

Dear Far Northeast Community,

In light of recent incidents in the community involving guns and gang activity, we want to reach out to let you know that, together with our community partners, we are focused on ensuring our schools and neighborhoods remain safe. We believe that a collaborative, community-supported approach is the first, best path forward.

We all want to be proactive about engaging with the community to support this effort. Those who are closest to our students and our communities should have direct input on the approaches we take to keep kids safe.

In addition to creating the space and opportunity for communities to organize and design their own solutions, DPS is continuing to work closely with Denver City Council President Albus Brooks, Councilwoman Stacie Gilmore, Representative James Coleman, Senator Angela Williams, Mayor Michael Hancock's office, Denver Police District 5 and the RISE Network, which focuses on gang-reduction activities, to share resources and support students and families.

The RISE Network consists of community partners, government agencies, and faith-based leaders in Far Northeast Denver. They support youth, young adults and families affected by gang violence, and also help those at risk of joining a gang or trying to leave one. If you need help with these issues or want to learn more, we encourage you to contact RISE at 303-307-0718.

If you notice any potential problems or concerns, please report them right away. If you prefer to report anonymously, we encourage you to use the [Safe2Tell](https://www.safe2tell.org) program. Visit [safe2tell.org](https://www.safe2tell.org) or call 1-877-542-7233.

These violent and frightening incidents can be difficult for children to process. We encourage you to talk with them about what they're seeing in school and in the community. Remind them not to touch an unattended gun and to tell an adult right away. If you own a gun, please exercise responsible gun ownership and safety. In some cases, students may come across guns in unlocked cars or other easy-to-access locations. Be sure your guns are kept in a locked location where children cannot access them.

Keeping our students safe will take all of us -- DPS, our city partners and the families and neighbors that make Green Valley Ranch a strong community and a great place to grow up.

Thank you for your partnership in this essential effort. If you have any questions or concerns about student safety, please contact our Family and Community Engagement hotline at 720-423-3054.

Sincerely,

The RISE Network

La Toya Petty

Director of Development, Families Forward
Resource Center

Joel Hodge

Founder, Struggle of Love Foundation

Albus Brooks

Denver City Council President
District 9

Councilwoman Stacie Gilmore

District 11

Representative James Coleman

House District 07

Senator Angela Williams

Senate District 33

Erin Brown

Executive Director of Children's Affairs,
Mayor's Office of Children's Affairs

Commander Ron Thomas

Denver Police Department District 5

Sondra Young

Denver Branch President, National
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Terrence Hughes

President, Greater Metro Denver Black
Ministerial Alliance

Wisdom Amouzou

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John Bailey and Dr. Sharon Bailey

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