consider the needs of the many special populations included among the homeless: veterans, families with children, youth on their own, undocumented immigrants, women, people with HIV/AIDS, and seniors. The Commission will collaborate with state and regional governments, businesses, neighborhood groups and the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative to address a broad range of policy and practical issues including:

### **Housing**

- Preservation of existing housing
- Development of new affordable housing
- Housing policies
- Homeless prevention

### **Public Safety**

- Panhandling
- Police interaction with people who are homeless
- Planning for discharge of people who are incarcerated

### **Emergency Shelter**

- Severe weather plans
- Additional shelter beds
- Hygiene centers and public restrooms

### **Community and Economic Development**

- Job development & training
- Education
- Adequate wages to support housing
- Workforce housing
- Transportation

### **Supportive Services**

- Physical and mental health issues
- Substance abuse
- Discharge planning from hospitals, institutions and foster care

**A list of members of the new Denver Commission on Homelessness follows on next page.**

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# DENVER COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

## **BOARD CHAIR**

**Roxane White**

Manager, Denver Department of Human Services

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

**Richard Audsley**

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Mile High United Way

**Charlie Brown**

Councilman, Denver City Council, Council District #6

**Marva Coleman**

Director, Five Points Business Association

**Eugene Dilbeck**

President and CEO, Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Lisa Flores**

Special Assistant to Mayor Hickenlooper for Human Services

**Leslie Foster**

President and CEO, The Gathering Place

**Rick Garcia**

Councilman, Denver City Council, Council District #1

**Michael Hancock**

Councilman, Denver City Council, Council District #11

**Mike Henry**

Zoning Committee Chair, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

**Myrna Hipp**

Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Economic Development

**Dorothy Horrell**

President, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation

**Walter Isenberg**

President and CEO, Sage Hospitality Resources, LLC

**Tom Knorr**

Executive Director, Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Inc.

**Father John Lager**

Director, Catholic Charities/Samaritan House

**Doug Linkhart**

Councilman, Denver City Council, At Large

**Tom Luehrs**

Executive Director, St. Francis Center

**Darin Mackender**

Shareholder/Director, Otten, Johnson, Robinson, Neff & Ragonetti

**Stella Madrid**

Intergovernmental Relations and Community Affairs Officer, Denver Housing Authority

**Judy Montero**

Councilwoman, Denver City Council, Council District #9

**Debbie Ortega**

Ortega Consulting

**Cec Ortiz**

Director, Mayor's Office of Workforce Development

**John Parvensky**

President, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

**Jerene Petersen**

Executive Director, Urban Peak Denver

**Jim Polsfut**

First Western Trust Bank

**Jeanne Robb**

Councilwoman, Denver City Council, Council District #10

**Steve Savageau**

Owner, Savageau Galleries

**Richard Scharf**

Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Dana Scott**

Portfolio Manager, Daniels Fund

**Willie Shepherd**

Managing Partner, Kamlet Shepherd Reichert & Edgington LLP

**Dave Walstrom**

Executive Director, Colfax Business Improvement District

**Tamra Ward**

Vice President, Public Affairs, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

**Anne Warhover**

President and CEO, Downtown Denver Partnership

**Elbra Wedgeworth**

President, Denver City Council, Council District #8

**Gerald Whitman**

Chief of Police, Denver Police Department

**Denise Wright**

Manager of the Downtown Information Center, Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau

**STAFF**

**Nan Morehead**

Community Liaison, Denver Department of Human Services

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