

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 23-1877 35 Years of World AIDS Day

WHEREAS, the first World AIDS Day took place on December 1, 1988, providing a platform to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and to honor the lives affected by the epidemic. This year marks the 35th commemoration of this important day; and

WHEREAS, this year on World AIDS Day, we will recommit to ending the HIV epidemic in Denver and around the world. We will also rededicate ourselves to fighting the discrimination that too often keeps people with HIV from getting the services they need and living the full lives they deserve; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the dedication of scientists, activists, health care workers, caregivers, and so many others, we have made enormous progress preventing, detecting, and treating HIV; reducing transmission and AIDS-related deaths; and supporting millions of people so that they can enjoy long, healthy lives. Still, not everyone has equal access to that care. For the more than 10,000 people in the Denver metro area and 39 million people globally now living with HIV — especially members of the LGBTQI+ community, communities of color, women, and girls — a diagnosis is still life-altering; and

WHEREAS, Denver and the State of Colorado are taking bold measures to significantly decrease estimated new transmissions: First, by identifying persons who remain undiagnosed and linking them to care. Second, by supporting persons diagnosed with HIV to engage in care and treatment with access to medication to attain HIV viral suppression, recognizing that early initiation of antiretroviral medication allows individuals to take medication as prescribed and to get and keep an undetectable viral load, which allows them to live long and healthy lives and not transmit HIV. This directly supports the “Undetectable equals Untransmittable” message that individuals with a sustained undetectable viral load cannot transmit HIV. Third, by expanding access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for prevention; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is an opportunity to remember those we have lost; to celebrate those who are surviving and thriving with HIV; to honor health care workers, advocates, and researchers who have dedicated their lives to this disease; and to recognize those who continue to provide support and leadership in the fight to end HIV transmission and the development of AIDS in our lifetime; and

WHEREAS, this year’s World AIDS Day theme “Let Communities Lead” reminds us that indeed the world can end HIV transmission and HIV-related illness, with communities leading the way. Organizations of communities living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV are the frontline of progress in the HIV response.

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 commemorates 35 years of World AIDS Day on December 1, 2023.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Denver Health: Public Health Institute, Vivent Health, Children’s Hospital of Colorado (CHiP), Brother Jeff’s Cultural Center, It Takes a Village, Colorado Health Network, Crazy Love Africa, Fast Track Cities, and Park Hill United Methodist Church.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL DECEMBER 4, 2023

PRESIDENT

