

Tuesday, September 18, 2012 HOA Town Hall Meeting

What's the problem with Homeowners Associations (HOAs)? Just ask the Colorado HOA Information Office and Resource Center. This unknown State Office created in 2011 is chartered to compile HOA homeowner concerns and report its findings to the legislature. In its first year over 600 complaints were received. To date, several thousand complaints have been processed. At least 1.5 million people (and growing) live in HOAs are mostly ignored by our Colorado legislature. Concerns generally involve: abusive property management companies; HOA Boards that selectively comply with State law and their own governing documents with impunity; and an ineffective system to enforce even the most basic and well defined HOA homeowner right. Homeowners will have a chance to voice their concerns at an HOA Town Hall Meeting to be hosted by several State legislatures who champion HOA issues. The meeting will be held at 7 pm at the Aurora Community College on October 18. The meeting panel will include legislators, a member from the Colorado HOA Forum (HOA citizen advocacy group), and persons representing the property management and mediation professions. This meeting is focused on listening to HOA homeowners about their concerns in living in HOA communities. Panel members will share their thoughts on the current status of HOA laws and initiatives for improving legislation. The panel will be interested in hearing citizen ideas for resolving conflicts between HOA Boards/property management companies and homeowners. Sure to be discussed are: 1) Colorado has well defined and comprehensive HOA legislation. It doesn't need more HOA legislation, it needs effective and enforceable legislation. and 2) the idea of an out of court, binding, arbitration (mediation) dispute resolution process that will move such dispute resolution from our over-burdened, costly Courts to a more informal, inexpensive, timely, and non-litigious process available and affordable to all. HOA living can provide an excellent life style choice and most new housing developments in Colorado are under some form of HOA governance. There's no shortage of negative criticism concerning HOAs and property management companies (and for good reason). There are workable, cost effective, and legislative solutions to resolve most concerns people have about living in an HOA. This HOA Town Hall Meeting wants homeowner input on improving the HOA living environment. For more information about this meeting visit: www.coloradohoaforum.com. If you care about HOA issues your participation at this meeting is a must.