


# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 21-0821

### A Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Lieutenant Kenneth D. Chavez to the City of Denver

**WHEREAS** Lieutenant Kenneth D. Chavez served on the Denver Police Department in an honorable and faithful fashion for 42 years. During this time, he dedicated his life to serving the citizens, businesses, and visitors of Denver ; and

**WHEREAS** Kenneth D. Chavez entered the Denver Police Department on February 1, 1979. After completion of the Denver Police Academy, he was assigned to the old District 2 Station at 3555 Colorado Blvd. He patrolled the neighborhoods of Montbello, Park Hill, City Park, North Capital Hill, Curtis Park, and Five Points. He was selected to serve as a Field Training Officer in 1984; and

**WHEREAS** After six years in Patrol, he was promoted to Detective in 1985. He subsequently served in the Auto Theft Bureau, Assault Bureau, Sex Assault Bureau, and was ultimately selected to serve in the Homicide Unit in 1986 where he served for five years. In this assignment, he was assigned to investigate over 150 Homicides. During this time, he was the lead investigator in the murder of Denver Sheriff's Department Deputy Daniel Stillwell in 1987 which occurred at Denver General Hospital. Ultimately, suspect Timothy Vialpando was sentenced to a life sentence for Deputy Stillwell's death; and

**WHEREAS** From 1991 to 1996, Lieutenant Chavez served in the METRO SWAT Unit. In 1997, he was promoted to Sergeant after placing number one in the promotion testing process. He subsequently served in the old District 1 Station at 2195 Decatur Street, the Juvenile Intake Bureau, and in the old Combined Communications Bureau at 850 Josephine Street; and

**WHEREAS** In late 2000, he was promoted again to Lieutenant. He subsequently served in the following assignments: Combined Communications Bureau, Division Chief of Investigations Office, Division Chief of Patrol Office, Air Support Unit Commander, Gang Bureau, Liaison Officer to the Denver Office of Emergency Management, District 3 Station, District 5 Station, District 6 Station, and his last assignment in the City Safety & Security Bureau; and

**WHEREAS** In addition to his law enforcement career, Lieutenant Chavez also simultaneously served for 36 years in the Colorado Army National Guard. He retired in 2016 at the rank of Colonel and deployed on four overseas combat tours to Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He also deployed to New Orleans, Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

**WHEREAS** During his career, Lieutenant Chavez had the unheralded distinction of serving in five of the six District Stations, all four Divisions of the Department (Patrol, Investigations, Administration, & Special Operations), was the longest serving command officer on the Denver Police Department since in the 1950s, carried the Denver Police Department Badge into combat zones longer than any other Officer in the department's history (42 months), and has the incredible honor of being the longest serving Officer of Color in the 162 year history of the Denver Police Department; and

**WHEREAS** During his law enforcement and military careers, Lieutenant Chavez served under 11 Chiefs of Police, 6 Mayors, 6 Governors, and 8 U.S. Presidents. He is a proud Denver native who was born in a modest house on South Pennsylvania Street in 1957 when his Father was assigned to Lowry Air Force Base when it was known as the U.S. Air Force Academy. Upon his death, Lieutenant Chavez will be buried at Ft. Logan Military Cemetery with his Father and thousands of other military and Denver Police Veterans who have served our City, State, and Nation.

### **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 recognizes the service of Lieutenant Kenneth D. Chavez to the people of the City of Denver and his tremendous dedication to protecting public safety and serving Denver residents, visitors, his colleagues in the line of duty, and Denver City Government.

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 copies be transmitted to Lieutenant Kenneth D. Chavez.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL July 19, 2021

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PRESIDENT