

ARTICLE III. - REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Sec. 12-91. - Legislative intent.

The City of Denver acknowledges that a root-level organization of the people of Denver is the registered neighborhood organization (RNO), understood as an elective body addressing itself to and responsible for public issues. The City recognizes that these organizations perform a crucial service in that they act as conduit of City policy and resources to the people of Denver. Without the neighborhood organization, a city deprives itself of its first-order mode of communication with the populations it serves.

An informed citizenry relies on these grassroots communities. As City resources are allocated to various areas of the city and decisions are necessarily made that impact these groupings, the City must ensure that the majority of its residents and businesses consent to such decisions, changes, or allocations of resources. It is only when a citizenry obtains to such informed consent that the normal and just operation of the City can be said to take place.

But the City also recognizes that these objectives of neighborhood organizations are difficult to maintain, both in terms of (a) the resources demanded to sustain consistent and effective communication between an RNO, its populations, and the city, and in terms of (b) the City mandate to be representative equally to all people, creating a socio-economic diversity that functions as a feedback loop with the desirability of the city as a place for all to live and work.

To these ends, the City of Denver will fund the equivalent of one part-time employee for each neighborhood represented by a neighborhood association in good standing according to section 12-93 below. The City shall also provide resources for basic supplies and access to local venues for association meetings. The City also hereby institutes basic standards to guarantee that all listed RNOs represent the existing populations for whom they purport to speak.

(Ord. No. 634-00, § 3, 8-14-00; Ord. No. 53-05, § 1, 1-31-05)

Sec. 12-92. - Definitions.

"Neighborhood organization," as used in this article, shall mean a voluntary group of individual residents, employees, and/or businesses formed for the purpose of collectively addressing issues and interests common to and widely perceived by that group. The defining boundaries of such organizations may be formed by census tracts, features of the built or natural environment, long- or short-term issues, or shared characteristics of any kind. Neighborhood organizations should represent a geographically contiguous area of the city.

(Ord. No. 634-00, § 3, 8-14-00)

Sec. 12-93. - Eligibility and boundaries.

Eligibility standards. To be eligible to register as provided in this article, neighborhood organizations shall meet the following standards:

- (1) They shall be formed by residents, employees, or businesses in the City of Denver;
- (2) Neighborhood organizations claiming to represent a certain group or geographical area must warrant and document on an annual basis that their regularly voting membership mirrors the socioeconomic diversity of that area.
- (3) Neighborhood organizations that achieve such diversity, based on ACS data, within a 10% margin will be rated as "A"; those that come within a 15% margin will be rated "B." Those organizations that do not come within at least 15% of the real diversity of their geographical boundaries will be de-listed with the City and lose their official status according to section 12-98 below.
- (4) They shall hold meetings not less than once in each calendar year. A membership list shall be kept, and there must be at least twelve (12) members;
- (5) All meetings, including any annual meeting, shall be open to the public;

(6) Notice of all meetings shall be posted in advance of such meeting, in public places and/or in readily obtained publications such as newsletters and email, as permitted and prescribed by law, and a record of said notice shall be maintained by the neighborhood organization;

(7) Membership shall be open to any resident, employee, or business within the neighborhood boundaries;

(Ord. No. 634-00, § 3, 8-14-00; Ord. No. 53-05, § 2, 1-31-05)

Sec. 12-94. - Registration.

(a) Any neighborhood organization and/or coalition of neighborhood organizations may register by filing with community planning and development the following information:

- (1) Official name;
- (2) If relevant, current boundaries, utilizing public rights-of-way to describe such boundaries;
- (3) The names, email, phone, and mailing addresses its current officers;
- (4) The name, email, phone, mailing address, of a current member whom the city or a member of the public may contact;
- (5) The number of persons the organization represents and the number of members;
- (6) Whether the organization has an email list or publishes a newsletter and, if so, how frequently, number of copies and method of distribution;
- (7) Methods used to communicate with members and the neighborhood;
- (8) A copy of the organization's articles of incorporation and/or bylaws if any. New copies need not be provided with each annual registration if no changes have been made;
- (9) The time and place of the meetings; and
- (10) The schedule for electing officers.

