

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM
#71-2020

DATE: November 9, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager 

FROM: Rupa Venkatesh, Assistant to the City Manager 

SUBJECT: CR-153 – Approval of the 2021 Legislative Issues Guide

PURPOSE

To consider CR-153, a resolution approving the 2021 Legislative Issues Guide for the 2021 State Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND

The Legislative Policy Committee has developed the 2021 Legislative Issues Guide for consideration by the entire City Council. The guide can be considered a policy statement and is intended to be general in nature and serves as a tool for County and State officials to reference during the 2021 Legislative Session. It will be distributed to elected officials and other stakeholders prior to the scheduled study session with State legislators on Dec. 7, 2020.

Changes to the 2021 Legislative Issues Guide from 2020 include:

- Updated photos
- Added What's New in Northglenn section
- Added COVID-19 section
- Added Advancing Racial Equity section
- Added Homelessness Community Task Force content in the Attainable Housing section
- Updated content in the Urban Renewal/Redevelopment Authority section
- Updated content in the Environmental Sustainability section
- Removed Marijuana Regulation section

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending approval of the 2021 Legislative Issues Guide.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the printed document is approximately \$250. Document design is done in-house.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any questions or comments, they may contact Assistant to the City Manager Rupa Venkatesh at rvenkatesh@northglenn.org or 720.376.8069.

CR-153 – Approval of the 2021 Legislative Issues Guide

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-153
Series of 2020

Series of 2020

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN 2021 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES GUIDE

WHEREAS, the City of Northglenn has an interest in the legislative activity of the Colorado General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, state legislation may impact the residents of the City of Northglenn, and may also impact or influence municipal operations of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in providing input on proposed legislation, and the Legislative Policy Committee has developed a Legislative Issues Guide, which identifies the City's position on legislative issues; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Issues Guide will be utilized as guiding policies when reviewing and responding to proposed legislation of interest to the City of Northglenn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The 2021 Legislative Issues Guide, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, is hereby adopted by the City Council.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney



2021

State
Legislative
Issues Guide



CITY OF
Northglenn



CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN

Northglenn is reinventing its Civic Center. Currently the location of City Hall and the Northglenn Recreation Center, Senior Center and Theatre, the City's Civic Center Master Plan will transform the 20-plus acres into a multipurpose landscape, complete with recreation, government services,

residential and commercial. Construction on the new rec center is underway, with completion in October 2021.

- *See more on the Northglenn Urban Renewal Authority's valuable assistance with this project, along with the City's positions on urban renewal and redevelopment, on Page 8.*

MARKETPLACE REDEVELOPMENT

Northglenn is a steadfast supporter of its shopping areas before, during and beyond the COVID-19 epidemic. The major shopping center in the City is the Northglenn Marketplace, located off I-25 and 104th Avenue. In 2019, Hutensky Capital Partners, owners of the majority of the Marketplace, began revitalizing, refreshing, renewing,

re-stabilizing and rebranding the shopping center. More than \$550,000 has been spent on parking lot improvements with more to come.

The Marketplace already has leases with Bed, Bath & Beyond and Harkins Theatres that run at least a decade. Both companies have multi-million

investments planned or already made.

Once pandemic conditions improve, the City is ready to put its full economic development weight behind the success of the Marketplace.

- *See more on the City's positions on urban renewal and redevelopment on Page 8.*

KARL'S FARM DEVELOPMENT

The vision of the Karl's Farm development is a neighborhood village that reflects the agricultural and historical heritage of the farm, and its role in the growth of the local community. The Karl's Farm property is 63.8 acres of undeveloped farmland in the northeast portion of Northglenn. A master developer is in place with plans for

residential development with some commercial off 120th Avenue. Residents will be able to take advantage of the FasTracks Eastlake • 124th Station, located northeast of the area.

- *See more on the City's positions on attainable housing on Page 7 and transportation on Page 8.*

N LINE NORTHGLENN • 112TH STATION

The City celebrated the opening of the Northglenn • 112th Station on Sept. 21. The 13-mile rail line connects Northglenn with Thornton, Commerce City, the National Western

Complex and Union Station. This is a huge boon for the City. Not only do the Northglenn station and the nearby Eastlake • 124th Station make the area more attractive to residents

and businesses, it helps alleviate congestion on Interstate 25.

