


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-0987

Recognizing the Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver's 80th Anniversary Providing Quality Affordable Housing and Community Revitalization

WHEREAS, the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 was passed to provide decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for families of low income; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council passed an ordinance legalizing the creation of a local housing authority on September 2, 1938, appointing a five-member board to guide the agency and set its housing policies; and

WHEREAS, September 2, 2018 marks the 80th Anniversary of the Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver (DHA) which has provided thousands of families, seniors, veterans, and disabled individuals with quality and affordable housing in communities offering empowerment, economic opportunity, and a vibrant living environment; and

WHEREAS, DHA's earliest housing primarily focused on the needs of World War II-era defense workers providing cost-effective housing for employees of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and today DHA manages and serves over 12,000 family members and nearly 2,300 units in Denver's first row-type family development; and

WHEREAS, the 60's-80's brought the need for housing for seniors and DHA built senior high-rises adding 500 new units of senior housing. The 70's fostered resident advocacy and leadership - establishing the Central Resident Council and emphasizing resident self-sufficiency. Those years also brought the first tenant-based Section 8 Housing Certificates, the first homeownership program, and dispersed housing; and

WHEREAS, the 90's DHA evolved to building homes and lives through partnership in community revitalization launching partnerships with Auraria Higher Education Campus. It launched the first of four Bridge Projects in partnership with Denver University to increase graduation rates for children in DHA housing. DHA forged mixed-income, mixed-use housing, and energy efficiency through its award-winning Benedict Park Place; and

WHEREAS, today DHA leads the nation in creating healthy, safe, vibrant, transit oriented, sustainable and mixed-income communities of choice and transforming neighborhoods. Under the direction of a nine-member board and leadership of an executive team and staff, DHA is committed to working in partnership with the City, business community, and non-profit organizations, community and residents; and

WHEREAS, DHA a quasi-municipal agency develops, owns, operates and manages a portfolio of over 12,000 units and housing choice vouchers providing affordable housing to more than 26,000 very low- low and middle-income individuals of which over 50% are children, representing over 10,500 families, with average income of \$12,709 for families and seniors average income \$13,851; and

WHEREAS, DHA employs over 300 individuals, providing over \$69M to the private sector in Housing Assistance Payments for the Housing Choice Voucher program, and contributes over \$81M into the economy for new construction, rehabilitation, modernization and preservation of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, 2018 and beyond DHA's focus on innovation and social ventures, include; the Youth Employment Academy, Osage Café, Friends of DHA, West Denver Renaissance Collaborative, ConnectHome Denver-bridging the digital divide, real-estate development, living green, eco-districts, solar gardens, new markets, collaborative spaces and private/public partnerships providing a variety of housing opportunities for Denver.

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 recognize the Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver's 80 years of providing quality affordable housing and community revitalization.

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 Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 10, 2018

_____ PRESIDENT

_____ SPONSOR