- (b) A neighborhood organization may register with community planning and development during December-January and July. This registration must be renewed in writing annually during the December-January registration period. This annual renewal may be accomplished either through the completion of the registration form or, if there have been no changes in the information required, through a letter or email to community planning and development requesting continued registration for the coming year.

(Ord. No. 634-00, § 3, 8-14-00; Ord. No. 53-05, § 3, 1-31-05)

Sec. 12-95. - Duties of community planning and development.

Community planning and development shall have the following duties in connection with all registered neighborhood organizations:

- (1) To maintain a current map of the boundaries and a current list of the official names, officers, and contact persons of all registered neighborhood organizations;
- (2) To fund of each recognized neighborhood organization at the rate of one part-time position per neighborhood organization.
- (3) To fund supplies and venue access for each neighborhood organization, including the translation of RNO documents and correspondence in applicable languages present in the neighborhood.
- (4) To supply, in consultation with the respective neighborhood organization, criteria and standards by which socioeconomic diversity in any given neighborhood or neighborhood organization might be determined.
- (5) To track that each neighborhood organization is adhering to its required diversity standards and eligibility criteria.
- (6) To maintain and update in a timely manner the map and list of registered neighborhood organizations on the city's official website, DenverGov.org.

- (7) To notify all registered neighborhood organizations each December of their requirement to re-register by January 31st, that the list of registered neighborhood organizations is available on Denver's website and that a paper copy of the list will be furnished upon request; and
- (8) To maintain a file of sample current forms used by agencies of the city to notify the neighborhood organizations as required in section 12-96.

(Ord. No. 634-00, § 3, 8-14-00; Ord. No. 53-05, § 4, 1-31-05)

Sec. 12-96. - Notification.

- (a) Registered neighborhood organizations shall be notified of certain matters affecting areas within, or within two hundred (200) feet of, their boundaries. They shall be notified by mail, or, if the organization and the agency agree, by fax or e-mail. Such notification shall be made within ten (10) working days after receipt by the responsible city agency of the proposed action. Notification shall include, where applicable, the location and general description of the proposed action; and the process to be followed, including the date, time and place of any public hearing and/or public meeting relating thereto, if such has been scheduled. The failure of an organization for whatever reason to receive a notification required hereunder shall not invalidate any action taken by the city; however, the failure of the city to provide such notification is grounds to invalidate such action.
- (b) The following agencies of the city shall be responsible for the following notification:

Proposed Action	Responsible City Agency for Notification
Zoning Map Amendment	Zoning and Development Review Services
Residential Care Uses	Zoning and Development Review Services

Power, Gas and Similar Facilities	Zoning and Development Review Services
Home Occupations	Zoning and Development Review Services
Zoning Language Amendment	City Council
Hearings Before the Board of Adjustment—Zoning	Board of Adjustment— Zoning
Nursing Homes in Certain Residential Districts	Zoning and Development Review Services
Clinic or Office, Dental or Medical & Laboratory, Dental or Medical in a R-4 Zone District	Zoning and Development Review Services
Neighborhood Services Uses Over 5,000 square feet in R-4-X Zone	District Zoning and Development Review Services
R-X Zone District Plan	Zoning and Development Review Services
Comprehensive Sign Plan	Zoning and Development Review Services
Planned Building Group	Zoning and Development Review Services
Preliminary Subdivision Plat	Zoning and Development Review Services
Sale of city owned land	Asset Management

Street or Alley Vacation	Public Works, Design Engineering
New Application, and/or Major Modification to Premises and/or Transfer of Malt, Vinous or Spirituous Liquor License	Excise and Licenses
New Application, and/or Major Modification to Premises and/or Transfer of a Cabaret License	Excise and Licenses
New Application of Underage Patrons License	Excise and Licenses
New Application or Changes in Applications for Tastings of Malt, Vinous or Spirituous Liquor	Excise and Licenses
Class 15 and 16 Amusement License Application	Excise and Licenses
New License Applications for Rooms for Recreation, Amusement or Social Activities	Excise and Licenses
Restrictions on New Lodging Licenses	Excise and Licenses
Landmark Designation Applications	Landmark Commission
Hearings before the Planning Board	Planning Board
Abatement of Unsafe Buildings, Structures or Utilities: "Repair or Wreck" Hearings	Board of Appeals-Building and Construction Services
Park Land Use: Proposals to Change/Amend	Parks and Recreation
Park Traffic Patterns: Proposals to Change/Amend	Parks and Recreation
Streets: Reconstruction/Widening/Change in Direction/Change to or from one-way to two-way	Public Works, Traffic and Transportation Division/Design Engineering Services

