
Community Meeting Notes

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

(These notes were generated by AI from a recording of the meeting and checked by a fallible human for accuracy. If you find an error, please notify us at acteam@alamedaconnects.org)

Public Safety Report – Quinn Pratt-Cordova

- PD News (General): The third drone was installed on top of the PD, improving coverage, especially on the south side of the city.
- Drones: are showing up on scenes before patrol officers, providing real-time information and clearing calls for service daily. The hope is to have six drones across the city.
- Crime Trends - Car Theft: Cautioned residents about leaving cars running ("puffing") in the morning to warm up, as thieves look for the smoke. Vehicles without automatic lock/start are technically illegal to leave running unattended.
- Crime Trends - Jugging: Warned about a new trend where thieves watch people at ATMs (including Brinks armed cars) and wait for them to walk away with money before attempting a robbery. Advised using indoor ATMs and being watchful of surroundings.
- Community Action Team (CAT) / Crisis Response: Two new agents are joining the CAT team. They will primarily work with the Crisis Response Team and mental health co-responders.
- Mental Health Co-Responders: Hiring three additional co-responders, bringing the total to five licensed mental health clinicians, plus three agents total (two new, one existing). This will increase service for mental health case management.
- Motel Inspection Program: The program is going well. The number of inspections has decreased significantly (first one this year, compared to 4-6 previously), indicating improved business practices at the motels. The current inspection is for a motel with new ownership. Calls for service are trending downwards at motels.
- Timeline for New Mental Health Responders: Stated the hiring timeline is "Soon," with interviews lined up.

Mayor's City of Lakewood Report (Mayor Wendy Strom)

- Election Results (Day after election):
 - Ward 1: Congratulations to new Counselor Liz Black (also Executive Director of 40West). Only new councilmember starting this cycle.
 - Ward 3: Congratulations to Counselor Ken Cruz (re-elected).
 - Ward 4: Congratulations to Counselor Bill Furman (re-elected).
 - Ward 5: Congratulations to Counselor Paula Nystrom (re-elected).
- Budget: The budget is finished. No government closure or layoffs. Projects will see some elongation, but no service cuts. Praised Lakewood's money management.
- CAT Team/Crisis Support: Noted that the growth of the CAT team is a direct response to council prioritizing this work over the last couple of years.



Alameda Corridor Business Improvement District

- **Zoning Process:** The new zoning code did pass, but petitions are being circulated. It is possible this will come back as a ballot election in the mail in the next 2-3 months. Residents should pay attention and reach out with questions.
- **Emory School/Action Center:**
 - Voted to purchase the Emory School property from Jeffco Schools.
 - Voted to sell the school building to the Action Center, while keeping the surrounding land. The building will become a family resource hub.
 - Voted to purchase the property where the Action Center is currently located. The Action Center will rent it back for a couple of years for renovations at Emory.
 - The intention for the former Action Center property is to create the next step in the housing spectrum, moving from the Navigation Center (immediate, 103 people) to a form of Permanent Supportive Housing (affordable component/next step to traditional housing). This will be a long process.

Jeffco Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Leslie Dahlkemper)

- **Emory/Action Center:** Gave a huge shout-out to Mayor Strom and the Lakewood City Council for the transformational work on Emory and the Action Center.
- **SNAP Benefits (Federal Impact):**
 - Frozen benefits are affecting 38,000 Jeffco residents (13,000 children).
 - Monthly, \$7.6 million in SNAP benefits are distributed to vulnerable families.
 - The county approved \$250,000 in emergency funding to go directly to food banks, with the Action Center serving as a distribution hub.
 - Call to Action: Monetary donations are incredibly helpful. Food drives are ongoing.
 - Resource: The federal impact and drive locations are listed on Jeffco.us (scroll down to "Federal Impact" tab, updated daily).
 - Judges recently ruled against the administration's push to freeze SNAP, which will release about \$6 billion in funding, with some eventually coming to Colorado.
- **Head Start:** Federal funding for Head Start is being watched closely, as over 100 programs in the U.S. are in danger of closing. Jeffco runs programs in Lakewood (in collaboration with the city), Arvada, and Wheat Ridge.
- **Early Childhood Council:** Jeffco, Clear Creek, and Gilpin counties are seeking applicants. The deadline is the end of today.
- **Crime:** The Jeffco Sheriff's (Reggie Marinelli) report showed that crime continues to decrease across the county.
- **Wildland Fire Program:** Continuing to build out the new program, noting that Jeffco's wildfire risk is about 9% higher than other counties.
- **Community Survey:** Invited participation in the Jefferson County 2025 Community Survey (10 minutes, anonymous). Information is on the Jefferson County Government Facebook page.

