



**Proclamation No. 23-0744**

**A Proclamation Recognizing Getabecha "Gete" Mekonnen and His Service to Northeast Denver Housing Center**

**WHEREAS**, Northeast Denver Housing Center (NDHC) started with a vision to serve diverse populations and improve the lives of neighbors struggling to make ends meet, and is a nonprofit that carries out a crucial mission of creating sustainable, healthy housing opportunities for underserved households in our city, through affordable housing development, homebuyer education, foreclosure prevention counseling and other services; and

**WHEREAS**, Getabecha "Gete" Mekonnen joined NDHC in 1982 as co-founding executive, and worked diligently with then Executive Director John Stovall, succeeding him as leader of the organization in 1984, and earning NDHC several esteemed awards, including for its innovative sustainability efforts in energy efficiency, green building and historic preservation, and through his selfless work on local and national boards to support the community, earning him an Eagle Award from Housing Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, in his service as Executive Director, Gete has brought unmatched dedication to NDHC's founding mission, along with an uncanny ability to make the most out of every opportunity with the highest of standards and expectations—all while working closely with his team of NDHC board of directors, staff, housing professionals and partners in all levels of government; and

**WHEREAS**, Gete led and moved NDHC forward and delivered crucial work and results, serving 16,000 households and producing more than 2,500 homes, both for ownership and rental apartments; and

**WHEREAS**, Gete is a renowned and valued member of the Denver community and has contributed both measurably and immeasurably to its progress and mission of inclusivity and success for all through his impactful work, helping build not only homes but communities where families and working class Denverites can call home and create wealth and live healthier and more stable lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes that NDHC would not be where it is today without Gete's work and passion, and that this work has undeniably touched and changed the lives of countless Denverites and Coloradans; and that as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement, Gete should know that the legacy of this work will last for generations to come.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver applauds Getabecha "Gete" Mekonnen for his service to the people of Denver, congratulates him on a well-deserved retirement and declares June 5 as Gete Mekonnen Day in the City and County of Denver.

**Section 2.** That the Secretary of Council shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Getabecha Mekonnen.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 5, 2023

COUNCIL PRESIDENT