Properties Identified and Being Processed through Nuisance Abatement Procedures	Nuisance Abatement Coordinator
Noise Variance Requests	Public Health and Environment
New application, and/or major modification to premises and/or transfer of retail marijuana store, retail marijuana cultivation facility, retail marijuana products manufacturer, or retail marijuana testing facility; or any action for which a public hearing is required by state or city retail marijuana licensing laws.	Excise and Licenses
Application for any type of new business license under the Denver Medical Marijuana Code of the Denver Retail Marijuana Code, in any location in an I-A or I-B industrial zone district as defined by the Denver Zoning Code, or any proposal to change the location of an existing marijuana business license to a new location in such zone districts.	Excise and Licenses

In the event that the Code provisions corresponding to the notification requirements listed above should be amended so that the requirements are changed or eliminated or the responsible agency changed, the Code provisions shall supersede the requirements of this list.

- (c) The council shall send, each week, to each registered neighborhood organization, one (1) copy of the meeting schedule of the council for the next two (2) weeks.
- (d) The responsible agencies of the city, upon receiving an application or plan relating to any of the matters listed in this section, shall inform the applicant of the registered neighborhood organization or organizations whose boundaries encompass or lie within two hundred (200) feet from the location for which application is made, and of the officers or contact person thereof.

(Ord. No. 634-00, § 3, 8-14-00; Ord. No. 1111-01, § 13, 12-17-01; Ord. No. 263-05, § 4, 4-25-05; Ord. No. 53-05, § 5, 1-31-05; Ord. No. 105-11, § 4, 2-22-11; Ord. No. 448-13, § 7, 9-16-13; Ord. No. 291-16, § 12, 4-25-16; Ord. No. 427-18, § 8, 6-11-18)

Sec. 12-97. - Public hearings.

- (a) At any public hearing on matters listed in section 12-96, except malt, vinous or spirituous liquor license applications, testimony shall be accepted from members of each registered neighborhood organization whose area is affected by the proposed action. A person authorized by a registered neighborhood organization and/or coalitions of neighborhood organizations to present the position taken by the organization, shall begin such testimony with a verbal or written statement that shall include:
- (1) The name of the organization and/or the names of the organizations which comprise the coalition;
 - (2) The boundaries of the organization;
 - (3) The number of people, households, institutions and businesses represented by the organization and the basis for determining membership;
 - (4) The time and date of the meeting when the organization decided on its position;
 - (5) The nature of the meeting, whether the same was a meeting of the board, of a membership subcommittee, or the general membership;
 - (6) The number of members present;
 - (7) A description of the process for reaching the decision, including if and how neighborhood citizens were informed and if and how they were invited to participate; and
 - (8) The votes cast for and against the proposed position.
- (b) If the person testifying on behalf of an organization does not disclose the information listed above, the person presiding at the public hearing may require the person testifying to provide the information.

(Ord. No. 634-00, § 3, 8-14-00)

Sec. 12-98. - De-listing and re-listing.

Any registered neighborhood organization which does not meet, or ceases to meet, the eligibility standards of section 12-93(a), the requirements of section 12-94(a) or which does not re-register as required by section 12-94(b) shall be no longer considered a registered neighborhood organization and shall cease to be listed. Upon demonstrating that it has corrected the deficiency that caused its de-listing, a neighborhood organization shall, at that time, be re-listed as a registered neighborhood organization.

(Ord. No. 53-05, § 6, 1-31-05)

Secs. 12-99, 12-100. - Reserved.