West Metro Fire Rescue Report (Fire Chief Jeremy Metz)

- **Introduction:** Introduced himself as the new Fire Chief, starting on August 1st. Noted 28 years with West Metro.
- **Call Volume:** Seen an almost 20% increase in calls for service in the last six years due to population density.
- **Future Stations:** A third-party study recommends adding 2-3 fire stations over the next 10-15 years.



Alameda Corridor Business Improvement District

- Secured property on Wadsworth for one station (will make 18 total). Proposed construction for this station is in the budget.
- Financial Sustainability: Changes in state legislation have grossly eroded special districts' ability to collect property taxes (funding has gone down as home values have gone up). Seeking long-term sustainability measures over the next six months.
- Capital Cost Increases:
 - A standard fire engine cost \$619,000 in 2019, now costs \$1.2 million (nearly double).
 - Cardiac monitors have gone from about \$25,000 to almost \$60,000.
- Federal Funding Concerns: Noted reliance on federal contracts (Federal Center, NREL) and concerns about reductions in Medicaid/Medicare funding recovery, and the future of FEMA grants (Assistance to Firefighters, Staffing Support).
- US&R Team: West Metro hosts one of the 28 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces (federally funded, no local tax money). The continued federal funding of this program is a big question.
- Wildland Fire: Tom Willis is the Wildland Fire Mitigation Specialist, an important resource for the community.

Deane Elementary/School Connect (Interim Principal Jim McKenny)

- District Initiative: "School Connect" is a district initiative, based on an Arizona model, to shift partnerships from transactional (bagels and backpacks) to relational. It focuses on connecting faith, business, and civic partners to schools.
- Deane Elementary: A Title One school with high free/reduced lunch, significant needs (SSN) program, and high multilingual/BIPOC population (80% Hispanic, 30% multilingual learners).
- Achievement Data: The school is currently a "performance school" because it is *growing*, but bottom-line achievement data shows the majority of kids are not at grade level (estimated 13 years away at current pace).
- Focus Areas for Partnership: Staff Wellness, Student Belonging, and Family Engagement.
 - Staff Wellness involves lightening their load, providing gifts, and walking alongside them (suggested commitment: 5 hours/month and \$250/year per partner).
- Cafes (Partner Meetings): These are opportunities for the school and its "village" to meet.
 - Upcoming Cafe: Two more cafes are coming up (details not specified, but Rose Stein's is on Friday, November 14th at 9:00 AM).
- Jeffco Feeds Jeffco: Announced a food drive this Saturday, November 8th.

Lakewood Economic Development Report (Marcus Johnson)

- Staff News: Katie Faltys accepted a manager position for the Longmont Renewal area and is leaving this Friday. There is a going-away party at Ballmer Peak at 4:00 PM.
- Economic Stats (EDCC Conference):
 - Colorado state GDP growth is moderating (forecasted 1.5% growth rate).
 - Anticipated budget shortfall of almost \$700 million.
 - Good News: Almost an 8% increase in entrepreneur filings (business activity is up).
- Implications: Need to connect with and support local businesses more than ever.
- Housing/Office Market: Housing market is stabilizing. The office market is very soft.
- Non-Profit Brunch: Invited attendees to a non-profit brunch today at 12:00 PM.

Belmar Report (Joyce Rocha)

- Holiday Season
 - Belmar Tree Lighting: The next event is the Tree Lighting on Friday, November 21st. The Mayor and Tom Quinn will be special guests.
 - Ice Rink: The ice rink opens for the season that night (Friday, November 21st).
 - Wagon Rides: Holiday wagon rides will be every Friday through the holidays.
- New Businesses (Opening/Opened):
 - Spavia (Facial Massage) - Opened on Alaska Street a couple of weeks ago.
 - Lakewood Social House (Local tenant, collaboration with Councilperson Ken Cruz).
 - Badass Coffee - Opening sometime later this month.
 - KPOT (Korean BBQ) - Opening probably early next year.
 - Big interest in the former bowling space.

The Action Center Report (Substitute presenter for John Covert, didn't catch name)

- Emory Elementary: About 75% done with the capital campaign for the purchase of the school.
- Holiday Program: The holiday program has begun. The deadline to sponsor a family is December 3rd. Drop-off and pick-up will be at Emory Elementary.
- Construction: Construction starts tomorrow (sponsored by LBA and West Metro).
- SNAP/Food Needs: Seen a huge increase in need; served over 75 more families on Monday alone. Appointments are required, but walk-ins are provided with emergency groceries. Open 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM (includes clothing services, no appointment needed).

