

**Final**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

Date:	03/14/2011	ATTENDANCE
Time:	<b>06:01 PM to 07:51 PM</b>	Brophy      X
Place:	Douglas County Fairgrounds and Events Center	Carroll      *
		Coram        X
This Meeting was called to order by <u>Representative Balmer</u>		Nikkel       X
		Pabon        X
		Scheffel     *
		Schwartz    X
This Report was prepared by <u>Hillary Smith</u>		Vigil        X
		Balmer       X
		Heath        X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, \* = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Castle Rock Public Hearing	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

**06:01 PM -- Castle Rock Public Hearing**

Representative Balmer, co-chair, called the meeting to order. The committee held a moment of silence for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The committee said the Pledge of Allegiance. Representative Balmer introduced Representative Carole Murray, who was present at the hearing. The members of the committee introduced themselves.

**06:06 PM**

Senator Heath, co-chair, introduced himself and made introductory remarks. He described the redistricting process and explained that the committee aims to agree on a plan to present to the General Assembly by April 14, 2011. He spoke about the need for the population of the districts to be as equal as practicable. Senator Heath then described the computer software that the committee will be using.

**06:10 PM**

Representative Balmer shared additional remarks. He spoke about the composition of the committee, and stated that the goal is to have the committee pass a plan unanimously. He provided background on the redistricting process. He suggested questions for the witnesses to address in their testimony. Representative Balmer encouraged the members of the audience to look over the information on the "over-under map" and in the brochure "A Citizen's Guide to Congressional Redistricting," both of which are available at the website [www.colorado.gov/redistricting](http://www.colorado.gov/redistricting).

**06:14 PM**

Representative Balmer introduced Representative Chris Holbert and Representative Kathleen Conti, who were present at the hearing. Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder Nancy Doty and Douglas County Clerk and Recorder Jack Arrowsmith introduced themselves.

**06:16 PM**

Esther van Mourik, Office of Legislative Legal Services, provided a brief overview of the process of congressional redistricting and the factors that must be taken into account when the boundaries are redrawn. She spoke about the importance of the "one person, one vote" requirement and Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act. Ms. van Mourik listed traditional redistricting principles, including the preservation of local boundaries and communities of interest. She suggested several issues for witnesses to address in their testimony.

**06:20 PM**

Representative Balmer spoke about the information available on the redistricting website. He encouraged people to e-mail the [CongRedist2011@state.co.us](mailto:CongRedist2011@state.co.us) e-mail account.

The following individuals testified:

**06:21 PM** -- Calvin Moy, representing himself, spoke about the "one person, one vote" requirement.

**06:23 PM** -- Greenwood Village Mayor Ron Rakowsky, representing himself, distributed a letter to the committee (Attachment A). He urged the committee to maintain Greenwood Village in Congressional District 6. He spoke about Greenwood Village as a community of interest.

**06:28 PM**

Representative Balmer allowed Senator Carroll and Senator Scheffel, who arrived late due to a committee meeting, to introduce themselves.

**06:30 PM**

Mayor Rakowsky responded to questions from the committee. Representative Pabon asked for suggestions of where Congressional District 6 should lose population. Mayor Rakowsky spoke about the possibility of putting Aurora and the area near Regis University into Congressional District 7. Mayor Rakowsky responded to additional questions from Representative Balmer.

**06:35 PM** -- Greenwood Village Mayor Pro Tem David Kerber, representing himself, distributed a letter to the committee (Attachment B). He echoed Mayor Rakowsky's remarks concerning Greenwood Village. He referred to a map in Attachment B, noting that part of Greenwood Village is not contiguous. He spoke about various factors separating Greenwood Village from Denver. Mayor Pro Tem Kerber moved on to a discussion of Cherry Hills and the Denver Tech Center. He noted that the cities of Englewood and Aurora are currently split between congressional districts. He continued to speak about various areas that could be added to Congressional District 1. Mayor Pro Tem Kerber responded to questions from the committee.

**06:43 PM**

Mayor Pro Tem Kerber responded to follow-up questions from the committee concerning the Denver Tech Center and Cherry Hills.

**06:53 PM** -- Richard Elsner, representing the Park County Republicans, spoke about Park County. He noted that Park County is currently split between Congressional Districts 5 and 6. He described the various communities of the county. He expressed his personal opinion that the way the county is split is good, but remarked that the dividing line could be drawn better. He said that the district line currently starts at the top of Crow Hill, but would be better situated at Kenosha Pass. Mr. Elsner expressed his concerns with adding part of Park County to Congressional District 2, stating that travel to Clear Creek County from Park County is difficult. Mr. Elsner responded to questions from the committee.

