

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor



City and County of Denver

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Commissioner Teal:

I've been informed of your public pronouncements in media reports – and not through any form of communication with myself or members of my administration – that it is the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners' desire to seize Daniels Park following Denver's passage of additional gun violence prevention measures for city assets – including in our park properties.

Daniels Park is a treasured piece of Denver's Mountain Parks system – a collection of open spaces that our city has been the stewards of for more than a century. It is home to one of Denver's bison herds – a rare amenity that no other city can claim to also have – and supports our historic and continued partnership and collaboration with the TallBull Memorial Council. It is a point of pride for our community that we're able to maintain and operate these open spaces for everyone in Denver, the region and across the state to access and enjoy – and to access and enjoy safely.

I'm always open to discuss regional concerns with our neighboring municipalities and county officials, particularly when done in good faith and for the betterment of our broader community. However, I want to be very clear: I have no interest in entertaining any discussions regarding a transfer of ownership of one of our parks for any reason, nor do I have any interest in perpetuating a flawed notion that there is any merit to the idea that Douglas County can exercise eminent domain authority to acquire a park owned by the people of Denver and protected by our Charter because you disagree with an ordinance passed by the Denver City Council and signed into law to promote public safety.

It would be a disservice to the communities we represent to create the false impression that the status of Daniels Park is a matter up for discussion. It is not. I will not agree to that, nor will I undermine the will of our City Council with respect to the ordinance proposed by my administration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hancock", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael B. Hancock
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cc: Commissioner Abe Laydon
Commissioner Lora Thomas