



Office of the County Manager

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Doug DeBord
DATE: February 2, 2012
ITEM: **Chamber Funding**

At the staff meeting on January 31, 2012, Commissioners requested information regarding current County funding levels of local chambers.

Douglas County supports each of the following chambers annually with \$1,000: Parker, Castle Rock, Castle Pines, Highlands Ranch (for 5+ years) and to Lone Tree and Larkspur (for 3+ years, since they have been in existence). This funding purchases an annual chamber membership; therefore the money goes into their general fund and is not allocated to specific projects.

We also fund CREDCO at \$20,000 and SEBP at \$50,000 with a pending request from NWDC for \$20,000.

Douglas County also supports the South Metro Chamber annually with \$1,000 (since 2007), specifically to be a member of the Economic Development Group (EDG). Additional annual funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the South Metro Chamber Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has been provided for 6+ years.

The purpose of the **South Metro Chamber EDG** is "business and community leaders working together to enhance the economic climate of South Metro Denver....the group is dedicated to sharing information and taking action on initiatives that most directly affect the economic infrastructure in our community." The EDG offers demographic information, business listings, information on legislative efforts, relocation assistance, community profiles and other business-related information. Their website is <http://bestchamber.com/groups-committees/economic-development-group.html>

The **South Metro Chamber Small Business Development Center** operated by the Chamber. The SBDC "...offers assistance and support to entrepreneurs in Arapahoe, Douglas, and south Jefferson counties. We work with small business owners at all stages of business, whether they have an idea and are considering starting a business, have just started their business, or have been

operating for an extended period of time. Our center provides a number of services and resources to help entrepreneurs start and run their company, including:

- FREE and confidential, one-on-one consulting with experienced small business counselors
- Free or low-cost workshops covering a variety of small business topics
- Extended engagement programs to assist existing businesses with business and strategic planning"

The SBDC website is <http://www.smallbusinessdenver.com>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS SERVING DOUGLAS COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE AREA	MISSION
Castle Pines Economic Development Council	City of Castle Pines and commercial area at Happy Canyon Rd. and Hwy. 85	The Castle Pines City Council has approved support of the Economic Development Council. The City-sponsored Council will work to support and develop economic development in Castle Pines and assist with economic issues and plans that impact the City. The CP EDC plans to collaborate with other local entities that focus on business issues, including the Douglas County Partnership of Governments EDC, Castle Pines Chamber, and South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce.
Castle Rock Economic Development Council	Town of Castle Rock and surrounding areas, including Franktown, Sedalia and Larkspur	The Castle Rock EDC is a nonprofit organization that provides professional and comprehensive services to firms relocating or expanding in Castle Rock, Colorado. With our complete database of available commercial real estate, area demographics and business resources we offer the information and support to help your venture get started or grow in Castle Rock.
City of Lone Tree	City of Lone Tree	The City of Lone Tree is committed to exceptional quality development within its boundaries. Lone Tree has an efficient, highly skilled Community Development Department and committed elected officials who can usually guarantee permitting of a new development, from application to approval, in 90 days or less. A single point-of-contact can be arranged to handle all applications and requests.
Northwest Douglas County Economic Development Corporation Town of Parker	Roxborough, Sterling Ranch, Santa Fe Corridor and western Highlands Ranch Town of Parker	The Northwest Douglas County Economic Development Corporation is a collaboration between the private sector and Douglas County to support the development of new jobs, private investment and wealth generation in Northwest Douglas County. The Town of Parker provides full-service economic development assistance to meet the needs of existing, expanding and relocating businesses and development. Services include providing demographic information, site and building inventory, community profile and business assistance information necessary to make a site or building location decision. This department also serves as the in-house advocate for businesses seeking to expand or relocate. The Department also oversees the Town Assistance Program, the Small Business Scholarship Program and the Parker Improvement Program.

Southeast Business Partnership	Douglas, Arapahoe and parts of Denver counties, with emphasis on SPIMD area	Our mission is to provide visionary economic development leadership, civic involvement and positive business advocacy in a non-partisan and collaborative manner to continuously improve the region's economy and high quality living standard. We achieve our mission through local, regional and global business retention, expansion and attraction strategies; investment in modern transportation and other infrastructures; and promotion of public-private partnerships and public policy advocacy.
South Metro Denver Economic Development Group	Most of Arapahoe County and northern tier of Douglas County, including Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, Inverness and Meridian	The Economic Development Group (EDG) is a separately funded regional organization of dedicated business and community leaders working together to enhance the economic climate of South Metro Denver. As a separate group, it has its own volunteer base, board of directors and a dedicated staff. All of the Group's investors are members of the Chamber.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE SERVING DOUGLAS COUNTY

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE AREA	MISSION
Castle Pines Chamber of Commerce	City of Castle Pines, commercial area at Happy Canyon Rd. and Hwy. 85, portions of Castle Rock	<p>The mission of Castle Pines Chamber of Commerce is to promote a vibrant business community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support growth and professional development of our members • Connect members and community • Provide resources and promote cooperation between members • Promote uniqueness of our business community
Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce	Town of Castle Rock and surrounding areas, including Franktown, Sedalia, Larkspur and portions of Castle Pines	<p>The Purpose of the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promote member businesses • Be a "voice" to government • Foster a livable community with positive growth

Highlands Ranch Chamber of Commerce	Highlands Ranch, portions of Lone Tree	The Highlands Ranch Chamber offers businesses opportunities to succeed and grow in Douglas County, we provide networking opportunities, legislative updates and community involvement.
Larkspur Chamber of Commerce	Larkspur area	Our goal is to promote the business environment in Larkspur for both new and existing businesses through proactive involvement with other communities, other chambers and economic development groups and with local government representatives. A healthy business environment supports a pleasant and enjoyable lifestyle for all of our local residents!
Lone Tree Chamber of Commerce	City of Lone Tree, portions of Highlands Ranch, Meridian, Inverness	Our mission is to be the leading voice of the business community, to foster economic growth, and to advance the commercial, industrial and civic well being of the city of Lone Tree and the surrounding community.
Parker Chamber of Commerce	Town of Parker and surrounding areas, including Franktown and the Hwy. 83 corridor	We exist to support and promote the success of our members through networking, professional development, advocacy, leadership and community development.
South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce	Most of Arapahoe County and northern tier of Douglas County, including Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, Inverness and Meridian	The Chamber's Board has adopted a three-pronged position in guiding the direction of Chamber activities - creating opportunities for business connections, forming public policy conducive to business growth and giving back to the communities we serve.