

Excerpt from “Littleton council narrowly affirms acceptance of refugees” in the Littleton Independent

Councilmember Carol Fey said she had heard from residents upset that the city was taking a stance on a hot-button political issue, and others concerned refugees would be a burden on social services and would take up scarce housing.

Fey called the tight turnaround time on the resolution a plot by activists that “increases urgency and decreases scrutiny.”

Fey accused former mayor Susan Thornton, who spoke and emailed in favor of the measure and heads Immigrant Pathways Colorado, a nonprofit that supports immigrants pursuing citizenship, of making an “end run” around established council procedures to push the resolution onto council's agenda.

That's not true, said Wilson, the director of the International Rescue Committee. Wilson said she began reaching out to former mayor Debbie Brinkman in mid-October, and also communicated with Relph and Valdes shortly after the November election about the need for a resolution.

“Our original target was to have consent letters done by mid-December,” Wilson said. “We stepped up our efforts in December because we weren't seeing movement from cities.”