**07:05 PM** -- Sheila Canfield-Jones, representing the Park County Democrats, agreed with Mr. Elsner's testimony. She listed the Park County precincts in question, stating that precinct 4 should be in Congressional District 6, meaning that the district would include precincts 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, whereas Congressional District 5 would include precincts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7.

**07:08 PM** -- Karson Kucera, representing Citizens for CD 6, expressed her hope that Congressional District 6, as well as the rest of the districts, would be made more competitive. In response to follow-up questions from the committee, she expressed her opinion that Greenwood Village should be moved from Congressional District 6. Ms. Kucera continued to respond to questions from the committee.

**07:12 PM**

Representative Balmer indicated that Senator Heath would chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**07:12 PM** -- Alice Ramsey, representing herself, expressed her view that the districts should be made more competitive. Ms. Ramsey responded to questions from the committee. Representative Balmer noted that it is difficult to make some districts competitive without splitting counties.

**07:15 PM** -- Douglas County Clerk and Recorder Jack Arrowsmith, representing himself, described the role of county clerks in the redistricting process. He spoke about continuous districts within Douglas County. He suggested that commissioner districts have already divided the county up in terms of areas of influence, so these could be a useful resource if it is necessary to divide the county.

**07:18 PM** -- Kelsey Alexander, representing herself, spoke about Douglas County as a community of interest. She asked that Douglas County remain intact.

**07:19 PM** -- Bobbie Chiles, representing herself as a citizen of Centennial, asked that Centennial be kept within Congressional District 6. She referred to previous testimony concerning whether congressional districts would divide school or library districts. Representative Balmer responded to her remarks. Senator Carroll noted the importance of ensuring that every congressional district contains equal population, to the extent that it is practicable.

**07:22 PM** -- Representative Chris Holbert read testimony on behalf of J.M. Fay. Ms. Fay's testimony expressed her concerns that Aurora and Arapahoe County were left out of the committee's meeting schedule. She also listed problems with holding the Denver meeting at the State Capitol in Denver, such as the lack of parking and confusion concerning how to access the building. Ms. Fay asked that her state House and Senate districts be placed into Congressional District 7. She noted that the city of Aurora is split between congressional districts; she suggested that it be put into one.

**07:26 PM** -- Representative Chris Holbert read the statement of Ellen Belef, a resident of Aurora. Ms. Belef believes that relationships between the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Anschutz Medical Campus indicate that Aurora should be put in Congressional District 7. Ms. Belef's testimony listed differences between Aurora and Denver and between Aurora and Douglas County.

**07:28 PM** -- Franceen Thompson, representing herself as a resident of Douglas County, asked that Douglas County be kept whole and within Congressional District 6. She spoke about redistricting principles; she expressed the opinion that competitiveness should not be one of these principles. She indicated that she chooses to live in Douglas County because of its strong Republican base. She suggested that those who don't like the strong Republican base in the county can leave.

**07:31 PM** -- Debbie Clair, representing herself as a resident of Douglas County, spoke about the community of Douglas County. She asked that the county be kept whole. She addressed comments concerning competitive districts.

**07:33 PM** -- Representative Kathleen Conti, representing herself, spoke about the suburban feel of Littleton, the southern half of Englewood, and Greenwood Village. She stated that those communities should stay in a district with a suburban rather than an urban feeling. Representative Conti responded to questions from Representative Balmer.

**07:35 PM** -- Scott Wills, representing the Elbert County Republicans, expressed the view that Elbert County should remain whole in Congressional District 6 with Douglas County. Mr. Wills responded to questions from Representative Balmer concerning traffic patterns in Elbert County. Representative Balmer also asked for Mr. Wills' reaction to the possibility of moving Elbert County to Congressional District 4.

**07:39 PM** -- Mikel Whitney, representing Citizens for CD 6, spoke about the possibility of moving Greenwood Village from Congressional District 6 to Congressional District 1. He also addressed central Jefferson County as an area where Congressional District 6 could lose population. Mr. Whitney then addressed testimony concerning the city of Aurora.

**07:41 PM** -- Laura Embleton, representing herself, expressed her concerns that rural Colorado would lose some of its representation. She stated that she envied the competitiveness of Congressional District 7. She suggested that the congressional districts could run vertically across the state, slicing the counties up, as a way to make districts more competitive. She asked the committee to address House Bill 11-1276. She asked if the bill would have an impact on the work of the committee. Representative Balmer responded to her remarks, stating that the members of the committee were not involved in the bill and would not be distracted by it. He said that he asked Speaker McNulty to put the bill on the back burner.

**07:44 PM** -- Gena Ozols, representing herself, referred to earlier testimony concerning competitiveness. She provided a definition of "competitive." She expressed her belief that a lack of competition leads to lazy competitors who are not responsive to all of the constituents in their districts.

