

East Colfax Partners Q4 Safety Meeting
March 26th 10am-12pm
Sarahi's Kitchen
8135 E Colfax Ave Denver CO 80220
Doors open @ 9:45am

Agenda

1. Introductions	10:00-10:10
2. Recap of Last Meeting	10:10-10:15
3. DPD Report Out a. Staffing update	10:15-10:45
4. DOTI Report Out a. Safer Streets	10:45-11:30
5. City Report Out	11:30-11:40
6. East Colfax Organizations' Report Out	11:40-11:55
7. Wrap Up & Next Steps a. CRO's Office Hour	11:55-12:00

Minutes

Attendees:

The Fax Partnership, Denver Police Department , Hope Communities/Hidden Brooks, Rose on Colfax/Grace Apartments/Mercy Housing, Brothers Redevelopment, City of Denver Department of Transportation and InfrastructureDenver Bus Rapid Transit, East Colfax Community Collective, Volunteers of America, Avalon Motorsports, Nightwindow, Famous Buffalo Wings, GG Convenience Store, El Tamarindo, Precision Kutz & Style Sam Window Tint, Sarahi's Kitchen

1. Intros

2. Monica reviewed the details of the prior meeting including departure of Megan Patrick, waiting on safer streets grant (more to come on that in this meeting).

3. DPD (DPD will have office hours at the end of this meeting for more specific topics)
- Staffing Update: CMDR Aragon introduces Christie Mochoruk who will be the new Community Program manager for District 2. Christie will be splitting her time with District 3. Christie was not present for today's meeting but will be at the next meeting.
 - 4 more recruits, re-hired a prior officer that CMDR Aragon has worked with in the past

East Colfax Partners Q4 Safety Meeting
March 26th 10am-12pm
Sarahi's Kitchen
8135 E Colfax Ave Denver CO 80220
Doors open @ 9:45am

- Avalon Motor described a slow response time from officers (they were great upon arrival).
- CMDR Aragon kicking off Alley Cleanups on April 14-16th, around PNI area (Yosemite-Quebec)
- CMDR Aragon recognizes that some empty lots are in the area, wants to engage with invested parties about what should be developed there
- Cindy/VOA mentioned some of the alleys have a high density of people in them all hours of the day and night. CMDR Aragon recognizes this and talks of the power of the PNI board having resources to really address issues like this.
- Monica/The Fax asked if the cleanup is coming from the city, or is this something where community members will come together? There are existing community cleanups, but in this instance according to CMDR Aragon this will be coming from the city, a recurring program with regular cleaning.
- Christian/DOTI asks if troublesome people are displaced by the cleaning, etc... what will be done to prevent them from just moving to other nearby areas. CMDR Aragon said that it will be monitored, and that there will be some positive effect to the displacement because it reduces concentration.
- Courtney inquired if CMDR Aragon knows Aaron Richardson who may be a resource, Aragon confirmed he is on the PNI Board
- CMDR Aragon highlighted the crime report handed out to attendees
- LT Costigan mentioned that violent crime is markedly down, progress being made in the last 28-72 days. Crime is still occurring but severity and frequency are trending down.
- Monica/The Fax inquired about the lighting changes. LT Costigan confirmed that there has been work done there, including increasing wattage. LT Costigan said there is a bond coming out, Monica/The Fax is on the committee, for public safety. Suggestions from the community encouraged. Christian/ DOTI confirmed visible increase in lighting from Syracuse to Yosemite.
- Famous Buffalo Wings & Things inquired about who is responsible for policing the bus stop (transit police), LT Costigan says it depends on the exact spot. Famous Buffalo Wings & Things pointed out that when he reaches out to police, he gets vandalized. Requested greater police presence so that he won't be seen as the appropriate target of criminal ire.
 - LT Costigan said the PNI displacement will help, but realistically, Famous Buffalo Wings & Things will still be identified as the victim so he will likely still be the target of criminal ire. It won't be a quick solution.
 - Helen/EC3 mentioned need of just having more consistent, off-hour patrols to create a visible presence to take the responsibility (and target)

East Colfax Partners Q4 Safety Meeting
March 26th 10am-12pm
Sarahi's Kitchen
8135 E Colfax Ave Denver CO 80220
Doors open @ 9:45am

off of business owners - yes, it's incumbent on them to be proactive but visibility is important in that it will deter criminal activity and also obfuscate who was the individual calling police in increasing safety of business owners (and as such making them more likely to call in again).

