



SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTENING AND LEARNING TOUR

Westwood Urban Hike (SE Denver) | Thursday August 27, 2021

Hosted by Milo Márquez, Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy, Research, and Organization (CLLARO)

Participants: Approximately 11 (in person)

Language: English & Spanish

Below is a summary of the details shared during his listening session. It may not reflect the views of all participants and stakeholders district-wide

Advice for Dr. Marrero / What Dr. Marrero Needs to Know

Context of Historical Policies

- Chicano activism with focus on education (beginning circa 1969) impacted the neighborhood.
- The neighborhood also became the site of some public housing projects.
- Neighborhood schools experienced the challenges of youth and student fights, which led to school resource officers (SROs) being placed in schools to address this issue but to also interact positively with the students.
- Many current adults from the neighborhood experienced bussing
- The neighborhood is currently perceived as a high-crime area.

Neighborhood Population

- The Westwood area in SW Denver became one hub of Denver's Latinx/Chicano population.
- Native American Population (i.e., Arapahoe and Cheyenne tribes)
 - The mid 20th century witnessed a policy of moving Native Americans from reservations to cities in attempt to "solve poverty"
 - Mexican and Chicano individuals tended to downplay indigenous heritage due to stigmatization (esp. from Mexican culture), but greater recognition of *mestizaje* and "meshing" or "bonding" followed from the Chicano movement to current times.
- The movement of Vietnamese population into Southwest Denver following the Vietnam war resulted in some initial tensions between communities.
- Current population shifts experienced in the neighborhood include gentrification, along with both tensions and commonalities between longtime residents and more recent immigrants.

Landmarks Seen or Mentioned

- **Schools:**
 - Pascal LeDoux Academy; Rocky Mountain Prep; Southwest Elementary; STRIVE Prep; Kepner; Kepner Beacon; Castro Elementary; KIPP Sunshine Peak Elementary
- **Other sites**
 - [J. Churchill Owen Boys & Girls Club](#); Denver's [Southwest Improvement Council \(SWIC\)](#) (mentioned but not seen); [St. Anthony of Padua's Catholic Church](#); Revitalized stretches of Morrison Road (Denver [Indian Center](#), Newer mixed-use developments (Del Corazon Apartments, Villa Paloma), future site of [Westwood Recreation Center](#) (City of Denver Parks & Rec); [RE:VISION Co-op](#)