



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

City of Wheat Ridge Launches New Online Public Hearing Platform in February of 2020

Residents can focus on the issues they care about and provide input from home or the office

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. Dec. 13, 2019 – The City of Wheat Ridge has finalized plans to establish a new online public hearing website, created by People Speak, that will allow local residents to participate in public hearings anytime, anywhere.

The City of Wheat Ridge website will be powered by People Speak, the same Boulder-based firm that partnered with Lakewood to create their platform. People Speak (<https://peoplespeak.net/>) allows public hearing video presentations and supporting materials to be published online weeks in advance of a meeting. Residents can review at their leisure, ask questions, and comment through the website from their desktop or mobile devices. The new platform is slated to be visible for public input in January 2020, and will be used for Planning Commission and City Council meetings starting in February.

“As people are increasingly busy with families and careers, we have found that fewer people are able to participate in person at City Council meetings and other public hearings,” stated Patrick Goff, city manager of Wheat Ridge. “This new online platform will provide greater accessibility for our residents and increase opportunities for engaging in the decisions that impact the quality of life for those living and working in Wheat Ridge. The new online public hearing website will allow our City Council members to hear from more of our residents who may not be able to attend meetings in person.”

The decision for Wheat Ridge to move to an online public hearing platform was influenced by a study conducted from 2017-19 by the City of Lakewood that showed the dramatic impact of modernizing public hearings.

Key findings from the study include:

- The online presentation views have been 5-10 times the number of people watching the live hearings.
- On average, each agenda item gets twice as many comments online as in person.
- Public input can be provided online at all times of day and all days of the week, increasing accessibility.
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About the City of Wheat Ridge

The City of Wheat Ridge, located west of Denver with a population of 31,000 residents, is home to a mix of retail/commercial businesses and unique residential neighborhoods. Wheat Ridge is a vibrant community in a prime location, providing easy access to the Denver metro area and to recreation west into the mountains. The City was recently ranked Top Smallest City by the Economic Development Council of Colorado. Info about Wheat Ridge ci.wheatridge.co.us

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