

BAKER

NEIGHBORHOOD

BAKER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Denver District 9 Legacy Project
Judy H. Montero | 2003 - 2015



A LETTER FROM:

**COUNCILWOMAN
JUDY H. MONTERO**

DENVER
NEIGHBORHOOD
SPOTLIGHT

When I was elected in 2003 I gathered residents from throughout District 9 in Denver and asked them what they wanted and needed for their neighborhoods.

The “Mi Casa Es Su Casa” caucus (my house is your house) resulted in hundreds of yellow sticky notes pasted on the large district map.

I consider District 9 the heart of the city, and it’s been my home for most of my life. The district’s arteries – the neighborhoods – not only have vast cultural diversity but vast economic diversity.

District 9 is home to residents who live in high-end lofts, public housing and homeless shelters.

I always viewed diversity as a source of pride that should be embraced and maintained. People of all cultural and economic means should be able to live together in harmony.

With that goal in mind, I got to work on the largest “to-do” list of my political career that spanned three terms. This newsletter details the projects that were checked off that list during my 12 years in office. It not only holds me accountable to the Baker residents but includes the work that still needs to be accomplished by my successors.



2014 | Baker residents Richard Parker (L) and Mathew Wasserburger (R) welcome visitors to the historic district during their annual ice cream social.

QUICK FACTS:

- Councilwoman Montero had a 98 percent attendance record during her 12-year term. She attended 573 Monday night Council meetings out of 586 total meetings.

- Councilwoman Montero chaired three different Council Committees during her 12-year term: Transit-Oriented Planning 2004-2005, FasTracks 2005-2010, and the National Western Stock Show 2011-2014.

- Councilwoman Judy Montero was elected Denver City Council President Pro-Tem on July 21, 2014.

THE POWER OF MENTORS

The hundreds of sticky notes felt overwhelming at first but I had some amazing mentors who prepared me to the meet the challenge. I was privileged to know Sal Carpio, the district's first Latino councilman who served from 1975 to 1987. I met Sal's aide, Debbie Ortega, and helped her get elected in 1987. Debbie served the district until 2003 and I worked as her aide until 1997.

Mayor Wellington Webb appointed me in 1997 as the Public Information Officer for the Parks and Recreation Department and to serve as a council liaison.

My previous work with the Chicano Education Project and Denver Employment Training Organization in the 1970s and 1980s allowed me to meet future Mayor Federico Pena and political activists Paul Sandoval and Rich Castro.

These strong individuals taught me to never back down and to seek ways to find solutions. When I was told a problem couldn't be resolved, I remembered those lessons from my mentors and didn't accept no for an answer.

In 2012, I fought a good fight to keep the



40 years of elected Latino leadership in District 9 | L to R: Judy Montero (2003-2015), Sal Carpio (1975-1987) and Debbie Ortega (1987-2003).

character of District 9 in tact when the city faced redistricting. Every 10 years, the city must redraw its district boundaries based on the U.S. Census data. The goal is to have approximately 54,560 residents in each of the city's 11 districts.

A GOOD FIGHT

The council districts needed to be redrawn because the neighborhoods in the far northeast corner of the city grew more than other parts of the city. My argument was that combining neighborhoods with other districts would impact historic representation and for the first time in 40 years there would not be a Latino representative for District 9 – despite the large Latino population.

We debated the issue and had public meetings but the majority of the council voted for new boundaries. That means the Baker neighborhood will be rolled into District 7 after the May 2015 municipal election.

