

CITY OF CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE

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Open Letter from the City Council of Cherry Hills Village Regarding Local Control

The Cherry Hills Village City Council strongly believes in the importance of Home Rule and local control, not only for residents of Cherry Hills Village, but residents across Colorado. In particular, Cherry Hills Village is concerned with specific efforts to enact legislation that would impinge on the Village's long held and legally established Home Rule authority to implement zoning and other measures to guide its land use determinations.

Local control through home-rule communities has been a cornerstone tenant throughout Colorado's history, and one that is memorialized in the state's constitution. This tenant has been reaffirmed by Colorado residents through the establishment of over 100 home-rule municipalities, whose residents chose to go through the process to claim the "full right of self-government in both local and municipal matters" granted by the constitution. Local control allows communities to set their own vision, which limits the negative effects of a top-down, one-size-fits-all solution for a wide range of issues.

Cherry Hills Village has had a consistent vision of rural and semi-rural land use since its inception. The irrigation from the High Line Canal brought farms and homes to the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and some original farmhouses and barns still stand today. More residents populated the area as an escape from the big city. Cherry Hills Village incorporated in 1945 and became a Home Rule municipality in 1966 to preserve residents' right to protect the unique semi-rural character of the area.

Of particular interest today is the proposed state infringement on local home rule communities concerning one of the most local of all issues, land use control. Cherry Hills Village recently completed a lengthy process of gathering public input and hearing from residents about their priorities and visions for the future of the Village. These efforts resulted in an update to the Village's Master Plan that reaffirms these long-held priorities and visions. Statewide efforts to infringe on local home rule will diminish or cripple these local visions.

Each community has its own unique needs and challenges, and local governments should be empowered to make decisions that best serve their constituents. Moreover, loss of local control means loss of the ability for residents to effectively engage in the community development process. We know our community best and should have the opportunity to shape its future in a way that is sustainable and meets the needs of our residents.

Arapahoe County is holding a Telephone Town Hall on March 30th at 6:30 pm. Please join us on the call to hear more on the housing crisis and how unified local action is the best way forward. You can join the Town Hall on the Arapahoe County website (www.arapahoegov.com/townhall), the Arapahoe County Facebook page (www.facebook.com/arapahoeounty), or by calling 1-855-436-3656.

Home Rule and local control are critical components of effective governance. By working together with local communities, we can develop innovative solutions that best serve our constituents and create a brighter future for all Coloradans.