

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Institute of Architects' (Denver) Involvement in Reviewing the New Denver Zoning Code Successful

AIA Denver Affects the Denver City Council and Planning Board's Decision to Extend the Review Timeline of the New Zoning Code

DENVER (Dec. 15, 2009) – The City and County of Denver's Zoning Code Task Force took the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Denver Chapter's recommendations from a letter submitted by the chapter on Sept. 24, 2009, asking for an extension of the review period and a longer grace period after eventual code enactment under which both zoning codes can be used. The Denver City Council and Planning Board adopted a new resolution with the updated timeline at a meeting last week. "The collaboration between the Denver City Council and AIA Denver has resulted in further improvements to the new code. This is an extremely positive step in the formation of this important document," states Steve Carr, AIA, AIA Denver 2009 President.

The Denver City Council President Jeanne Robb stated in the Dec. 3 announcement, sent out by the Denver City Council and Planning Board that, "we want those who have taken the time and interest to participate in the zoning code process to know that we have heard you and are listening to you." Robb went on to say, "the schedule adjustments create additional time for citizens to review and comment on the new code and still allow us to maintain the momentum of this important process." The Manager of Plan Implementation for the City and County of Denver Community Planning and Development department, Tyler Gibbs states, "having the eyes of the AIA members on the drafts is of great value to Community Planning and Development. AIA Denver member review is invaluable."

AIA Denver's involvement has been a great service to the community, by acting as a catalyst to analyze the code, providing valuable feedback on the findings. Robert Schmid, AIA, of the AIA Denver Urban Design Committee, states, "the new zoning code is a seminal document, that along with Blueprint Denver and Greenprint Denver, will shape the development environment for the next 50 years. Formulating and establishing the best possible document is in everyone's best interest. It is AIA Denver's public interest responsibility to assist in this process."

The new zoning code will significantly affect the way architects execute their efforts in the City of Denver. Paul Brady, AIA, of the AIA Denver Housing Committee, says "the zoning code has a direct link to property values, density, how growth will occur in Denver, and how that growth will look. AIA Denver members are looking to see how development potential on property within the city is changing and are working to communicate that information to our clients and citizens of Denver."

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About AIA & AIA Denver

For more than 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real.

AIA Denver is one of four chapters within the AIA Colorado component. This chapter is comprised of members from nine counties in the metro Denver area. The voice of the profession of architecture, AIA Denver inspires its members as leaders in the design of the built environment.

About the AIA Denver Urban Design Committee

This committee focuses on growing into the role of “community resource” of expertise to assist in reviewing the development of designs involving local and regional urban issues.

About the AIA Denver Housing Committee

This is a forum for architects who specialize in residential building, by following current issues in codes, government regulations, evolving technology and current housing and marketing trends.

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