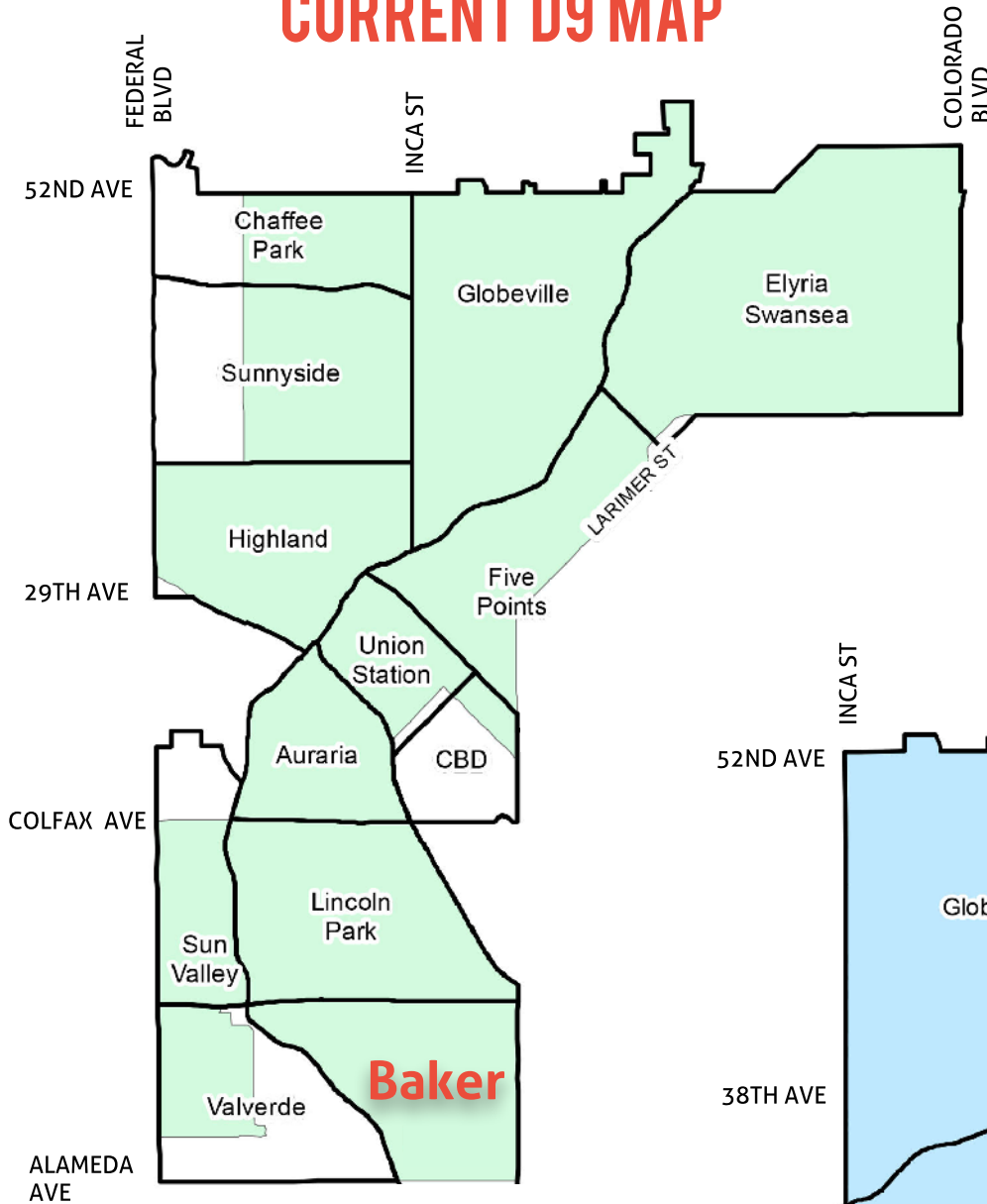
No matter who is elected on the council, the best advocates for Baker are the neighbors. I trust the strong Baker Historic Neighborhood Association will continue to keep watch and protect the interests of this unique area of Denver.



2003 | L to R: Longtime Baker residents Pete Candelaria and Michael Thornton with Councilwoman Montero at a neighborhood meeting.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 9 MAPS

