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Arapahoe County response to City of Centennial news release

Centennial has not reached agreement with Arapahoe County for future Public Works, Sheriff services

LITTLETON, CO --- Contrary to the information contained in a City of Centennial news release titled *City of Centennial Extends Agreement With Sheriff Robinson* issued earlier today, the City does not have any agreement with the Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson or the Board of County Commissioners for the future provision of Sheriff services. The press release issued by the City earlier today is false.

Arapahoe County made a written offer to the City more than two months ago concerning future provision of both Sheriff and Public Works services, but the City has not provided any official response. No further negotiations have been scheduled concerning the countless specific details that would be needed to complete a contract.

The City's press release dated September 5, 2007 is inaccurate in other respects.

First, the Arapahoe County Sheriff is not the contracting entity for Arapahoe County and cannot bind the County to an agreement with the City. Further, the Arapahoe County Sheriff did not know that the release was being issued, and did not authorize the use of a quote for the release, although the quote is consistent with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's philosophy of service to the community.

Second, although the City and the County had discussions during 2006 concerning a one-year extension of the last intergovernmental agreement between the City and the County (the previous three-year contract expired at the end of 2006), the City failed to enter into any written agreement with the County at the end of 2006 for even a one-year extension of services.

County Commissioners publicly authorized a written one-year extension, but the City failed to sign or authorize that document. To ensure the citizens of Centennial were not left without Sheriff and Public Works services for 2007, Arapahoe County has acted in good faith and continued to provide those services through 2007, without a written contract detailing the terms of those services. The County is seeking a new contract with the City, and not an extension of an expired contract.

In an Aug. 29, 2007 letter sent to members of the Centennial City Council and Mayor, Arapahoe County proposed a long-term agreement with the City for both Public Works and Sheriff services. The City has not responded to the County on that key contract provision.

Arapahoe County has provided exceptional service and efficient use of public funds to the City of Centennial and Arapahoe County residents. Both entities have benefited from the economies of scale this partnership has afforded. The County welcomes the opportunity to reach an acceptable contract with the City for future Sheriff and Public Works services.

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