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**Media Advisory**

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***Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Congratulates New City Councilmembers,  
Mayoral Runoff Candidates***

**Colorado Springs, CO** (April 14, 2023)—Following the April 4 city election, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity congratulates the new Colorado Springs city councilmembers:

- Lynette Crow-Iverson (at-large)
- David Leinweber (at-large)
- Brian Riskey (at-large)
- Michelle Talarico (District 3)

Mayoral candidates Yemi Mobolade and Wayne Williams are headed to a runoff election May 16.

“We look forward to working with the new city administration to find solutions to our affordable homeownership crisis,” said Kris Lewis, Pikes Peak Habitat executive director/CEO. “Access to affordable housing is a top priority to voters, and nine out of ten want government involvement in addressing this issue. We appreciate the support Mayor John Suthers and his staff have provided to Pikes Peak Habitat as we work toward a world where everyone has a decent, affordable place to live, and we’re excited to build on this legacy with the next administration.”

In addition to Mayor Suthers, Pikes Peak Habitat thanks the outgoing Colorado Springs officials:

- Stephannie Fortune, District 3 city councilmember
- Bill Murray, at-large city councilmember
- Tom Strand, city council president
- Wayne Williams, at-large city councilmember

On Feb. 28, Pikes Peak Habitat, along with KRDO NewsRadio and KRDO NewsChannel 13, hosted a forum on affordable homeownership for the 12 Colorado Springs mayoral candidates.

The event took place at the Ent Center for the Arts and was divided into two panels, each with six candidates. Lewis described the forum as casting a “non-partisan lens on a bipartisan issue that should have non-partisan solutions.”

Andrew Rogers, program director and co-host for KRDO Morning News on KRDO NewsRadio, and Bart Bedsole, anchor for KRDO NewsChannel 13, served as moderators. The forum also was broadcast on KRDO NewsRadio and KRDO.com, courtesy of Gold Hill Mesa.

Mobolade and Williams agreed that our city is facing a crisis in making housing more affordable for workforce families, driven in part by a shortage of approximately 12,000 units, and they also concurred that the mayor’s office can play a vital role in addressing the issue.

There’s “virtually no housing for the pillars of our community,” Mobolade said, referencing the challenges faced by firefighters, teachers, and military service members. If elected, he pledged to support public-private partnerships and to work closely with nonprofit organizations such as Pikes Peak Habitat. He proposed starting a gap fund for the “missing middle” – workforce employees who earn too much for government assistance but too little to qualify for mortgages, such as first responders, educators, seniors, baristas, and college students. While not adding an additional employee to the city payroll, he also promised to appoint a housing officer who would report directly to him. Mobolade said he intends to build on what already works, while pioneering new initiatives and thinking innovatively. “I am proud of the many efforts by leaders and organizations in our city that are actually moving the needle forward,” he said, but he also suggested “a new way politics can be done..., a new form of leadership that I intend to bring to our city.”

Williams stated that those who earn in middle and lower income ranges “should be able to live here.” He attributed the crisis in part to the cost of materials and interest rates, which he acknowledged are outside local control. He also pointed to statewide laws that have slowed the construction of condominiums, which he said could otherwise offer an accessible path to affordable homeownership for many people, and pledged to work at the state level to reverse those regulations. He also offered several solutions that he could implement as mayor: eliminating city sales taxes for affordable housing and utilities connection fees, allowing more flexible zoning in new communities to facilitate a variety of home types, and working with the private sector to increase the number of homes available for workforce and military families. He noted that state funds often go unused and pledged to implement a “process that fully uses CHFA allocation and Proposition 123 funds.” He said he supports “individuals having choices in where they live.”

Voting for the runoff election will take place via ballot mail-in and dropboxes rather than in person. According to [coloradosprings.gov](http://coloradosprings.gov), ballots will be sent to voters from April 21-May 1 and must be returned by 7 p.m. May 16.

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### **About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity**

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in El Paso County. We construct permanent, affordable homes in partnership with the community and prospective homebuyers, who purchase their homes with affordable mortgages. In addition, our home repair program

works with seniors, veterans and other cost-burdened homeowners in El Paso County, who “pay it forward” by serving their communities. Pikes Peak Habitat has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has partnered with more than 200 families in El Paso County. For more information, visit <http://www.pikespeakhabitat.org> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).