- *See more on the City's positions on transportation on Page 8.*

THE CITY COUNCIL HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR 2021 AND DEVELOPED A FORMAL POLICY STATEMENT.

The City of Northglenn was founded in a location that was once the “edge” of the Denver metro region.



Times have changed and the City now finds itself encompassed by suburban growth but competitively positioned along the Interstate 25 corridor, nearly in the center of the Denver metro region.

This advantageous position provides easy access to most destinations,

including downtown Denver, Boulder and Denver International Airport, as well as a variety of employment centers in all directions.

Its competitive location strategically positions Northglenn for both future residential and new business growth.

NORTHGLENN AT A GLANCE



POPULATION
38,694



\$390K
MEDIAN HOME PRICE



14,128
HOUSEHOLDS



3 HOUSEHOLD SIZE AVERAGE

\$64,237



AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME



\$28,663
INCOME PER CAPITA

PROPERTY TAX RATE
11.597 MILLS



MEDIAN AGE
33

58%
COLLEGE DEGREES



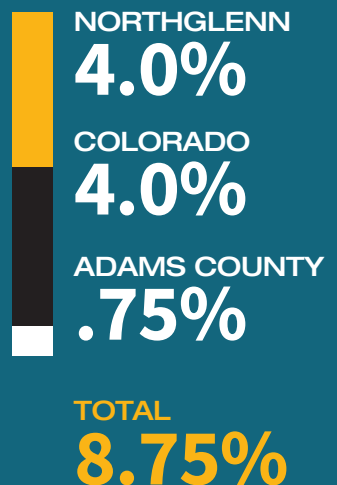
RACE/ETHNICITY



LOCATION



SALES TAX





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 Northglenn, CO 80233
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City Working to Keep Us Safe

Dear Northglenn Residents & Businesses,

Our country and state, including Northglenn, are in the midst of dealing with an unprecedented event – a highly-contagious virus, COVID-19 (coronavirus). Though we have faced wars and disease in our history, this is a first in recent times: a health pandemic that has caused widespread closures and a Stay-At-Home public health order.

We know this is disruptive and frightening. As your elected officials, we want you to know that we continue to work daily to keep the city safe.

Northglenn is prepared. We have extended the mayor's local emergency declaration to enable flexibility to respond and secure resources. Our city staff continues to work – some in person to provide essential services, and others remotely to keep things moving forward as much as possible. We have contingency plans to ensure essential services like trash and recycling, water, wastewater and public safety continue.

Please stay calm and follow State of Colorado and Tri-County Health Department public health orders. Your safety and wellbeing, as well as those around you, may depend on it. Please check on your loved ones and neighbors regularly if you are able.

As we watch our community pull together and make numerous offers to help, we are all the more proud to serve Northglenn.

Thank you,

Letter published in the City's monthly newsletter.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC DICTATED THE MAJORITY OF 2020

Like every municipality across the country, the City of Northglenn had to find a “new normal” while maintaining services to our residents and supporting our businesses.

Thanks to the CARES Act, and to Adams County for distributing part of its allocation to municipalities within its jurisdiction, the City distributed almost \$3.1 million to support Northglenn residents, business and schools.

Public health was of primary concern to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus. However, the City tried to address the economic and emotional needs of Northglenn, too.

- 15,000 adult and 6,000 youth face masks went to residents, care facilities and schools.
- 7,000 8-ounce bottles of hand sanitizer were distributed to schools and residents.
- 24 hand sanitizer stations were installed in high-use parks.
- A free COVID-19 testing center served 1,500 people over 14 weeks.
- A community resource navigator position was created to help residents and businesses access any and all types of COVID-19 related resources.
- 20 community organizations received almost \$500,000 in grant funding.
- \$1.125 million was allocated to help businesses weather the economic downturn, help cover the costs of adapting to COVID-19 regulations and to purchase gift cards from local restaurants.
- People could request Hug Signs to be placed in the yards of City residents.
- Large festivals and in-person services transitioned to hyperlocal micro events and online offerings.

COUNCIL GOALS

The City Council has identified eight main goals for the community that guide the legislative policy statement:

- **High-Performance Government**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Public Safety**
- **Business Retention and Growth**
- **Housing Opportunities**
- **Diverse Community**
- **Sustainability**
- **Infrastructure**

ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

In the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, City Council outlines their vision for the community as the following:

“Northglenn is a diverse and welcoming community that celebrates its small town character, urban energy, and thriving businesses.”