Announcements (Attendees and Staff)

- Way to Happiness Foundation: Partners with communities and schools to work on issues of crime/criminality through a character-building process, using the book *The Way to Happiness*.
- LaDawn Sperling (Realtor): Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Action Center.
 - Collecting all types of food. Drop-off bucket outside office near Village Roaster at Alameda Garrison (anytime).
 - Special drop-off event: Saturday, November 15th, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM (coffee and snacks provided).
- Chick-fil-A Belmar
 - Cookies for a Cause (Month of November): Donating 50 cents from every cookie/brownie sold to one of three organizations (A21, Wounded Warrior, Walk With Me - choice is the customer's). Goal is to sell 8,000 cookies.
- Old 121 Brewhouse: Waiting for final inspections (scheduled week of the 10th). Target grand opening is December 6th if inspections go well.
- R12 Health: Anticipated opening week is November 17th. A primary care practice for people 65+ on Medicare.
- Secure Attachment Initiative: Has a group starting up next week (runs for 10 weeks) for teens aged 13-17 in need of severe mental health services.
- Belmar Library
 - Study Sleepover: This weekend.
 - Inside the Orchestra/Music & Movement: November 17th.
 - Holiday Open House: Week of December 14th.
- Alameda Connects (Rachel Griffin & Tom Quinn):
 - Sustainable Business Workshop: November 13th. Free with requested donation. Happy hour at the end with beer from 121.



Alameda Corridor Business
Improvement District

- E-Newsletter: Comes out every Thursday. Sign-up sheet in the back. Now includes AI-generated bullet points/summary of meetings.
- Safety Survey: Results of the Alameda business safety survey have been published (6-minute video on YouTube and in the e-newsletter).
- Mayor's Tree Lighting (different than Belmar Tree Lighting): Alameda Connects will be there on Friday, December 5th, handing out cookies.
- Holiday Party: Friends of Alameda Connects Holiday Party on December 17th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM (Torchy's).
- Colorado Gives Day: Now on Colorado Gives Day to raise money for the Make a Difference Grants program (for public schools, nonprofits, and small businesses in central Lakewood). Giving starts now ("39 days of Colorado G.").
- History Icon: A new history icon for Ed Tipper (Band of Brothers, local teacher) is being placed today in Belmar by the Wasabi restaurant.

Community Calendar

- Ongoing: Colorado Gives Day fundraising for Make a Difference Grants (Alameda Connects).
- Today: Deadline for Early Childhood Council Applicants (Jeffco, Clear Creek, Gilpin Counties).
- Today, 12:00 PM: Non-Profit Brunch (Lakewood Economic Development).
- This Weekend: Study Sleepover (Belmar Library).
- Tomorrow: Action Center/Emory Elementary Construction starts.
- This Friday, 4:00 PM: Katie Walters Going Away Party (at B Peak).
- Saturday, November 8th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Jeffco Food Drive (at Jeffco Stadium).
- Sunday, November 9th, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Jeffco Elected Food Drive
- Next Week: Secure Attachment Initiative Group starts (for teens 13-17, runs for 10 weeks).
- Week of the 10th: Old 121 Brewhouse final inspections scheduled.
- November 13th: Sustainable Business Workshop
- Friday, November 14th, 9:00 AM: Rose Stein Elementary Cafe Meeting.
- Saturday, November 15th, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: LaDawn's Food Drive Drop-Off (near Village Roaster).
- Week of November 17th: R12 Health Grand Opening (Primary Care for 65+ on Medicare).
- November 17th: Inside the Orchestra/Music & Movement (Belmar Library).
- Friday, November 21st: Belmar Tree Lighting Ceremony and Ice Rink Opening for the season.
- Sometime Late November: Badass Coffee opening (Belmar).
- Month of November (All Month): Chick-fil-A Belmar "Cookies for a Cause."
- Every Friday through the Holidays: Holiday Wagon Rides (Belmar).
- December 3rd: Deadline to Sponsor a Family for The Action Center's Holiday Program.
- Friday, December 5th: Mayor's Tree Lighting (Alameda Connects will be present).
- December 6th: Old 121 Brewhouse Targeted Grand Opening (Pending Inspection).
- Week of December 14th: Belmar Library Holiday Open House.
- December 17th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Friends of Alameda Connects Holiday Party
- Next Year (2026)
 - Beginning of January: Alameda Connects Annual Report Presentation/Meeting.
 - Early Next Year: KPOT Korean BBQ Opening (Belmar).