

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-0989 Honoring the Life of Richard Gonzales

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2018 the City of Denver and the Denver Fire Department lost a life-long native and public servant named Richard Gonzales; and

WHEREAS, Richard Gonzales was born February 10, 1951, the youngest of fourteen kids and lived his entire life in the city of Denver; and

WHEREAS, Chief Gonzales joined the Denver Fire Department in 1972, after dropping out of Colorado State University, where fire-fighting became his life long career and love; and

WHEREAS, he rose quickly through the ranks of the Denver Fire Department and was known to be very charismatic, thoughtful and deeply committed to public service; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 36 Gonzales became the youngest person ever appointed Denver Fire Chief and became the first Latino to hold the job; and

WHEREAS, Chief Gonzales was a real leader who was significantly ahead of his time developing safety standards for the department. He created a smoking policy in Denver Firehouses that limited smoking areas to small portions of the building. He required firefighters to wear mask and helmets if they were working around a fire of any size; and

WHEREAS, Gonzales pushed for policies that encouraged minorities and women to join the department. He created a program required firefighters to volunteer in the community and mandated training for sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS, while serving as fire chief, Gonzales returned to college graduating from Regis University, summa cum laude in 1991. He later received a master's degree for Public Administration from Colorado State University; and

WHEREAS, Gonzales retired in 2001 after more than 29 years in the department. He later worked as the Vice President for the Mile High United Way, and as the Executive Director for the Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration.

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 wishes to formally acknowledge and thank the family of former Denver Fire Chief Richard Gonzales for outstanding service to the citizens of the City and County of Denver.

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 the family of Richard Gonzales.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 10, 2018

PRESIDENT