- LT Costigan recognizes all this, but manpower is limited, and 911 calls take precedence, and protocols once something has taken place also take cops off the street for chunks of time each day.
- Avalon mentioned pooling private security with neighboring businesses, they've done so and had positive effects. There is an effect of displacement but Monica/The Fax and LT Costigan highlighted that if we cast a wider net with this, could diminish negative effects of the displacement.
- LT Costigan reminded that there is the limitation that there has to be cause or crime, he can't infringe on individuals right to freedom, can't preempt suspicion.

4. Courtney/DOTI introduces line items and timeline for the safer streets grant

- The funding will be for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), any business on East Colfax will be eligible
- Courtney/DOTI introduced themselves as the Program Coordinator for the East Colfax Safer Streets grant.
- Courtney, Christian, Jon, rep from EC3, Fax, DPD will all be certified in CPTED assessment. East Colfax businesses will be able to receive CPTED assessments from one of them.
- Line Items
 - CPTED Certification
 - 25 street lights and pedestrian level lighting. Xcel will take over and maintain.
 - EC3 and TheFax will provide technical assistance to East Colfax businesses
 - Microgrants for 40 businesses, \$1000 per business for safety upgrades
 - Activation projects: things like making specific alleys engaged, active, and safe (Quebec to Yosemite) - 1 from EC3, 1 from Fax
 - Maintenance - TBD
 - Persons Experiencing Homelessness \$10k - looking from ideas from partners
 - Construction for streetlights - this is for the BRT, can't really be touched for the time being
 - Salaries
- Timeline:

East Colfax Partners Q4 Safety Meeting

March 26th 10am-12pm

Sarahi's Kitchen

8135 E Colfax Ave Denver CO 80220

Doors open @ 9:45am

- Trying to get everyone CPTED certified by end of April - not a cakewalk, it's a real process with exams and written submissions, does take time
- Assessment Week: Once everyone is certified, there will be a week where businesses will be assessed (likely end of May)
- Microgrant Q/A and assistance applying from the CPTED certified
- Disbursements likely starting in July
- Community Activation Projects - Complete by Oct 2025
- BRT Construction begins Spring 2026
- John/BRT joins Courtney/DOTI, introduces the scope of the BRT Project
 - Explained the extent of what the BRT changes will mean for streetscaping, etc...
 - Right now between Broadway and Colorado, likely not in East Colfax until 2026
 - Brighter lights from Colorado to Yosemite by end of BRT project
- Monica/The Fax describes what the BIO Fund is and how it can help business affected by the BRT construction. The Fax is the administrator for the BIO Fund.
- Avalon inquired about the changes in bus stops when BRT complete
- John/DOTI announces there will be four stops on East Colfax: Quebec, Syracuse, Uinta, and Yosemite.
- TBD if the BRT running will be implemented in steps as construction allows or if transition will happen only once construction totally complete
- Courtney/DOTI announces the Community Spring Clean-up on 4/19, 10a-3p
 - Powerwashing 8300-8100, will close down those blocks when it takes place.

5. Around the room updates

- Hope - New Freedom Park
- Mercy: Working with DPD to create a space for DPD at The Rose to make presence easier, more visible. Spring into Action event - 4/29, 11am-6pm show the residents what in the community is available to them.
- VOA: Will be vacating in Mid-May to return to their newly renovated West Colfax facility. They wish everyone the best.
- EC3: Formed a new steering committee, looking for project ideas. Participating in safety walk/march that Christian mentioned (Syracuse - Dayton, April 26 9am-7pm - Peace and Unity)
- The Fax: announced the DDHPE R2R program that The Fax is working with the city on. Mentioned the Business Survey.

East Colfax Partners Q4 Safety Meeting
March 26th 10am-12pm
Sarahi's Kitchen
8135 E Colfax Ave Denver CO 80220
Doors open @ 9:45am

6. Monica polled the room on meeting timing, it looked like 90 mins again. DPD is happy if businesses continue to host or attend elsewhere, as long as community collaboration remains strong.

- Councilwoman Lewis has an upcoming meeting on Mayor's Bond - big project and funding to invest in the community. The 2CAB meeting has been cancelled so that attendance for that can be strong.