



WESTMINSTER

City of Westminster City Council Town Hall

September 21, 2023

Answers to Questions Submitted for the Town Hall

***Please note a recording can be found of the Town Hall here:**

[Westminster City Council Town Hall | September 21, 2023 - YouTube](#)

Fireworks

- 1. What will the City do to enforce fireworks laws? This past summer my neighborhood had 48 nights straight of illegal and loud fireworks. That's not quality of life**
 - Please call the non-emergency number 303-658-43600. If it has created an emergency, please call 9-1-1.
 - Many of the issues stem from witnessing the act, officers will need someone to identify the suspect and be willing to testify in court if the officer does not witness the act of lighting the fireworks.
 - If you are not happy with the police response, please contact dispatch on the non-emergency number and ask to speak with a supervisor. During the 4th of July holiday, the police department receives hundreds of calls for service.
 - Although most fireworks are illegal in Westminster, there was a fireworks stand near 96th Avenue/Wadsworth Boulevard in a carve out that is in unincorporated Jefferson County. For consistency in law, state laws need to be passed for consistency across the State.

- 2. Can anything be done about the illegal fireworks use in our community? From May until September and various holidays in between, my neighborhood is bombarded. Independence Day is more like a war zone for a week before and a week after.**
 - Please call the non-emergency number 303-658-4360. If it has created an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

- Many of the issues stem from witnessing the act, officers will need someone to identify the suspect and be willing to testify in court if the officer does not witness the act of lighting the fireworks.
- Although most fireworks are illegal in Westminster, there was a fireworks stand near 96th Avenue/Wadsworth Boulevard in a carve out that is in unincorporated Jefferson County. For consistency in law, state laws need to be passed for consistency across the State.

Public Safety

3. What are you doing about illegally loud vehicles?

- Vehicles that are modified outside the specifications of the manufacturer can be contacted during their use and issued a warning, summons, etc. for making excessive noise. As officers come across these vehicles, or if the officers are responding to a complaint, they will contact these vehicles and take appropriate action.

4. Is there a law to keep the e bikes off of sidewalks? If not can there be? This also includes E skateboards. Motorized vehicles of any sort, or a hazard to the walking person on sidewalks. They do not even slow down, they just expect you to get out of the way. And if they're coming up from behind you, you don't necessarily hear the E bikes. Thank you

- There is no specific law regarding e-bikes.
- There are three different classes of electric bikes:
 - Class 1 - Electric bike with pedal assist max speed of 20mph.
 - Class 2 - Electric bike with power regardless of if the rider is pedaling but cuts power at 20mph +
 - Class 3 - Continual electric power with stop speed of 28mph.
- Electric bikes that are class 1 and class 2 are allowed on all sidewalks and trails and basically treated as a normal bicycle.
- Class 3 bikes are restricted to roadways and designated bike lanes. There are no specific Westminster ordinances or restrictions that allow or restrict electric bike activity.
 - The challenge in enforcement is identifying which class of bike it is since they all look very similar. Enforcement and the appropriate statute gets extremely confusing on when we are able to enforce bike related violations (even if we can confirm it is a class 3 Electric Bike). Bottom line is unless riding a bike is prohibited by specifically marked signage based on jurisdictional ordinances then there is no enforcement that can be done. Model Traffic Code (MTC) 1412 covers the operation of bicycles

and other human powered vehicles (electric bikes included) for regulations and specifically mentions sidewalks are OK unless prohibited by jurisdictional ordinances or a class 3 E-bike.

- When PD receives complaints regarding E-Bikes, they are usually referred to our Parks Trails, and open spaces, which is usually where the complaints stem from.

5. What are you doing about crime in Westminster? The Caliber apartments are awful and there seems to be constant police activity there.

- Colorado Crime Statistics (state.co.us) gives a good overall picture of the crimes WPD reports to CBI. There are nuances, but this will give a general picture. Crime is down in Westminster in 2023 for most tracked offenses compared to 2022. The Police Department is still below authorized staffing but are at a point where proactive work is being done across the city to prevent crime and better serve our community.