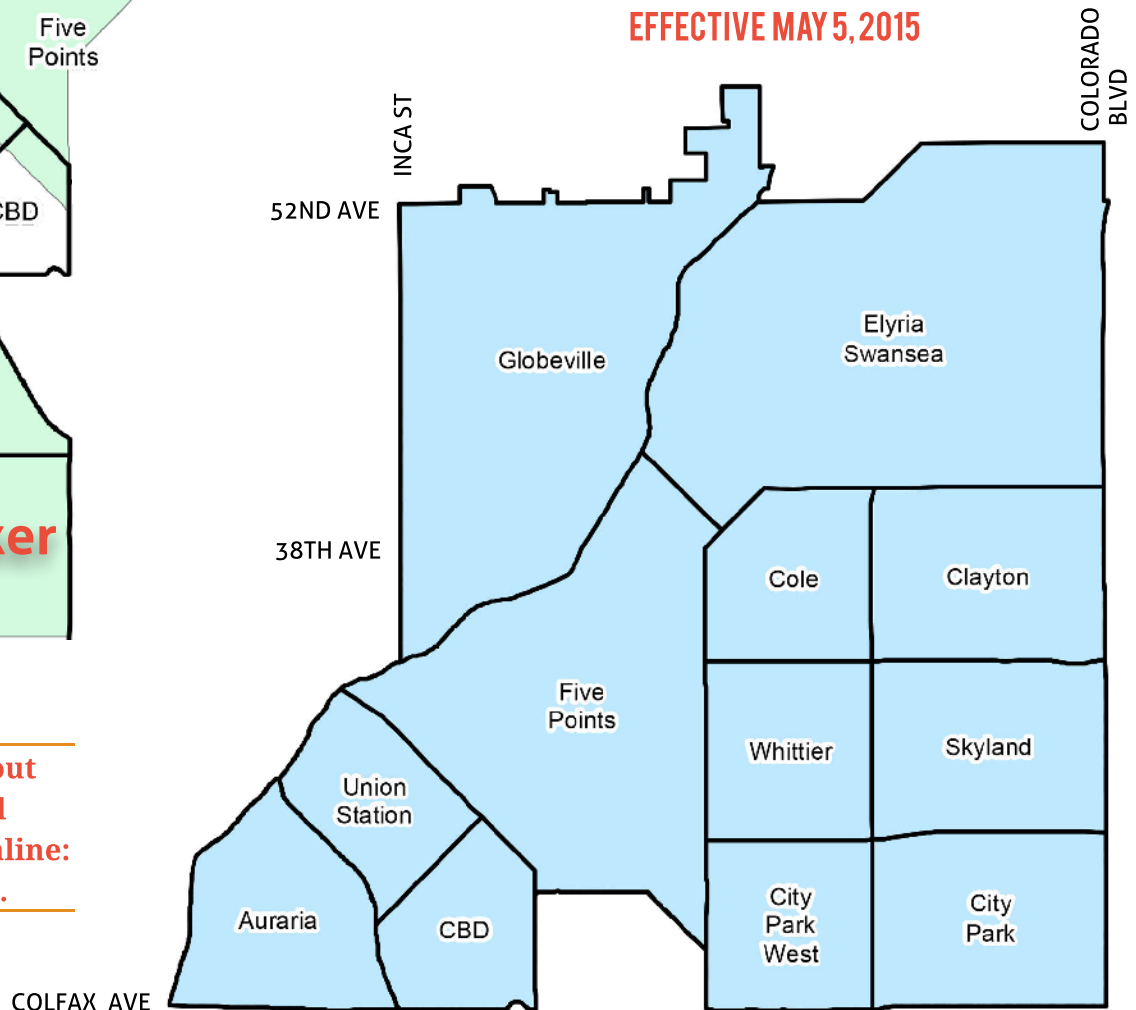
CURRENT D9 MAP



Every 10 years, the city must redraw its district boundaries based on the U.S. Census data. The goal is to have approximately 54,560 residents in each of the city's 11 districts.

FUTURE D9 MAP

EFFECTIVE MAY 5, 2015



For more information about redistricting, please call 720-913-VOTE (8683) or go online: denvergov.org/elections.

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

MAY 5

Municipal General Election Day

-Polls open at 7 a.m., close at 7 p.m.

24-Hour Ballot Drop Boxes close at 7 p.m.

JULY 20

Inaugural Swearing in Ceremony of Denver Elected Officials

Mayor, City councilmembers, Clerk & Recorder and Auditor

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2003-2015

• BAKER/BROADWAY PARKING STUDY AND AREA PLAN •

Due to the high amount of complaints and outdated parking regulations in the Baker/Broadway area I asked Public Works to do a parking study of the neighborhood and start recommendations to address the parking issues. Working together with Public Works Parking Planning, the Baker Historic Neighborhood Association and area merchants we examined different options and created an innovative area parking plan that is the first of its kind in the city. After a year of collecting feedback and adjusting the plan, it will be implemented in summer 2015.