**07:46 PM** -- Dianne Bailey, representing herself, asked for more information concerning the "fair process" of the committee.

**07:48 PM** -- Albert Hornung, representing himself as a resident of Highlands Ranch and Douglas County, expressed his thoughts on competitiveness. He said that competitiveness should start with Congressional District 1.

**07:49 PM**

Representative Balmer closed public testimony and thanked everyone at the meeting. Senator Heath and Representative Coram shared further remarks.

**07:51 PM**

The committee adjourned.

# Greenwood Village

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

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March 14, 2011

Honorable Members of the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting  
State Capitol Building, Room 029  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Good Evening:

I currently serve as Mayor of Greenwood Village. Our City Council decided that each member of the council should express their own preference as to redistricting status of the Sixth Congressional District. This evening you will hear from another member of our City Council.

We, the undersigned, strongly urge you to maintain the City of Greenwood Village in the Sixth Congressional District.

Keeping the City of Greenwood Village in the Sixth Congressional District will maintain a "community of interest," oriented to the south not the north, that has grown stronger decade after decade since the founding of the City of Greenwood Village 60 years ago.

A community of interest for the purpose of legislative redistricting is commonly defined as "a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation."

We believe that the City of Greenwood Village is a poster child for the aforementioned definition given the following examples:

Our intertwined activities with Arapahoe County include providing us social services, housing our prisoners and elections services. The vast majority of Arapahoe County citizens live in the Sixth Congressional District;

Greenwood Village shares a common connection with Centennial, Parker, Castle Pines, Lone Tree, Foxfield, we are serviced by South Metro Fire Rescue Special District which does not serve any area north of Arapahoe County;

Greenwood Village is an integral part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District which includes all of Arapahoe, Douglas, Lincoln and Elbert counties;

Our Arts and Humanities scholarship program is one example of our tremendous interaction with both the Cherry Creek Schools District and Littleton Public Schools, both of which are solely within Arapahoe County;

The annual Fitness Festival held in Greenwood Village supports the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation which serves several south side cities.



Honorable Members of the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting  
March 14, 2011  
Page 2

Several major transportation projects including the I-25 and Arapahoe Road lanes addition was a joint project between Greenwood Village, the City of Centennial and Arapahoe County. Greenwood Village also participated in funding the Parker Road Arapahoe Road flyover along with the City of Centennial and Arapahoe County.

Arapahoe Library District provides total library services to the City;

South Metro Drug Task force is a joint operation of south side jurisdictions to include Greenwood Village, Arapahoe County and Douglas County Sheriffs, Lone Tree law enforcement officials.

Southeast Business Partnership, an economic development engine, includes not only business leaders located in Greenwood Village but also both Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, Centennial, and Lone Tree.

Our trail system connects primarily with our neighbors to the south.

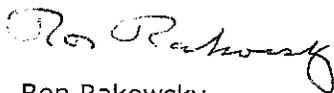
Greenwood Village hosts 41 special districts. Of these 41 districts, four are regional and only one of the remaining 37 operates a short distance north of our city boundary.

While our United States Senators represent all of Colorado, each of the seven members of Congress from Colorado advocate for the community of interest they serve.

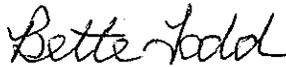
Ever since the Sixth Congressional District was created in 1983 the City of Greenwood Village has been an important part of it. To tear it from the fabric of the District would severely damage the community of interest presently found in the District. As previously noted, the significant gravitational pull of the City to the south as opposed to the north, has been continuous for over half a century.

Please keep us a part of the Sixth Congressional District.

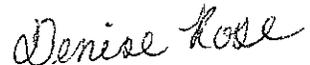
Respectfully,



Ron Rakowsky  
Mayor



Bette Todd  
Councilmember



Denise Rose  
Councilmember

**DAVID W. KERBER**  
**City of Greenwood Village Mayor Pro Tem**  
**District 2 Council Member**  
7101 E. Berry Avenue, Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
303-779-6764 (home) 303-961-9531 (cell)

14 March 2011

Colorado Congressional Redistricting Committee Members

I am the Mayor Pro Tem of Greenwood Village and a District 2 City Council Member. It is my purpose to urge you to keep Greenwood Village in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.<sup>1</sup>

HB 10-1408 requires the legislature to use such factors as the preservation of communities of interest including ethnic, cultural, economic, trade area, geographic and demographic factors. CRS 2-1-102(b)(II). It also requires the compactness of each congressional district and the minimization of disruption of prior district lines. CRS 2-1-102(b)(III) and (IV). Placing Greenwood Village in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District would be contrary to those goals.