6. What is being done to stop street racing?

- The Westminster Police Department (WPD) currently participates in the Adams County Street Racing Task Force and the CSP Street Racing Task Force. There have been approximately a dozen multi-jurisdictional enforcement events throughout the summer that were successful. While it is still an ongoing problem and continues to be addressed, we have seen a dramatic decrease in the major street racing groups gathering in the north metro area – most of the problems are now concentrated in the South Metro area.
- WPD Pro-actively obtained trespass notices from property management companies in the area's these clubs gather. This has been successful in preventing these groups from gathering within our City.
- WPD was awarded a grant that goes into effect October that will provide additional funding to focus on Speed Enforcement and illegal street racing.

7. Would like more information regarding police coverage at 95th and Osceola.

- The Westminster Police Department will contact you to discuss your concerns to see how we can better serve you and this area of the City.

8. Please provide the number of citations given for speeding, loud cars, and street racing for the year.

The number of speeding, street racing, and loud car citations are listed below:

- Year to date approximately 2220 speeding citations.
- Year to date approximately 5 speed contest citations.
- Year to date 0 modified exhaust citations

Code Enforcement -

Reports can be phoned in anonymously at 303-658-4432 or emailed to codeenfo@cityofwestminster.us anytime. Code enforcement will follow up, and issue notices and fines as appropriate.

- 9. There is a house in my neighborhood that has had many complaints over several years and nothing has been done. Code violations include building, residency, (there have been as many as 12 renters in a single family home), trash, weeds, parking, and landscaping. There have been more police calls in the last couple years than in the previous 30. Why won't the city enforce the existing codes?**

 - *Reports can be phoned in anonymously at 303-658-4432 or emailed to codeenfo@cityofwestminster.us anytime. Code enforcement will follow up, and issue notices and fines as appropriate.*
- 10. Nabor [sic] well not take care of tree on property line damaged my fence and concrete. Have tried for 10 year even talked to city officials and nothing.**

 - *Reports can be phoned in anonymously at 303-658-4432 or emailed to codeenfo@cityofwestminster.us anytime. Code enforcement will follow up, and issue notices and fines as appropriate.*
- 11. According to the COW website, Code Enforcement responds to various violations in the community and addresses private property violations only. What if anything, is being done to address the businesses along 72nd Avenue who are not maintaing their properties? For example: The Chase Bank/The Mac parking lot is full of pot holes and The Dollar Tree parking lot is always full of trash. When businesses are allowed to let their properties fall apart, it lowers the value of the properties in and around the surrounding areas. Also, other businesses do not want to move into a neighborhood that is deamed unsafe and uncared for. What can be done to address these problems with the businesses along 72nd avenue from Lowell to Federal Blvds?**

 - Since 2020, the Code Enforcement Team has worked 170 active cases along the

W. 72nd Avenue corridor. 55 of those cases were worked/are being worked in 2023. Enforcement actions include notices of violation, administrative citations (fines) and abatement of violations. If you have a specific concern, please report it to 303-658-4432 or codeenfo@westminsterco.gov.

12. Is it possible to take care of our medians like Broomfield does? For example, taking care of weeds and dirt.

- Depending on the roadway, median maintenance can be the responsibility of the City of Westminster, the Colorado Department of Transportation or private property owners (i.e. common area maintenance responsibilities administered by a Homeowner's Association). If you have specific medians of concern, please contact Code Enforcement at 303-658-4432 or codeenfo@westminsterco.gov and an officer can be assigned to follow up with respective responsible parties.

13. Amherst community has a special tax levy. A neighbor mentioned wasn't added when the HOA was disbanded. I was trying to find out more information about how the funds have been used or could be used in the future.