To further advance this vision, the strategic priority of a “Diverse Community,” and the community core value of “inclusivity”, Council created the new community-led Diversity, Inclusivity, and Social Equity Board in 2020.

This 11-member committee will work with a consultant to design community listening tours, create a work action plan based on community feedback, and provide recommendations to City Council on how the City can further advance its goals.

Banners with this design went up across Northglenn during the summer of 2020.

we hear you.

we see you.

we are with you.

We Stand Against Racism.



LOCAL CONTROL & MUNICIPAL HOME RULE

Colorado has a tradition of local control and decentralized governmental authority that is reflected in the home rule provisions of the State constitution and in substantial grants of power to Colorado municipalities in State statutes.

These provisions reflect a belief that local issues and local needs are generally best addressed locally. The

City strongly shares this belief.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports State legislation that enables and facilitates the resolution of local issues locally.*
- *Opposes State legislation that would pre-empt or otherwise limit municipal authority, including legislation that aims to diminish or intrude upon the authority of home rule municipalities.*



For the past few years, City arts and cultural staff have worked with Northglenn High School students on a number of projects, including a photography exhibit. The high school is part of Adams 12 Five Star Schools, which serves all of Northglenn.

◀ EDUCATION

Northglenn is a unique community with 14 K-12 schools within a 7.5-square-mile radius.

The City believes an effective education system supplies our municipalities with an educated and well-trained community and workforce who will both allow existing businesses to expand and attract new business investment.

The most effective programs are those partnerships among our educational institutions, local stakeholder and local governments. Due to its importance

to our communities, the City supports education as a community-wide value.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports State and local policies and initiatives that encourage greater early learning, K-12, higher education, workforce training opportunities and lifelong learning opportunities that allow cities to attract and retain an excellent workforce.
- Supports access to information and resources that help parents and caregivers give students the greatest chances to learn and grow in safe and

healthy ways.

- Supports state initiatives that enhance creative and innovative partnership opportunities with businesses and educational institutions. This includes shared facilities, school resource officers, and enhanced programming.
- Supports education funding that is balanced between State and local sources and takes into consideration all sectors of the economy.
- Supports funding that would enhance early childhood education opportunities.



ATTAINABLE HOUSING

The City is committed to an environment that offers a variety of housing options for all City residents, in every stage of their life, including those on fixed incomes or of limited financial means.

The General Assembly has enacted laws that have attempted to include remedies for homeowners with construction defects, but are also widely regarded as having caused a dramatic decline in the construction of multi-family, owner-occupied housing (condominiums) in Colorado.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exasperated the already growing issue of homelessness in our City and surrounding municipalities. Understanding that this issue is complex and needs to be approached with compassion, City Council has tasked a community group to make recommendations on policies, action steps, and guidelines that would positively impact homelessness in the City. The Northglenn Homelessness Community Task Force is comprised of highly skilled, compassionate, educated and experienced residents

and members of nonprofit organizations that directly serve individuals experiencing homelessness.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports a balanced approach to resolving construction defects concerns between builders and homeowners, as exemplified by the City's adoption of a model ordinance on the topic.*
- *Supports increasing local government's ability, in partnership with the county and neighboring jurisdictions, in providing services to individuals, families and youth experiencing homelessness.*
- *Supports increasing local government's ability to regulate, manage or generate alternative sources of funding for attainable housing and public/private partnerships.*
- *Support leveraging funding through state and local partnerships to provide homeownership assistance.*



URBAN RENEWAL/REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The City's urban renewal authority is an extremely useful and proven tool to remedy urban blight in economically depressed areas.

In 2019, the Northglenn Urban Renewal Authority bonded \$11.5 million for construction of public infrastructure improvements for the new Northglenn Civic Center project. This will allow for 11 acres of the project site to be shovel ready,

spurring private sector redevelopment.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a unique mechanism that enables an Urban Renewal Authority to use the net new tax revenues generated by projects within a designated urban renewal area to help finance future improvements. TIF is a new source of tax revenue, not an additional tax, that would not be available but for new investment. In recent years, the

General Assembly has addressed a variety of bills on this subject, some of which have been enacted.

