

## Platte to Park Hill Resolution

(Adopted by the Denver Democrat's Executive Committee April 18, 2017)

WHEREAS public resources should be used wisely and for the greatest public good; and

WHEREAS the Denver City Council recently enacted a massive increase in Denver storm and sewer fees;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS the City and County of Denver is planning to spend nearly three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000.00) on the "Platte to Park Hill" stormwater management project ("P2PH");<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS the P2PH project is principally driven by the I-70 expansion proposal (which has been the subject to an ongoing civil rights challenge) through north Denver neighborhoods that are home to many working-class Coloradans of color, and

WHEREAS the P2PH project also resolves stormwater issues for other projects without having them pay their fair share of the project including: (1) the redevelopment of the National Western (which was sold as not requiring any new "taxes") and (2) planned private development in RiNo (where developers would otherwise have to pay for their own stormwater mitigation); and

WHEREAS both the storm/sewer fee increase and the P2PH project were opposed in a resolution passed by Denver Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation ("INC");<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS City Park and its Golf Course are entitled to certain protections under common law and under the Denver Charter as designated parkland, and their use is restricted pursuant to the Denver Zoning Code for park purposes; and

WHEREAS massive construction in and the closure of the City Park Golf Course is contemplated by the P2PH project; and

WHEREAS City Park is within the boundaries of House District 8 and the House District 8 Democrats—at their well-attended February 18, 2017, monthly meeting—overwhelmingly voted in favor of advancing a resolution to the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Denver condemning the planned construction of P2PH; and

WHEREAS the use of public funds is more appropriate to address the one-and-a-half billion dollars (\$1,500,000,000.00) of storm drainage infrastructure needs identified in Denver's 2014 Storm Drainage Master Plan (that did not include the recently-created P2PH); and

WHEREAS such use of funds would be consistent with Denver's obligation to use public monies wisely and for the greatest public good;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that:

1. The Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Denver Opposes the P2PH project;
2. Urges public servants to not fund the P2PH project and instead fund long-identified other drainage projects;
3. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the members of Denver's City Council and Denver's state legislators.

<sup>1</sup> See Carlos Illescas, "Massive storm and sewer fees hike approved by Denver council," The Denver Post, June 14, 2016 (available at <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/06/14/massive-storm-and-sewer-fees-hike-approved-by-denver-council/>).

<sup>2</sup> See Jon Murray, "Flood-control project lands in City Park as cost estimates jump \$100M," The Denver Post, April 6, 2016 (available at <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/04/06/flood-control-project-lands-in-city-park-as-cost-estimates-jump-100m/>).

<sup>3</sup> See INC Resolution re: Proposed Ordinance CB16-0306, available at [http://www.denverinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Storm-Drainage-Fees-resolution-INC\\_06\\_11\\_2016.pdf](http://www.denverinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Storm-Drainage-Fees-resolution-INC_06_11_2016.pdf)