- Following the dissolution of the former HOA, residents voted to create and the city agreed to administer (as financial agent) the Amherst General Improvement District (GID) in 1988. An annual property tax millage is levied and collected for the operation and maintenance of common areas including the perimeter fence and gateway signs, the landscaped right-of-way, drainage areas, open space, and certain capital improvements as well as property and liability insurance. In 2023, the GID had ~\$119K in revenues and ~71K in expenditures. At the end of 2022, the current fund balance in the GID was \$885,737. The GID will need to fund the replacement of the perimeter fence of the subdivision in the near future along with ongoing maintenance of the common areas.
- This operation and maintenance is performed by the City of Westminster's Parks, Recreation and Libraries Department.
- GID budget appropriations will be reviewed by City Council at the October 8 City Council meeting.

Short-term Rentals

14. Given the increasing prevalence of short-term rentals in our community, what measures is the city council considering to address the concerns surrounding late-night parties, parking congestion, potential property tax discrepancies, and the broader implications these rentals have on our neighborhood's character and cohesion?

- On May 22, 2023, City Council passed an Ordinance regulating short-term rentals (STRs) in the city. The City is in the process of finalizing software and other operational items involved with licensing and regulation of STRs. Formal licensing will commence on January 1, 2024. For more information, please call 303-658-2342 or str@westminsterco.gov.

15. At a recent event in our neighborhood, a short-term rental property was the venue for an excessively large party, resulting in a high volume of cars, disruptive noise from loud music, and individuals openly consuming alcohol on the streets. Given the clear disturbances and potential safety concerns such incidents pose, what immediate and long-term strategies is the city council considering to regulate and monitor short-term rentals to ensure the safety, tranquility, and cohesion of our communities?

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16. Why are people allowed to have Airbnbs in our communities that can accommodate 14 people?

- On May 22, 2023, City Council passed an Ordinance regulating short-term rentals (STRs) in the city. The City is in the process of finalizing software and other operational items involved with licensing and regulation of STRs. Formal licensing will commence on January 1, 2024. For more information, please call 303-658-2342 or str@westminsterco.gov. There are occupancy restrictions in the city's STR regulations. The city is in process of standing up a 24/7 complaint line for STRs, along with an online complaint form.

Road Design

17. Honorable Mayor and City Council members: Can there be anything done about limiting the number of u-turns that are being made at 98th & Grove from Federal? I live 1 block west of 98th & Federal at 9798 Grove Street on the corner of 98th and Grove. There is a median on 98th from Federal to Grove (1 block long). The number

of cars that come North on Federal to 98th to turn into 98th and then make a U turn around the median to go back out to Federal then to go South has increased every month. I have lived here for 17 years and early on it was not a problem. Then the Wishbone was built and the many u-turns started. Then recently St. Mark's Village Apartments were built and the number of u-turns at 98th & Grove has exploded. Weekends have really gotten bad. As you probably know you can not make a left hand turn going North on Federal to turn West into 97th to go to the Wishbone or St. Mark's Village Apartments. So cars coming North on Federal go North to 98th dip into 98th going West 1 block to go around the median at Grove to go back out to Federal then to go back South to 97th and turn West to go to the Wishbone or St. Mark's Village Apartments. I checked and from 80th Avenue to 104th Avenue- (I did not check back further) 97th is the only place on Federal going North you can not turn left to go into a side street. Can anything be done to decrease this U-turn problem? I know Federal is a state highway. Can they be talked into allowing left hand turns into 97th going West? Can the city doing anything to reduce this u-turning at 98th & Grove St? Like maybe putting up signage or making it very difficult to make a u-turn at 98th and Grove, etc.? Our neighborhood in North Park East has seen a big increase in the number of children living here and this presents a safety issue. These cars just zoom in and out. For instance last Friday I sat on the corner of 98th and Federal and counted 27 cars in 2 hours make the u-turn at 98th & Grove to go back out to Federal to go South . 26 of them then turned into 97th. Please do something to help decrease this problem. I thank Mayor Heil for replying to 2 earlier e-mails I sent her about this issue. Thanks for listening.

