



CREATING A COMMUNITY  
VALUING DIVERSITY, EQUALITY  
AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

## Citizens Project FreedomWatch

# A NEW LOOK IN THE NEW YEAR

**H**ello and welcome to Citizens Project's new regular Freedom Watch column in the Colorado Springs Independent. For those readers who do not already know Citizens Project, we are a nonprofit organization whose mission is to spotlight issues in the Pikes Peak region and mobilizes people to strengthen the traditional values of our nation: equal rights, individual freedoms, separation of church and state, civic engagement, and respect for diversity.

Historically, one of the main ways CP has worked to achieve this mission has been through our publication, Freedom Watch. Usually published six times a year, the four to eight page Freedom Watch not only gave us the opportunity to inform the public of the work CP was doing, but also included in-depth, well-researched articles on subjects of interest to our community. For example, in 2006, when the Colorado Springs City Council ultimately dismissed the creation of the Diversity & Strategic Planning Advisory Board amid controversy, Freedom Watch featured a story on the history of Human Relations Commissions and our city's colored past in respect to them.

However, due to the former publication schedule of Freedom Watch, CP has not always been able to respond in a timely manner to current events in our community. This is why, in the fall of 2006, our Editorial Board and Communication Committee decided to increase Freedom Watch's visibility in the community by transforming it into a regular column in the Independent. We plan to have a half page column every other week. In addition, we will continue to publish four traditional Freedom Watch inserts a year to include our candidate surveys around the April and November elections.

This new format will allow CP to make timelier responses to issues of importance to our readers. With the prospect of potential legislation on issues of immigration and affirmative action (just to name a few), both the City Council and school board elections, and continued community conversation regarding the appropriate lines between church and state, 2007 promises to be an exciting year in the civic arena. We want Freedom Watch to continue to be a reliable source of information for those who value equal rights, individual freedoms and diversity in our community.

We hope that with the regular freedom Watch columns, readers will become more familiar with Citizens Project's work, as well as more educated on important and pressing issues in our community.

- Christina Student  
Executive Director



P.S. If you have journalism experience, can do research and write 500-600 words on a deadline with a subject assigned by CP and are interested in writing for Freedom Watch, please contact me at 520-9899 or [Christina@citizensproject.org](mailto:Christina@citizensproject.org).

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