

## Citizens of Colorado Springs,

There are a variety of reasons why so many choose to call our great city home. We have a rich, diverse citizenship supporting government, businesses, and strong civic and faith communities. We live surrounded by natural beauty in a place where families and residents can prosper. The first settlers who traveled here ages ago decided to make this special place their home. As we have become an increasingly mobile society, with increased ability to choose where we live, I feel honored to see so many who recognize this same distinction in Colorado Springs and have planted roots in our great city.

Our city is one of the best places to live in the country. This is not a matter of luck, but rather a carefully cultivated evolution guided by information, data, and our hearts as community members. As we've grown, we've used data and insight to plan our path forward. The Colorado Springs 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, which is updated every year, has four main goals – each of which relies in part on the quality of life of the community as a whole: 1) Promoting job creation, 2) Investing in infrastructure, 3) Building community and collaborative relationships, and 4), Excelling in city services. The Quality of Life Indicators Report provides insightful statistics and information on how these strategic goals for Colorado Springs are being achieved by government and the community as a whole.

Reading through the report allows local leaders to prioritize projects that benefit citizens today and also build a better future. I would encourage every Colorado Springs resident to read through the Quality of Life Indicators Report and to look for ways to get involved where you live. Our community isn't an abstract idea, but instead, a collaborative effort and the result of involved citizens coming together.

I want to thank the volunteers who made this report possible through hours of hard work, research, discussion, and the pursuit of information. Volunteers collaborated with community organizations such as the Pikes Peak United Way, Leadership Pikes Peak, and the Pikes Peak Library District to provide us with this invaluable report and we are so grateful. Their collaboration and hard work are examples of what makes Colorado Springs a most desirable home.

Sincerely,

John W. Suthers

Mayor