- As mentioned, CDOT controls the ROW and access control on Federal Blvd. The City will ask if they would consider placing a "Left and U-Turn" sign at 98th Ave to indicate that u-turns would be allowed at this intersection. They may not choose to allow that sign to be installed due to the width of the southbound lanes and the ability to safely perform a u-turn
- CDOT has a project, #24921 N Federal Medians, that will be constructing raised medians along long portions of Federal from 92nd Ave up to and including 105th Ave. The raised medians will formalize the right-in/right-out access of 97th Ave and other locations along this stretch of the corridor. CDOT is anticipating going out for advertisement for bid in December 2023 and construction starting spring 2024.
- CDOT has consistently denied the City's request to allow left turns onto or from 97th Ave.
- After researching accident data at the 98th and Grove intersection, there does not appear to be accidents due to the u-turns at this location. There was an accident in December 2015 but it was not associated with this movement. To

safely access westbound 97th Ave, a u-turn at 98th and Grove is a viable option at this time.

18. Why is the city taking more and more car lanes away when the city population is increasing? Bicycles don't pay registration fees that maintain our roads. This is a suburban city, not downtown Denver. Why are city leaders trying to punish families who drive and create more gridlock on our surface roads?

- The city is meeting its Strategic Goal of Robust Infrastructure and ensure that our communities roadways serve all modes of transportation, which includes improving the pedestrian, bicycle, transit and vehicular modes of transportation.

19. What are you doing to improve the pedestrian experience between Sheridan and Federal on 80th and in the surrounding neighborhoods?

- This section of roadway has been identified in the city's Transportation Mobility Plan (TMP), Appendix D page D-5, to evaluate the cross section and need improvements, which will include improving the pedestrian mode of transportation by considering widening the sidewalks and to provide bicycle lanes. This is not included in the city's 5-year Capital Project list but will be re-evaluated in future budget cycles to determine timing. Due to the length and complexity of the improvements, the TMP has identified this to be a project in 10+ years.

Parks and Recreation

PRL vision planning happening now. Residents can access the community survey on the city's homepage at westminsterco.gov.

20. Does the city have future plans to expand the number of pickleball courts in Westminster? Does the city plan on re-surfacing the pickleball courts at Countryside. The city is falling behind other surrounding cities in this regard.

- Recently added six new, lit pickleball courts next to the municipal court. Courts are set to open in October.

21. What efforts, if any, are there to add a city recreation area to the northeast side of westminster?

- The Vision Plan for PRL will identify areas of the City that are in need of additional recreation resources.

22. What needs to happen in order to safely open Standley Lake back up to trailered boats?

- The IGA with Thornton and Northglenn, which bans motorized boats on Standley Lake, expires in 2030. They have not expressed a desire to renegotiate the IGA at this time.

23. why does Westminster support so much grass and greenery that needs constant watering and maintenance? Are there short term plans to move to a more xeriscaped landscaping?

- PRL is currently undertaking an extensive irrigation replacement project at approximately 10 parks across the City. As we plan for the new irrigation, we will be rightsizing the turf, prioritizing those areas that are used for active recreation and the amount of water available based on tap size.
- We will be replacing turf with low water use, Colorado native plants. A xeriscape will soon be added to the City Hall landscaping along with an extensive low water use, native grass low mow meadow. This is in addition to the existing xeriscape located at the main entrance to City Hall. There are other beautiful xeriscapes located at the MAC and the two golf courses.

Miscellaneous

24. Will you PLEASE consider building a new courthouse where Hidden lake High School sits and giving them the old Municipal court facilities asap? They have outgrown our neighborhood and are an eyesore to residents living directly across the street, let alone taking up all guest parking for residents.

- New municipal court project will built on current site of municipal court.
- Project progressing. Secured financing.
- The latest information can be found at:
www.westminsterco.gov/municipalcourtproject

25. What is the status of study on allowing residents to add Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs) / Granny flats to their properties in Westminster? What is estimate on completing the study? What are the councils thoughts on allowing residents to add ADUs?