• GRAFFITI REMOVAL •

Worked with city departments to respond quickly to removal of graffiti in residential and business areas.

• FLORES PARK •

We worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to replace the playground in Flores Park. Other improvements at the park included new benches and picnic tables.

• BAKER AREA STREET PAVING •

We worked with the Public Works Department to make sure Baker's street paving needs were addressed, including the busy arterial Broadway.



Courtesy: Baker Historic Neighborhood Association

2012 | Senior Burritos Mural by Bimmer Torres sponsored by Councilwoman Montero through Urban Arts Fund.



LEFT: 2003 | Elbra Wedgeworth (L) and Judy (R) at her victory party. The two have been colleagues for 20 years.
RIGHT: 2003 | Councilwoman Montero (L) and Pam Brown (R) attend a meeting in Baker.



"Councilwoman Montero's deep roots in the Denver community fill our hearts so big with pride, and we are all taller in spirit and finer in action because of her commitment to District 9, the city of Denver and state of Colorado."

- Elbra Wedgeworth

Former Denver Councilwoman &
President of the Denver Union Station Project Authority Board of Directors

ONGOING & FUTURE PROJECTS

• IMPLEMENT THE PARKING PLAN •

Support neighborhood and merchants to develop and examine best options for parking throughout the neighborhood, including Broadway.

• ALAMEDA LIGHT RAIL STATION •

Monitor progress of development and impacts on area parking, traffic and the area's economy.

• NEIGHBORHOOD INSPECTIONS, LIGHTING, AND SAFETY •

Ensure residents feel safe and secure with adequate lighting, zoning inspections and police enforcement.

• HIGH DEMAND FOR DENVER URBAN RENEWAL EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR FUNDS •

Provide grants for low-income residents to make needed repairs.

• SUPPORT OF BROADWAY MERCHANTS/ECONOMIC GROWTH ALONG BROADWAY •

Continue to support merchants along the arterial.



2013 | D9 staff attending Mayor Michael Hancock's State of the City. L to R: Councilwoman Montero along with her council aides Amanda Sandoval, Benjamin Roldan and Nola Miguel.

RECOLLECTION

"Judy and her staff have been wonderful to work with. They are always responsive and sensitive to neighborhood concerns."

- **Luchia Brown**
President of the
Baker Historic Neighborhood Association



2010 NEWSED Community Development Corporation
& Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment Corporation
Celebrate Culture Civil Rights Award

2010 Girl Scouts of Colorado
Women of Distinction Award

2010 Spirit of Tlatelolco
Lifetime Achievement Award

2012 University of Denver
Robert L. Hawkins Social Work Achievement Award

2013 Denver Public Library
Cesar Chavez Leadership Hall Of Fame Award

2013 Youth on Record Community Rock Star
Annual Real Rock Stars Awards Gala

2014 Hispanic Contractors of Colorado
Public Achievement Award

CITY COUNCIL

City and County of Denver



Councilwoman Judy H. Montero
Denver City Council President Pro-Tem

Spring 2015

Hello District 9 Resident,

Driven by my desire to give back to our community, I have worked compassionately, diligently and methodically for my constituents as your elected City Council representative for District 9 since 2003. As a proud Latina, I have stood by some of the most vulnerable communities in Denver with the core values of social equity, cultural relevancy and environmental justice.

Working side by side with other City Council representatives and four Mayoral administrations (Hancock, Vidal, Hickenlooper and Webb), I have supported multi-use neighborhoods home to residents with diverse economic backgrounds. I embraced new transit-oriented development to better link the neighborhoods and cultivated long-lasting and crucial public/private partnerships.

It has been my honor to serve you these last 12 years. As I approach my term ending on July 20, 2015, I wanted to document some of the completed projects for your neighborhood and the work that still needs to be done when I am no longer your representative.

I want to thank you not only for our journey together, but also for taking time to read your neighborhood newsletter.

My staff and I celebrate the opportunity of being part of this adventure. We take pride that our hard work has improved our neighborhoods and we care deeply to leave a blueprint for our successors.

Thank you for the honor of electing me for three terms and be assured I will be working hard for you through July 20.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy H. Montero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councilwoman Judy H. Montero, District 9
Denver City Council President Pro-Tem