**Geography:** While some view Greenwood Village as a City bounded north and south by Belleview and Orchard roads, in reality, portions of the City extend south to Arapahoe Road and beyond. Most importantly, a populous part of Greenwood Village includes what we refer to as the "Cooper annexation" which is a flagpole annexation on Peoria near Arapahoe Road. See Attached Map. To include Greenwood Village in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District would violate the principle of "compactness" by including an island of Greenwood Village citizens totally surrounded by other communities which are represented by another Congressional District (the 6<sup>th</sup>). The only way to remedy that situation would be to violate another principle of redistricting by adding citizens who geographically live around the flagpole annexation thereby splitting the City of Centennial and unincorporated Arapahoe County into two Congressional districts. Arapahoe County is a narrow County geographically. To include Greenwood Village in CD-1 would create a geographical dagger splitting the populous center of Arapahoe County.

Additionally, Greenwood Village has been represented in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District since its formation in 1983. Prior to that, it was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed in this document are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Greenwood Village.

A change to CD-1 would violate the principle of minimization of disruption of District lines. CRS 2-1-102(b)(IV).

**Community of Interest:** As stated above, a community of interest for the purpose of redistricting is commonly defined as a population which shares common social, cultural and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

Greenwood Village has never been associated with Denver in this context with its governmental and economic interests aligned with those communities to the south. The following are a few examples:

- One must first remember, historically, that the majority of Greenwood Village was formed through conflict with Denver. It was former Greenwood Village Mayor, Freda Poundstone, who led the initiative in 1974 commonly named after her (the Poundstone Amendment) to block Denver from annexing areas to the south of its current borders. This successful statewide effort created the ability of Greenwood Village to exist as a viable and independent community. While the passions of that battle may have subsided somewhat, the history and reasons for opposing the territorial designs of the City of Denver have not.
- Greenwood Village school children attend either Cherry Creek or Littleton Schools all associated with governmental agencies and districts almost exclusively in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and communities to the south. None of the Greenwood Village students are covered by the Denver Public School system.
- Greenwood Village is an active contributor and member to the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, a state created special district, which is responsible for water quality in the Cherry Creek Basin and Cherry Creek Reservoir. Other governmental agencies on the Authority to the south include Douglas County, Arapahoe County, The City of Castle Rock, Castle Pines North, Lone Tree, Centennial, and Foxfield. The area of interest is the Cherry Creek Basin which runs from the Douglas County/El Paso County line to the Cherry Creek Reservoir. It is more than symbolic that the dividing line between the Authority and Denver is the large dam south of I-225.
- Even though some areas of the City receive their water from Denver Water, non-Denver suburban residents such as Greenwood Village, Centennial and Littleton are treated as second class citizens paying higher rates for the same water service.
- Until just recently, Greenwood Village hosted the office of Arapahoe/Douglas Works, an entity working on the problems of jobless citizens in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.
- Greenwood Village is served by the South Metro Fire Rescue Special District which extends south and not over the Denver municipal line.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District covers counties to the south, Arapahoe, Douglas, Lincoln and Elbert counties not to the north.
- Arapahoe County, Centennial and Greenwood Village are working together by combining resources to solve traffic issues at the I-25 and Arapahoe Road

intersection seeking federal dollars that may very well conflict with Denver interests. Such an issue between different counties would cause a representative from Denver into a difficult, and I believe an unnecessary, conflict of interest. Greenwood Village's commitment to resolve traffic issues to the south is evidenced by its providing financial support for the Arapahoe Road and Parker interchange despite its not being within Greenwood Village's borders.

- Greenwood Village is a member of and participant in the South Metro Chamber of Commerce not the Denver Chamber of Commerce.
- Even Tri-County Health, the largest local health department in Colorado whose offices are located in Greenwood Village, covers the counties of Arapahoe, Douglas and Adams Counties, but not Denver.
- Children's soccer, baseball and basketball leagues are organized within Arapahoe County on Greenwood Village and Arapahoe County fields. They are not integrated with Denver.
- Neighborhoods in Greenwood Village are not physically or economically integrated with Denver neighborhoods.

While some have argued a common interest because of the DTC, this is not accurate. The Greenwood Village DTC and adjacent commercial areas to the south in Greenwood Village are competitors with downtown Denver for office tenants not allies. Much of the commercial area that we see in Greenwood Village and communities to the South has no connection to the original DTC development or ownership. Zoning for the Greenwood Village DTC and commercial areas to the south are governed by Greenwood Village municipal requirements, not those of Denver.

The laws, schools, transportation, water and intergovernmental relationships have historically been and will continue to be to the south in Congressional District 6 not Congressional District 1. While nothing that I say is to denigrate the governments and special districts which serve or those citizens who live in CD-1, there just is no community of interest between Greenwood Village and those to the north.



David W. Kerber

# CITY OF GREENWOOD VILLAGE