- With the exception of the Bradburn Village development (per allowances in its Official Development Plan), ADUs are not currently allowed in the city. Regarding potential policy changes, the city has conducted initial work including a survey, made revisions to Comprehensive Plan language and has started analysis and

research. The city will proceed with stakeholder engagement and public outreach in 2024. As this issue will involve extensive outreach and interdisciplinary efforts from many service areas, a project timeframe has not yet been established. For more information, please contact Senior Code Enforcement Officer Rachel Patterson at rpatters@westminsterco.gov or 303-658-2718.

Golf – Legacy Ridge Golf Course

26. Approximately three years ago, construction at the fourth tee at Legacy Ridge on retention pond has caused problems. Weeds. Took away trees. Talked with some of the contractors and they said they were told that was where they were supposed to put the dirt from construction. Follow up in the neighborhood has been pretty poor. Have not done anything to the edge. When the pond goes down, you can see the plastic.

- Legacy Ridge Golf Course did a complete irrigation renovation starting in 2021 and ending in early fall of 2022. This project also included expansion of the aesthetic pond on hole #4, new green and tees on hole #4, shifting of tees and lowering of the fairway on hole #7, and the addition of new tees and a rain garden on hole #5. The aesthetic pond on #4 was original to the construction of the golf course in 1993 and was a clay lined pond. The clay liner started failing in approximately 2010 and eventually was abandoned as a pond in approximately 2013-2014. The pond then became more of a drainage area with native grasses, native trees and weeds dominating the landscape in the pond's interior. The expansion of the pond on #4 was done specifically to provide a second raw water storage pond for irrigation use on the golf course and not aesthetics. Using a newer liner product for the pond did not require any soil cover. As the pond is used during the irrigation season the water level will fluctuate as water is removed and then replenished during regular irrigation cycles. The liner will be noticeable during the irrigation season. The pond was almost doubled in size and some of the excess dirt from the expansion and the lowering of #7 fairway was used to create a new berm at the west end of the pond between #4 tee boxes and #7 fairway. This berm has been seeded with native grasses and will take approximately 3-5 years to establish. Before the irrigation project started, information was sent out through the HOA notifying residents of the project, a community meeting was held prior to construction, and renderings of the project were posted in the clubhouse.

Homelessness

27. What has the City done to tackle homelessness? Please list the efforts.

- PRL/Parks and Open Space have been provided two new FTE Park Rangers in the last year that are assigned specifically to oversee our parks, open space, and trails. These Rangers work with and alongside the public helping to provide education,

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assistance, and enforcement in their assigned areas. One of the Park Rangers assigned areas of responsibility is the implementation of our “Continuum of Compassion” when working with people experiencing homelessness (PEH). This may include connecting PEH’s with our Homeless Navigators, providing aid in severe weather situations, issuing abatement notices to implement homeless camp cleanup protocols, taking possession and storage of personal items recovered in camp cleanups that have a value of over \$20 and holding for 30 days, and working with WPD in issuing PRL trespass notices.

The City-led initiatives to resolve homelessness include:

Navigators provide direct and indirect services and supports to people experiencing homelessness:

- The City created two Homeless Navigator positions who are housing-focused with one position created in 2020 and the second in mid-2022. They work with people experiencing homelessness to place them in housing. Since 2020, more than 80 households have been housed, most in permanent housing and/or transitional housing such as rehabilitation programs with a residency component and some through reunification with families or friends.
- In addition, the Navigators provide hotel stays to people experiencing homelessness. In 2022, they provided 103 households roughly 3,000 hotel nights for several different purposes: emergency shelter from cold or hot weather, medical respite upon release from a hospital, families with young children who had a move-in date to permanent housing scheduled or people and households who once they received a housing voucher needed a stable place to be while actively engaging in a housing search. More than that number of hotel stays has already been provided in 2023.
- The Navigators also provide move-in kits to make the transition from staying outdoors to a home with an actual roof successful. They provide first and last month rental assistance to ensure that people experiencing homelessness or at risk of it do not spend additional nights outdoors while they attempt to save their income for the more than \$2,000 required for all rentals in the Denver metro area.
- The Navigators provide hygiene and weather-specific gear by not only distributing it directly but also making these supplies available to the City’s Co-Responders and Park Rangers. Bus passes and share rides are also provided to assist people experiencing homelessness to successfully make it to appointments and visits with other agencies.

