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Arapahoe County recognizes Commissioner Susan Beckman

Public reception held Jan. 3 to honor 12 years of service to Arapahoe County

Littleton, Colo.--- On Jan. 3, Arapahoe County will honor the work of Commissioner Susan Beckman, who retires after 12 years of dedicated service.

The public is invited to join the Board of County Commissioners and County leaders as they recognize Commissioner Beckman's work during a reception, which will be held 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Administration Building East Hearing Room, 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton.

Beckman, who was first elected as Commissioner in November 2000 and has served three consecutive four-year terms, represents District 1, which is located in western Arapahoe County and includes the communities of Bow Mar, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Englewood, Littleton, portions of Centennial and unincorporated northern Arapahoe County.

"It has been my privilege to serve the citizens of Arapahoe County and to have the opportunity to be a part of the creation of the best Open Space program in the State of Colorado," Beckman said. "I've enjoyed managing a very large county and being involved in the completion of several large transportation projects by helping to identify the need, create the political will, get the funding and then watch as projects come to fruition. I have found great satisfaction in working to improve outcomes and change the way we provide child welfare in the State of Colorado. I'm so thankful for this opportunity to serve."

As an Arapahoe County Commissioner, Beckman has helped oversee and guide Arapahoe County through a time of significant change, such as the incorporation and successful transition of services to the City of Centennial in 2001.

That same year, Arapahoe County began a strategic effort to ensure County services were easily accessible throughout the County and without increasing taxes by relocating the Public Works and Development Department from Littleton to Centennial (2001); the opening of CentrePoint Plaza in Aurora (2002); the opening of a new Sheriff's Administration and Coroner's Facility in Centennial (2002); the grand re-opening of Arapahoe Plaza in Littleton (2003); the opening of the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park (2006); the opening of the Eastern Service Center in Bennett (2008); the expansion of the Courts and the

addition of the new District Attorney's Office (2009); and the consolidation of several County programs and services into the Lima Plaza campus in Centennial (2011).

Beckman has served in a lead role on many transportation improvements and has successfully garnered support and funding for regional safety and congestion mitigation projects, such as TREX, the construction of three pedestrian bridges over I-25, the Santa Fe Safety Project, the Arapahoe/Parker intersection build out and I-25/Arapahoe Road intersection improvements.

But most notably, Beckman has worked tirelessly to build one of the premier Open Space programs in Colorado. In 2001, she helped negotiate the long-term lease of the County's former landfill site at County Line Road and South Colorado Boulevard to South Suburban Park and Recreation District to create a 140-acre sports complex.

She created the Working Group concept in 2006, which first brought 16 local governments and \$28 million in funding to connect trails, facilitate environmental cleanup and preserve land throughout the South Platte River corridor. In 2008, the Denver Regional Council of Governments recognized the South Platte Working Group with their highest honor – the Metro Vision Award. And in 2010, the South Platte Working Group received the Blue Grama Award for outstanding achievement to improve the river corridor by the Colorado Open Space Alliance.

The Working Group concept has been so successful that it was expanded to the Cherry Creek Basin corridor in 2008, and again in 2012 where Beckman serves as the lead commissioner in a collaborative effort to bring 19 entities together to preserve and protect the unique recreational experience along the High Line Canal Trail that runs throughout Arapahoe County.

As Commissioner, Beckman currently serves as the County's Chair Pro Tem and oversees the Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Department. She is past Chair of the Board, serving in 2003, 2007, 2008 and 2009. She has been recognized regionally and nationally for her leadership with the National Association of Counties, Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Metro Area County Commissioners and the Metro Area Urban Drainage and Flood Control District. She also has served as Chair of the Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority.

In 2012, she was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper to serve on the Colorado Benefits Management System Executive Committee, and was recognized by Colorado Counties Inc. for her work on CCI's REAL Colorado initiative, her service as Chair of the CCI Health and Human Services Steering Committee and her leadership on the Colorado Works Allocation Committee.

Beckman spearheaded REAL Colorado, which has led to a collaborative, strategic reform of Colorado's human services system. REAL, which stands for **R**esponsive, **E**fficient, **A**ccountable Services delivered through **L**ocal-State Partnership, involves driving legislative and policy decisions based on data and measurable outcomes; improving relationships with state and local stakeholders; reducing unnecessary and unfunded mandates; protecting local flexibility; and streamlining processes.

In 2006, Beckman was one of five public leaders in Colorado serving in state, county, local government or a non-profit capacity to attend the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University on a Gates Family Foundation scholarship.

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Photos of Commissioner Susan Beckman are available for download at the County's FTP server by clicking on the following link: <ftp://www.arapahoegov.com/Pub/CM/Commissioner%20Susan%20Beckman/>