



Don Cameron &lt;cameron2021don@gmail.com&gt;

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## Food Trucks, Community Conversations Competitive Races, Who am I supporting for Mayor

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Thu, Aug 31, 2023 at 6:33 AM

Reply-To: cameronforgolden@gmail.com

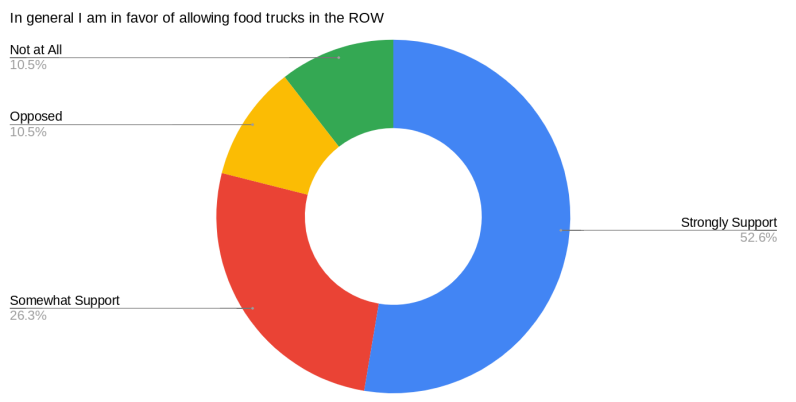
To: Don Cameron &lt;cameron2021don@gmail.com&gt;

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Dear Neighbors,



**Food Truck Survey Results** - I will admit right up front my frustration with trying to run a survey from my email list. Soon after sending out the August newsletter, the number of people who had filled out the survey (Food Trucks in the ROW) jumped from 4 to 32. But 13 of those were from people who do not subscribe to my newsletter. I had put in the survey this disclaimer, "It is intended to be filled out only by readers of Cameron for Golden blog or email. This is not a city sponsored survey and is intended to get a "pulse", not necessarily defensible data to push an agenda." Yet..over a third of the survey results came in from outside that pre-defined group. There were many thoughtful comments, both pro and con as well. It was clear from the timing that they had been pushed by a business in town to complete the survey, as all were Strongly, or Somewhat Strongly in favor of food trucks in the right of way. The data below does NOT include those results, it only includes results from those who were in my pre-defined group. BTW, best practice for surveys is to define in advance how you plan to analyze the data.



[See this blog post for a more thorough analysis](#) including on the written comments

**Our Growth Ordinance** - As I've been writing for months, it is now official, the state says we can not enforce our growth ordinance. Here are some bullets as a result of internal discussions from the city.

- This legislation had bi-partisan and bicameral support, was signed by the Governor and went into effect August 7, 2023.
- Despite Council's continued concerns that this legislation oversteps traditional home rule authority over land use matters, similar to SB23-213 that failed to pass through the legislature, it purports to preempt the City's 1995 residential growth ordinance – commonly referred to as the 1% growth limit/ordinance and makes it unenforceable, barring a potentially costly and uncertain legal challenge.
- Whether the goals of Golden's residential growth management ordinance have been achieved is debatable. Since that ordinance was adopted, applications for dwelling units have routinely been less than the number of available allocations, but the types of development allowed may not have reflected the community character or growth ordinance intent.
- Fortunately, Golden City Council recently approved both a residential and commercial formbased land use code that in many ways better addresses community growth concerns that led to the 1% growth ordinance. This code remains in place and will to a large extent address community concerns related to growth, density, scale, and style, while fostering measured, responsible, and orderly residential growth.
- Council received legal advice on the local impact of HB23-1255 on August 8, 2023.
- Support was lacking amongst Council to take any formal action at this time. As a result, Golden's residential growth management ordinance will remain in place but it will not be enforced. If the legislation is overturned, the ordinance would become enforceable in the future. o If there is a future legal challenge the City may choose to participate in some way, but cost of such an effort and the likelihood of success would need to be evaluated in depth at that time.

Community Conversations about Housing - A group of citizens is working to have some meaningful conversations around housing in Golden. Here is a flyer with a QRcode to sign up. They want new people for each conversation, so the September and October meetings are still available to apply to be part of the conversation. I have texted (who talks anymore?) with two attendees of the August event and they had good things to say about it's value.

- **Objective:** The intention is for attendees to represent, as much as possible, the varied ideas and interests of people with an interest in Golden. To help with that, and because of a limit of 35 people for each conversation, those who are interested are asked to complete a brief interest form, available at the top of their website.
- **Outcome:** The first and most important outcome for these three events is simply increasing the civic capacity in Golden and giving the community a new way to discuss tough issues together. Notes and information will be gathered from this event and compiled into a summary report which will be provided in a community report-out, and as well as directly to the City of Golden.

