

City of Brighton
500 S. 4th Avenue
Brighton, CO
80601

May 29, 2026

RE: Recommendation for Appointments to the Brighton Downtown Development

Authority

To: Mayor Mills and Members of City Council

On behalf of the Brighton Downtown Development Authority (DDA), I am writing to inform you that we held interviews on May 28, 2026. We are pleased to recommend the following six candidates for your consideration and appointments.

We respectfully introduce: Erica Horiuchi, Christina Zygielbaum, Willy Strohmeier, Cristina Geiger, Michael Cox and Dhiren Nautiyal. Each nominee brings a unique and complementary set of skills, professional expertise, and experience that will strengthen the Board's ability to advise the City on the future of Downtown Brighton initiatives. The Board will initially focus on the *Plan of Development* to clearly identify next steps.

Erica Horiuchi brings an extensive professional background in business. Ms. Horiuchi owns/operates a clothing boutique on North Main Street. Her expertise includes over ten years of corporate leadership experience and over five years of owning a small business. Her vision for Downtown Brighton includes having every storefront occupied and serving as a resource for new businesses and peers.

Christina Zygielbaum is the owner/operator of 7 AM Somewhere on North Main Street. She has a strong background in project management and is passionate about the history of Downtown Brighton. Her vision for Downtown Brighton is to make it aesthetically pleasing, improving/preserving historic buildings and adding more activities to bring the community together.

Willy Strohmeier is a long-time Brighton resident who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the community. Mr. Strohmeier owns/operates Colorado Karate Club on South Main Street and has a background in sales, telecommunications and software development. His vision for Downtown Brighton is to make it vibrant, walkable and an attractive area for new businesses to invest. A primary goal for Mr. Strohmeier is to ensure properties are developed at their highest and best use.

Cristina Geiger is the owner/broker of Key Team Real Estate on South 3rd Avenue. She cares deeply about the future of Brighton and believes Downtown Brighton has incredible potential to grow as a vibrant, welcoming and economically strong center of the community. Her vision for Downtown Brighton is to bring people from different walks of life together, preserve history and enhance walkability throughout the district. Ms. Geiger envisions a future hub for small businesses and start-ups to gather and create a “think tank” for support.

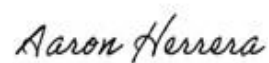
Michael Cox is the co-owner/operator of Cox Ranch Originals on East Bridge Street. He has a strong legal background after having served as a judge in Adams County for over twenty years. He is very invested in the ongoing success of Downtown Brighton. His vision for the Downtown includes preserving the historic nature of the district while cultivating the type of growth that will shape downtown’s historic future. He also hopes to increase walkability and address traffic issues downtown.

Dhiren Nautiyal is the owner/operator of Minuteman Press on North Main Street. He has a strong background in business and cares deeply about the continued growth and success of Downtown Brighton. His vision for the Downtown is to make it a vibrant, walkable, and community-centered district that serves as a gathering place, as well as an economic engine for the City.

Collectively, these nominees represent a well-balanced mix of professional expertise, community engagement, and regional collaboration. Their combined experiences will significantly enhance the effectiveness of the Brighton Downtown Development Authority. We are excited to introduce this new entity to Downtown Brighton as we prepare to sunset Core BURA in the spring of 2027.

Staff respectfully recommends that City Council approve the appointment of each nominee as presented.

Thank you,



Aaron Herrera,
Business Development Project Manager
BURA Executive Director
City of Brighton