

Behind The City Scene



**Charles "Charlie"
Richardson
Council Member
Ward IV**

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The 2019 session of the Colorado General Assembly will start on January 4th. It is a time for some to be elated and for some to be petrified. For most it will be out of sight out of mind.

The House, Senate and Governorship will be Democratic controlled. Why as an Aurora Council Member am I talking about the Legislature?

Regardless of the political affiliations of these State bodies and offices there is always tension between the State and Home Rule cities. Colorado's history of strong home rule powers can and does conflict with the exercise of state powers. A home rule city with a City Charter such as Aurora derives its powers from the Colorado Constitution just as the state does. The conflict can occur when the Legislature declares something of "Statewide interest" for the purpose of negating the ability of a home city to exercise and govern a subject. There are many Colorado Supreme Court opinions over the years which deal with this conflict.

Last year I was Chair of the Public Safety Council Committee. In 2019 I will be Chair of the Federal, State and Intergovernmental Affairs Council Committee. While the General Assembly is in session our Committee will meet every 2 weeks to review new Bills for a determination of their impact upon the City. The Committee works hand in hand with the lobbying firm selected by City Council. Because pending legislation can and does evolve quickly especially near the end of the session the Committee must sometimes make fast decisions on what positions to take. This authority does not exist for any other City Committee. Of course the entire City Council can review and reverse the Committee's position. I look forward to a very active Session in 2019.

If anyone has any questions regarding State legislation and its impacts on Aurora please do not hesitate to contact me.

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2018 Ward IV Town Meetings – Held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 pm location TBD.