

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. CP16-0157

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Denver Health's Bernard F. Gipson Eastside Family Health Center and Denver Community Health Services

WHEREAS, Denver Health's Bernard F. Gipson Eastside Family Health Center opened in March 1966, as the second community health center in the United States, and the first West of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Eastside Family Health Center is named for Bernard F. Gipson, Colorado's first board-certified African-American surgeon; and

WHEREAS, Denver Community Health Services now has 8 community health centers and 17 school-based health centers with a mission of providing primary and preventive health care services to the residents of the City and County of Denver and acts as a safety net to the medically underserved of Denver; and

WHEREAS, the community and school-based health centers are located in high-need areas; provide comprehensive primary health care services to their patients; and provide services to all residents of their service area with fees based on ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, Denver Community Health Services is the leading primary health care system for low-income Denver residents, providing health care services to 60% of Denver's uninsured population and over half of the city's Medicaid patients; and

WHEREAS, Denver Community Health Services provides high quality health care as evidenced by indicators such as childhood and adolescent immunization rates, well child visit rates, adult hypertension control and diabetes management; and

WHEREAS, Denver Health will be opening its newest community health center, the Southwest Family Health Center, at 1339 South Federal Boulevard, on April 18, 2016, providing urgent care, full spectrum primary care, dental services, behavioral health services, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Bernard F. Gipson Eastside Family Health Center will have provided 50 years of continuous service to the citizens of Denver on March 7, 2016.

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 applaud the tireless commitment and work of the Bernard F. Gipson Eastside Family Health Center.

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 Dr. Art Gonzalez, CEO, Denver Health; and, Dr. Simon Hambidge, Chief Ambulatory Officer, Denver Health.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 7, 2016

_____ PRESIDENT