



## 2017 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET



### **BENJAMIN HUSEMAN**

Candidate for City Council At-Large

**Fast Facts:**

Age: 41

Occupation: Project Manager

Years lived in Commerce City: 3.5

Years lived in Colorado: 4

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### **Questions & Answers**

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

I enlisted in the military when I was 17 years old and spent 20 years in the United States Air Force, retiring from Buckley AFB, in February of 2014. As my retirement got closer, my wife and I decided to settle down in Commerce City. Throughout my entire career I have been dedicated to helping my community. At my first duty station in Minot, North Dakota, I worked with a group to restore a woman's shelter that housed abused women. In Las Vegas I worked with a program called Christmas in April where we performed repairs on houses where the owners couldn't afford to do so themselves. In Korea, Honduras, and Missouri I was involved with Habitat for Humanity construction projects, and in Missouri I even had the opportunity be the president of our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate. After the 2011 tornado that ripped through Joplin, Missouri, I led a group of Airmen to go build houses in the hardest hit area of the city with Habit for Humanity. Seeing the gratitude of those who were in need of help was very rewarding. All of these volunteer activities gave me a great appreciation for being active in the community and making a difference for my fellow citizens. Although I retired in 2014 and started my life over at the age of 38, I never lost the desire to help others and make a difference. Since moving to Commerce City I have volunteered to Co-chair the Citizen's Public Safety Advisory Board, be the vice president of my metro district, and the president of my HOA. I volunteer for these positions because I want this to be the best and safest city for me to raise my daughter in. Making a difference and improving the lives of my family and yours is why I am running for city council.



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## Questions & Answers

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

1. The heritage and diversity that Commerce City have provide an opportunity that many cities are unable to capitalize on. Because of our diversity in both people and industry, we have the ability to establish a thriving city that is both safe and prosperous for all of us. The industries that have settled in Commerce City are a source of revenue and jobs for our population. This provides the opportunity for a robust economy and quality of living that many communities cannot provide.

2. The vast area for growth represents a big opportunity for the city. With land north of DIA, the Tower Road corridor, and revitalization of the Derby District, Commerce City has the ability to attract some of the best companies and business partners. This will help to increase revenue for the city, as well as provide more jobs for the residents.

3. Because of the proximity to DIA and a robust transportation network with trains, freeways, and arterial streets, the potential for Commerce City to grow is uninhibited. Very few cities of Commerce City's size can claim to have this diverse of a transportation network and this is a huge opportunity for Commerce City moving in to the next decade.

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

1. The biggest challenge is the lack of retail and dining establishments. With only one big box store, few chain restaurants (other than fast food), millions of dollars in tax revenue is pouring out of Commerce City and in to our neighboring communities. We need a business climate that encourages these types of businesses to operate within Commerce City.

2. Education is a huge challenge. With multiple school districts and the high cost of living in the Denver Metro Area, ensuring a quality education with teachers that can afford to live in our community is becoming increasingly difficult. Additionally, the option for higher education does not exist within Commerce City, requiring residents to travel to our neighboring communities to seek the education they desire and deserve. A big focus of our city leadership needs to be on how we can maximize education opportunities for all ages.

3. The high cost of housing, to include high property taxes in much of the city is preventing young families from being able to settle in our community. We must find ways to address these costs and ensure that people of all ages have the opportunity to living in a thriving community.



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### Questions & Answers

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

It is a community that has education opportunities at all levels, retail and dining options, an affordable housing market, abundant job opportunities and a thriving workforce capable of filling those jobs, where people are proud to call it their home, and plan on staying for generations to come.

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

Without a doubt, the people. Everyday I see people going out of their way to help their neighbors. I want to continue in that practice by helping the residents of this city achieve their hopes and dreams by making a difference in their lives and fulfilling the promise of Commerce City as a Quality Community for a Lifetime.