

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 22-1050 International Overdose Awareness Day

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is recognized around the world as an occasion to acknowledge those who have experienced an overdose, as well as loved ones who have been affected; and

WHEREAS, each year a record number of deaths are being reported, driven predominantly by use of fentanyl, methamphetamine, and in combination with other drugs; and

WHEREAS, 107,000 people died of an overdose in the United States in 2021 and 93,331 people died of an overdose in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 50 plus years of the racist and classist war on drugs, drug overdose deaths have increased significantly in many parts of the world, including Denver, Colorado, and continue to worsen; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day & this Denver City Council denounces the criminalization and incarceration of people who use drugs; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day hopes to publicly challenge the stigma associated with drug use and overdose; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day sends a strong message to current and former people who use drugs that their lives are valued; and

WHEREAS, this day spreads the message that the tragedy of overdose death is preventable and empowers people to work together to prevent overdose as a community by prioritizing harm reduction initiatives such as naloxone, fentanyl testing strips, syringe access programs, overdose prevention sites, and a safe supply; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day provides an opportunity for people to publicly mourn for loved ones, some for the very first time, without the feelings of guilt or shame;

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 proclaim August 29th as Denver Overdose Awareness Day.

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 Lisa Raville of the Harm Reduction Action Center.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 29, 2022

_____ PRESIDENT