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- Starting in December 2022, the City also provides extreme weather sheltering in its Recreation Centers when it is forecast to be 0-degrees or below. When the heat index is forecast to reach extreme caution levels, the libraries and Recreation Centers also serve as cooling sites. They have served in this capacity for years, except when closed during summer 2020 when COVID protocols prohibited it. Instead, the Navigator program provided hotel stays for such weather conditions.

Partnerships

- As homelessness is a complex issue, a multi-sector approach is needed. To that end, the City works with all seven counties and 39 cities in the Denver metro area to ensure that whenever possible we are acting as a region. In addition, through the collaboration offered through the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, the City works with more than 100 different organizations in the following sectors: non-profit, health care, faith-based, education, employment, low-income housing developers, housing authorities, human services, and more.

Through partnerships, the City also has:

- The laundry truck at the Adams County Human Services Center in Westminster on Tuesdays,
- The Navigation Center at that same site,
- Hosts the fall Adams County Resource Fair for free at the MAC,
- Two monthly resource fairs at Irving Street Library where various service agencies provide supports and
- A once-a-month DMV2Go at the Irving Street Library where identification vouchers are provided and if someone does not qualify, the Navigators pay for it.

To prevent people from experiencing homelessness, the City:

- The City has supported development of more than 2,215 affordable housing units over the last seven years, including permanent supportive housing at Westminster's new downtown with case management provided by The Family Tree.
- With all of the jurisdictions in Adams and Broomfield Counties, the City underwrites the costs of providing free legal support and mediation for any tenant facing an eviction.
- The City has funding for eviction prevention and housing stability that the Navigators are able to utilize. The majority of the funds, though, will be released to one or more non-profit agencies to distribute to households without children who are facing eviction for financial reasons. Households with children can access the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal funds through their County Human Services Department to use for housing or other expenses, fairly flexibly.

28. How many unhoused people have we helped this year? Please share success stories.

- Together, the two Navigators have assisted 189 clients who were experiencing literal homelessness this year in 162 households. While many have been housed, another 10 households comprised of 13 individuals currently have housing vouchers and are actively searching for housing. A client is someone who is fully registered in the Navigator program and receiving formal services that require more personal information obtained through an hour-and-a-half long intake process to enter their background information into the Homeless Management Information Software shared by homeless service providers throughout Colorado. So far in 2023, they are on target to provide more than 4,000 hotel stays to their clients and have issued Adams County Severe Weather Activation Plan hotel stays, for another 2,000+ hotel stays as emergency shelter. At the same time, to extend their reach, the Navigators have also coordinated 8 bi-weekly resource fairs and 3 bi-monthly Department of Motor Vehicle events where the 252 people attending made direct connections to an average of eight different service providers present. In addition, they have fielded phone calls from community members facing eviction, assisted the Police Department's Victims Services and Co-Responders with connecting people they are working with to service, and they sometimes visit camp sites to introduce themselves and their services to people who might be interested in becoming clients. They provide weather-specific gear, hygiene items, and RTD bus passes for both the Park Rangers, the Co-Responders and Fire Emergency Medical Services to distribute as they find need.
- Unfortunately, specific stories cannot be shared as the Navigators have signed privacy agreements with all of their clients. With the people experiencing homelessness who are not yet official clients, the Navigators work to build trusting relationships so that one day they may be willing to take the risk of exposing years of trauma to see what programs and housing opportunities they qualify for. The stories are the life experiences of the people who experience homelessness to share. While the Navigators have asked a few of their clients to share their stories, so far none have agreed as they work to build a new life.

Signage / Uplands

29. When will signage about the Shaw Boulevard closure be posted?

- Shaw Boulevard diagonal will be closed beginning October 2. The developer has informed us that they will post signage on Monday, 9/25, and postcards will arrive in mailboxes of the surrounding communities this week. For the latest information, please visit the developer's website uplandscolorado.com