

RESOLUTION NO. 16-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE PINES, COLORADO OPPOSING BALLOT ISSUE A TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES AND DEBT OF THE CASTLE PINES NORTH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the City of Castle Pines, Colorado (the “City”) is a legislative body and authorized to adopt resolutions in support or opposition to local, state and federal legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Castle Pines City Council opposes Issue A, a property tax increase and debt increase proposed by the Castle Pines North Metropolitan District (“District”), for the following reasons:

1. INCREASED PROPERTY TAXES.

The people of Castle Pines have been burdened by high property tax rates since the bankruptcy of the Castle Pines North Metropolitan District in 1990. If passed, Issue A would increase property taxes levied by the District for at least 30 years.

2. INCREASED DEBT.

The District currently has \$20 million of debt that was never approved by voters. If passed, Issue A would increase the District’s current debt to \$85 million. Furthermore, Issue A contains no restrictions on district spending. Instead, it allows indiscriminate spending on unspecified water projects.

3. CLOSED MEETINGS.

The City Council finds that the District board routinely adopts policies in closed meetings unavailable to the public. Documents show that the District board held over 14 hours of closed meetings in 2015. In addition, the city understands that the District held a day-long meeting in another city that was not open to the public.

In November, the board cancelled their regularly scheduled December public meeting. However, on December 14, the board held a 2-hour private meeting to discuss increasing taxes. This meeting was also closed to the public.

4. LACK OF PROPER DISCLOSURE.

The City Council finds that the Castle Pines North Metropolitan District does the bare minimum to comply with its legal transparency obligations.

The District inadequately announced two meetings on their water plan and proposed increases in taxes and debt as follows: “The District invites you to come learn about who we are, what we do, and where we are going.” These meetings occurred on January 5 and February 4,

2016. At those meetings, District employees refused to answer direct questions from the public regarding planned tax increases.

The District announced the tax increase in a March 3, 2016 email titled "District Board of Directors Advances Water Plan," with text that did not mention a tax increase or additional debt. Only by navigating to the District's web site could residents find a 10-page document containing the tax question on the last page.

The City Council finds the District's submission of Issue A was calculated to allow the public a minimum amount of time to evaluate the issue and that a May election was selected to reduce voter awareness and participation in the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE PINES, COLORADO, THAT:

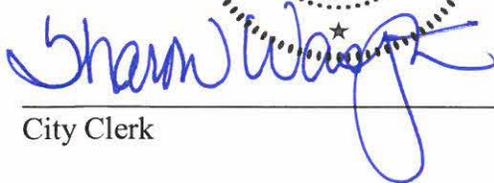
Section 1. The City Council OPPOSES Ballot Issue A, a property tax increase and debt increase proposed by the Castle Pines North Metropolitan District, scheduled for a mail-in election to be concluded on May 3, 2016.

Section 2. This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLE PINES by a vote of 5 in favor and 1 against this 12th day of April, 2016.



ATTEST:



City Clerk



Jeffrey T. Huff, Mayor