



## 2015 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET



### **CRYSTAL R. ELLIOTT** Candidate for City Council At-Large

#### **Fast Facts:**

Age: 46

Occupation: Small business owner and volunteer at Adams City High School: Baking & Pastry Culinary program

Years lived in Commerce City: 36

Years lived in Colorado: 43

Phone: 303-406-3893

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### **Questions & Answers**

#### **1. Why are you running for council?**

I have enjoyed these past 4 years serving the citizens of Commerce City and wish to continue the momentum as the Council has accomplished many things for the community. I truly enjoy helping people and my wish is to have an impact creating a legacy for future generations.

#### **2. What do you see as the three biggest opportunities for Commerce City?**

Economic Development - Commerce City is Colorado's 4th fastest growing city and the fastest in Adams County, more than doubling its population in the last 10 years.

Rocky Mountain Wildlife Refuge -15,000-acres of prairies, wetlands and woodlands. The land has a unique story as it was farmland then transitioned to war-time manufacturing site and now to a wildlife sanctuary. It is considered one of the finest conservation success stories in history. It is truly the gem of the city!

1% Sales and use tax revenue in funding future projects. With the passing of the 2K ballot initiative of 1% sales and use tax used to fund 5 projects, 5 years, 1 penny, the city has completed 2 wonderful projects/amenities for our residents to enjoy. In keeping the momentum of the 1% tax, such funds would be utilized for projects such as Highway #2, and other major projects as deemed necessary. Commerce City has become a pioneer in educating and engaging residents in voting to pass this initiative for such funding that other municipalities are looking to implement these efforts within their



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communities. Commerce City has certainly become a champion and we have only just begun!

### **3. What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing the city?**

**Affordable Housing** – This affects the entire metro area, however in our city there is unfortunately an increasing need in which collaborative efforts with the Housing Authority has proven crucial. My platform was and is affordable housing utilizing Community Block Development Grants (CDBG) funds to revitalization efforts for foreclosed and vacant homes that affect the entire city. There is federal funding which Commerce City is now eligible due to our population and in a position to compete to use such funding within our communities.

**Road conditions** – In the core city there are many roads that are in need of repair mostly due to the high volume of truck traffic because of the characteristics of such truck routes. However there are main arterial roads in the Northern Range that are in need of repair as well. The Pavement management program the city has in place provides temporary repairs until those roads are schedule to be repaved.

**Code enforcement** – Many areas within the city have overgrown weeds, unsightly lots, and distressed homes that are in dire need of care. Although the City attempts to control these issues, they seem to become more frequent. My hope is the city can accommodate with the growing population with more stringent regulatory measures but sensitive to the residents needs and situation. We need to take pride in our city, we're doing great things!

### **4. What does a “Quality Community for a Lifetime” mean to you?**

To live work and play within my community. I was raised in Commerce City attending District #14 schools, later working at the South Adams County Water Department for 10 years. Although I moved out of the city for a few years, I felt there was a strong connection when I went home to visit friends and family. I attribute it to the small town feel, seeing familiar faces and the people who hold a strong connection to the rich history in the city. Ultimately growing up in community and raising your family in which you have invested in for future generations.

### **5. What is your favorite aspect of the city?**

It would be the characteristics of a small town with a large history. The citizens whom are very active, providing warm welcomes to new residents to engage in the community. This is unique for a city that is growing immensely over the past few years and is considered the fourth fastest growing city!