Therefore, the City:

- *Opposes further watering down of municipal urban renewal authority and/or downtown development authority by the General Assembly.*

TRANSPORTATION

With its position astride the metro area's major north-south corridor, the City naturally has a strong interest in state transportation planning and financing.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports the completion of RTD's*

FasTracks N Line commuter rail to end of line as originally planned.

- *Supports local control of public roads, public transit, pedestrian paths and bike lanes to address emerging modes of transportation that serve the entire metro area and Adams County.*

- *Supports alternative methods of funding transportation infrastructure needs.*
- *Supports funding and policy changes to encourage community efforts in electrifying the transportation sector.*



SALES AND USE TAXES

Like most Colorado municipalities, Northglenn is highly dependent on sales and use tax revenues, providing 65% of the City's tax revenues annually.

An effective sales tax has enabled Colorado municipalities to generally avoid reliance on the far less popular property tax, which funds most municipal operations nationwide.

Under Colorado's constitution, Northglenn and other home rule municipalities are entitled to locally collect and administer this tax.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports efforts that would simplify the tax system for those remitting tax, provided that such measures would not materially jeopardize the revenue raising capacity of the tax system or its*

legal basis.

- *Supports efforts to facilitate "main street tax equity" by requiring collection of tax on remote sales by Internet or mail-order vendors within the City.*
- *Opposes legislation that would jeopardize the City's home rule authority over sales and use tax matters, through resultant litigation, or otherwise.*

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The City is committed to building a framework for environmental sustainability for the future.

In fall 2020, the City kicked off a waste optimization study geared toward expanding current resident waste services and exploring landfill diversion options that prioritize cost savings and environmental benefits.

The City is committed to mitigating the devastating impacts of climate change, while providing the community with excellent parks and recreation services and facilities. Additionally, the City operates water, wastewater and stormwater utilities in a

financially-sound, reliable, safe and environmentally-friendly manner.

Therefore, the City:

- *Supports maintaining or enhancing funds for parks, trails, forestry, horticulture and recreation services and facilities.*
- *Supports equal or greater funding levels of Great Outdoors Colorado grants awarded to municipalities.*
- *Supports municipal and State reuse, composting and recycling programs and exploring incentives for end markets.*
- *Supports collaboration between State and Federal government agencies*

and Colorado's local governments to advance local climate protection.

- *Supports equitable strategies to enable and accelerate building electrification.*
- *Supports accelerating retirement of existing fossil fuel generation facilities and their replacement with cost-effective and reliable clean energy supplies, through means that protect both utilities and consumers.*
- *Opposes legislation that would diminish the authority of local government to regulate environmental impacts to the City.*
- *Supports limitation on plastic and Styrofoam consumption.*



As part of the City's COVID-19 response, people could request to have signs like these placed in the yards of Northglenn residents.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Public health and safety is a primary responsibility of the City.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports State legislation that resolves the issue of medical expenses for individuals in custody with an equitable

solution for all parties.

- Opposes State legislation that would jeopardize or impair the reliability of the E-911 system.
- Supports state and local programs to address the youth vaping crisis and

opioid epidemic.

- Supports providing communities with resources to address chronic homelessness, supportive housing, mental health, suicide prevention and substance abuse.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Programs and regulations mandated by the State or Federal government upon local governments without adequate funding force local governments to divert scarce local funding away from pressing local needs.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports protection of statutory and constitutional provisions that protect local governments from being obliged to comply with unfunded mandates.
- Opposes unfunded State or Federal mandates.

Access to reliable, high-speed and affordable broadband and cable programming is a priority for the City.

Therefore, the City:

- Supports the retention of municipal regulatory authority over broadband and cable television systems.
- Supports affordable access by all municipalities to state-of-the-art telecommunication and information services.
- Opposes Federal or State restrictions on local control of municipal rights-of-way or on the authority of local governments to develop or acquire their own telecommunications infrastructure.
- Opposes Federal or State restrictions on municipal franchising, regulatory and taxing authority over telecommunications systems



PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

The City supports efforts to maintain its ability to determine the terms and conditions of municipal employment.

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City Council, from left: Randall Peterson, Ashley Witkovich, Becky Brown, Julie Duran Mullica, Antonio B. Esquibel, Meredith Leighty, Katherine E. Goff, Joyce Downing and Jenny Willford.

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