**The unhoused at BK** - The persons who have camped at BK and other places nearby are not part of the Safe Parking. To be in safe parking you have to have a working vehicle. In my opinion, safe parking has helped get cars out of the neighborhoods with people living in them. And through some support, people have transitioned to housing. The unhoused nearby are not part of that program but instead are just skirting the law (like being on private, not public property), being just off the sidewalk etc. All that being said, it is still distressful and something city staff and CC are working behind the scenes to address. There may be a public meeting on or about Thursday September 7th on this topic. If you have not signed up for the Golden Weekly email, you should, to stay informed on this. One more comment, based on a Federal Circuit Court ruling, if a municipality tries to remove encampments and there is literally no where to go, like a shelter (not just the adjacent town), with support services, then it is illegal to just give them the "bums rush". And Jeffco does not have a shelter, so we're limited in what we can do. This is not a comprehensive look at it, just a way to encourage you to stay informed on the issue.

**Election Websites for Candidates** - In November there will be an election for Mayor, District 1 (South half of town) and District 2 (North half of Town). As of "press" time, below are the candidates and their websites that I could find. In truth I'm not going to endorse or dis anyone running for mayor. I asked for endorsements when I was running for mayor and was frustrated to not get them from sitting city councilors. But now I get it. I will work with, to the best of my ability, whoever is elected by the citizens of Golden. Endorsing or dissing anyone does no good. Especially this year when whoever wins is likely to not get a majority, it is even more important to help Golden, regardless of who is the mayor.

By the way, I've been pushing for years for rank choice voting, or "instant runoff", but the county was not ready to do this, nor was the state, so we have to go with the usual...less than ideal voting process. In "instant runoff", you would select your second and third choices and eventually a person would have a majority of, if not first choice, at least 2nd or 3rd, but the person winning would gain a majority, not just a plurality.

For Mayor - Waqim Filsaime, Joseph Macdonald, [Heather Schneider](#), [Charlie Sturdavant](#), [Laura Weinberg](#).

For District 1 - Matt Duncan, [Jacob Luria](#), [Lisa Vitty](#), Mary Weaver

For District 2 - [Patty Evans](#), Ben Moline

(If I don't have a link, it's because I could not find one as of press time). These names are also provisional as candidates have until Friday to cure their petitions.

[Oktoberfest](#) / Volunteers needed - Click on the Oktoberfest link to buy tickets to the Golden Civic Foundations fall fundraiser and party. A group I'm part of, Bike Walk Golden, is staffing a secure parking facility for bicycles. If you want free entry to the party for just 2.5 hours of work, email [bikewalkgolden@gmail.com](mailto:bikewalkgolden@gmail.com) to express interest.

### **Quick Hits and Things I've been reading**

[NREL's Community Open House Wednesday September 27th , 3:30-6:30 PM](#) - Register by September 15th. Sorry, if you are a non-citizen, the deadline was August 22nd, but I did not get the information into the August newsletter.

Event attendees can:

- Learn about NREL's work leading the clean energy future.
- Interact with booths demonstrating NREL's research and development.
- Tour our new research spaces and learn about future projects.
- Enjoy kid-friendly, educational activities and light refreshments.

[Kidfluencers](#) - As a follow up to my rant about single use plastics and trash...here is an article from the Economist about kids selling to other kids and making millions doing it. It didn't strike me as particularly fair to the kids or good for society either.

[Another follow up to littering](#) - Did you know we've been littering in Golden for decades? This is not a new phenomena. [Barb Warden wrote about this on August 25th](#).

[Inclusionary Zoning that Works?](#) - I grew up in Montgomery County Maryland. In fact I thought I grew up in a city, only to find out as an adult that it was a part of the county like Pleasant View, but not it's own thing. Still, after Discovery channel moved in years ago (and subsequently left), it has been a booming suburb of Washington D.C. Click on the link above to read about how they have done

inclusionary zoning, what it is, and how it has worked out pretty darn well.

**Floyd Hill** - See what CDOT is [telling elected officials](#), or [sign up for your own information](#) about this multi-year project to add a lane to I-70 on Floyd hill, one of the bottle necks to and from the mountains. This will be affecting Golden for years too as people use the US6 Clear Creek Canyon to bypass the construction.

**The Amenity Trap** - Read a study about towns in Colorado that are so popular that they suffer from being over loved. Sound familiar? All the ideas that have been suggested to address the issues are suggested here (increased density, changes in zoning, publicly owned housing, limiting vacation rentals). As to restricting access to the town itself, there are not proposals herein suggested, nor would I support them.

If you have input for city council, please use [councilcomments@cityofgolden.net](mailto:councilcomments@cityofgolden.net). Always feel free to reach me at my website, [set up a meeting](#). Or, let's run, walk or bike together if you'd like and just have a chat!

Peace,

Don

Feel free to forward this to friends or neighbors who may like to get more information. To join the list fill out the contact form at [cameronforgolden.org](http://cameronforgolden.org)



Join me and save lives by giving blood (or platelets or plasma). Here's a referral code SaveLife-0814-Z you can add to your appointment, so we know the impact we are both making for hospital patients. Go to [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) or call 1-877-25-VITAL to get started.

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