

IMPORTANT GID INFORMATION AND INCREASES TO YOUR TAXES

1. What is a General Improvement District (GID)?

A GID is a **quasi-governmental special district** that uses **additional tax money for projects** as yet to be determined. These funds may be spent for improvements outside of our neighborhood or may fund bond issues that are not exclusively for the benefit of those living in CCN.

2. What City organization has the ultimate approval responsibility for the GID?

The Denver City Council will have the authority to form the GID. **Mayor Johnston and Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer** will be involved with Advisory Board which will determine project selection and oversee funding. Cherry Creek North will have minority representation on this Board.

3. Why are residents being asked to pay for improvements that are normally a City responsibility?

Councilwoman Sawyer stated that the **City feels prosperous communities should pay** for their own area improvements, even if the improvements are **normally funded by the City**.

4. How would improvements be selected for Cherry Creek North residents?

Councilwoman Sawyer put the cart before the horse by suggesting possible projects or services that people might like **without explaining the GID formation and asking if people are in favor of forming a special taxing district**. This was done with an online survey that was not widely known about or participated in.

5. Are construction mitigation and neighborhood advocacy considered GID improvements?

No. Construction mitigation or management is a City responsibility. Neighborhood advocacy is a City Council and CCNNA responsibility. Contrary to its Mission Statement **CCNNA has not been willing to acknowledge the majority position** expressed by residents and take a stand against foisting this GID on the community.

6. What was the results of the survey on the July 22nd Results Zoom Meeting?

Of the 2,525 CCN property **9.7% (252)** replied. Nearly **65% of the respondents replied they were NOT interested** in a GID being formed. Less than 25% replied they were interested in it. 10% said they wanted more information.

7. With such a large percentage not interested in the GID, was the feasibility study for a GID stopped by Councilwoman Sawyer?

No. Councilwomen Sawyer and the GID consultant combined the “interested or questioning” numbers and forged ahead to the next step of forming a workgroup that will mean months of delay before they will acknowledge the democratic majority of **64.75% AGAINST** and a maximum of **34.75%** who may want some of the services suggested in the survey. This study group is supposed to be controlled by the residents but is being formed through the office of the councilwoman.

8. What GID funding alternatives were mentioned by Councilwoman Sawyer at the July 22nd meeting?

No definite methodology was explained. There was so much pushback against additional property taxes, Councilwoman Sawyer is now examining other methods of assessing the GID payments that would be incurred.

9. What will a GID improvement assessment cost be for each resident?

There was **no explanation on costs.** It was stated **working groups** would be formed to discuss improvements, costs, and other issues. Residents are invited to join a CCN work group.

10. Who in my neighborhood will have to pay for improvements?

If the GID is approved, neighborhood improvement funding will be **mandatory** for all property owners in CCN. **Everyone will pay.**

11. Is this assessment just another tax for property owners?

Yes. Every alternative will be listed as an **assessment on resident property tax bills.** The assessment is still a mandatory tax necessary to fund the GID.

12. Who suggested the improvement priorities on the survey?

Councilwoman Sawyer and **her Cherry Creek community planning group** helped select the improvements to use in a feasibility study. Because there was no city tax money available for the wish list of improvements, the idea of forming a General Improvement District (GID) to raise additional money was put forth. **The President of the CCNNA Board** was a member of the planning group but there was **not any communication from the CCNNA Board to CCN residents** about the GID cost as a tax increase nor a CCNNA survey on improvement ideas or willingness to incur more tax burden.

13. Since the GID will be in operation for up to 10 years or more, what happens to any excess assessment funds generated after improvements are funded?

If designated neighborhood improvements are funded and implemented in the first 2 to 3 years, the additional future assessment funds will **be used for other defined GID improvements outside of Cherry Creek North.** Funds could also be used to support a **large bond issue** to address expensive improvements, such as **1st Avenue and its proposed bus rapid transit implementation.**

14. After improvements are made and fully funded with assessment revenue, can our defined CCN area neighborhood withdraw from participation in the GID and receive lower assessments?

It is **unlikely that City Council would reconfigure or dissolve** the GID because the city will have already spent or have plans for the money they have become used to collecting. Additionally, there are extensive legal and governmental hoops that would need to be jumped through to unwind this bureaucracy.

15. What can I do to remove CCN from the GID proposal?

On our website (StoptheGIDinCCN@gmail.com) there are drafts of letter and email texts that can be used to send to **Mayor Johnston, Councilwoman Sawyer, Linda Barker (CCNNA President), the Glendale Chronicle, and the Denver Gazette**. Contact information will also be listed on the website. Most important, attend the **CCN Working Group to participate** in the discussion and voice your opposition.