

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. CP11-0520

Recognizing Out-Going Council Members

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Boigon has been Chair of the General Government committee and co-chair of the General Government & Finance committee, a position in which she was responsible for overseeing Denver's lobbying efforts at the federal, state and local level on behalf of City Council; and she has been a steadfast champion of Denver City employees by successfully fighting for annual performance bonuses in the 2008 budget, and by taking an active leadership role in CSA's Total Compensation Committee which provided a much improved pay-for-performance plan; and

WHEREAS, in her eight years as Councilwoman at-Large, Carol Boigon has sponsored ordinances to improve the quality of life for Denver residents by adding assisted living facilities for the elderly, dog day care centers and childcare centers to the zoning code, as well as an ordinance to ban smoking on the city Rights-of-Way around Denver hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Boigon has been a tireless advocate for Denver's children and families through her work as a board member of the Denver Preschool Program, Great Education Colorado, State Board of Human Services, Metro Crisis Services, Welfare Reform Board, Early Childhood Education Council, and Mile High Montessori Community Leadership Board; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, during the profound economic downturn, Councilwoman Boigon successfully sought additional monies to fund child care support services in the Denver Department of Human Services and reopen access to subsidized child care, as well as support continued services by the homeless initiative, Denver's Road Home; and has promoted the revitalization of Colfax, in particular the conversion of the former Lowenstein Theater to its current incarnation as a vital retail center; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Marcia Johnson, native of Alamosa, Colorado, and long-time resident Park Hill, where she and her husband Will raised their two daughters, was elected in 2003 to represent Council District 5, and she has served her East Denver residents for eight years with sensitivity, creativity and zeal, taking on many thorny issues, such as the redevelopment and revitalization of East Colfax Avenue; and

WHEREAS, before serving on City Council, Councilwoman Johnson was elected to the Denver Public School Board and to the Denver Election Commission, both of which informed her actions on Council, and during her Council tenure, she represented Denver on the Metropolitan Scientific & Cultural Facilities District Board dealing with art and culture and on the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District Board dealing with storm run-off, demonstrating her broad range of talents and interests; and

WHEREAS, from Day One in office, she focused on transforming Westerly Creek between East 11th Ave. and Montview from a forgotten little stretch of water, half underground and partially lost in littered, overgrown tracts into an attractive greenway and pedestrian/bike trail completing the connection between two regional trails, and as she leaves office, the Westerly Creek Greenway Master Plan is recognized by Denver agencies and others as a guide for realizing that transformation; and

WHEREAS, since his election as an At-Large Councilmember in 2003, Councilman Linkhart has ably chaired the Safety, Youth & Community Services, and Business, Workforce, and Sustainability Committee – and initiated and co-chaired - with his colleague Councilman Hancock - the Prosperity Task Force which resulted in opening the Economic Prosperity Center, a "one stop" center connecting residents to career advancement opportunities and other services; and

WHEREAS, Councilman Linkhart is Council's leading expert on criminal justice issues as they relate to alternative sanctions and restorative justice and spearheaded creation of the highly effective Crime Prevention and Control Commission (CPCC) - which has reduced the need for jail beds by 258 beds/day through funding drug court, mental health services, reentry programs, gang prevention and other research-based alternative efforts; and

WHEREAS, among the Councilman's many legislative achievements are sponsoring Service Workers legislation making Denver one of the first cities in the country to criminalize using service workers without paying them, drafting Wind & Solar legislation making it easier for residential and commercial installations, and most recently, undertaking a challenging task of developing the city's first licensing system for unregulated medical marijuana dispensaries, and tirelessly championing youth and aging issues - especially fighting for continued funding for summer youth employment programs and maintaining library and recreation center programming and hours; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor-elect Michael Hancock, was elected to Denver City Council in May 2003, Councilmember Hancock has served two terms in elected office as the District 11 Councilmember, and due to his collaborative leadership style he was the straightforward choice by his colleagues to vote him as their Council President for two years; and

WHEREAS, Mayor-elect Hancock worked tirelessly and passionately for District 11 and the City and County Denver constituents, he led efforts to support businesses, economic opportunities, safety, and diversity issues as the Chair and Co-chair of many Council Committees, which included establishing the Foreclosure Task Force to end foreclosure and mortgage fraud, establishing the Economic Prosperity Task Force for the creation of economic prosperity for Denver citizens, chairing the Better Denver Bond Program to assure that more than 300 projects were on time and completed in every part of the City, helping to create the Office of the Independent Monitor, and among the many successful projects he led and completed, the Parkfield Park project was one of the most successful projects he is proud of in District 11; and

WHEREAS, Michael leaves City Council to be the 45th Mayor of the City and County of Denver, he will use his Council experience and his belief that by working together, we can create a sustainable and future world-class City, because – We Are All Denver.

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

Section 1. The Council hereby recognizes and honors its four members who are leaving office on July 18, 2011, thanks them for their service to the people of the City and County of Denver, and wishes them well in their next endeavors.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Councilmembers Boigon, Hancock, Linkhart, and Johnson.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2011

_____ PRESIDENT