

Good evening, Members of Council. My name is Tony Ogden, and I currently reside in Portland, Oregon. I was a Denver resident from the early 80s to 2002 and had the pleasure of working with Cathy Reynolds on some key initiatives during that time. It is a privilege to be here tonight and speak in support of Bill 21-1322 and the renaming of Council Chambers to the Cathy Reynolds Council Chamber.

You will undoubtedly hear about Cathy Reynolds' numerous accomplishments throughout her storied career as a public servant to this great city. I will speak primarily to one.

I last stood and testified before this Council in 1990, (when only one of you was a member), in support of Denver's comprehensive anti-discrimination bill, Ordinance #623. I worked alongside several advocates in developing the original draft of that bill and helped found the Equal Protection Ordinance Coalition.

With a draft bill in hand, Tea Schook and I knocked on Cathy Reynolds door in 1988. Cathy opened the door wide for us and offered her support and sponsorship. This seems a no-brainer today, but in the 80s and 90s, rights for the LGBTQ community were still being hard fought. Few jurisdictions in the Country had a gay rights bill, and only two other Colorado cities, Aspen and Boulder, had ordinances that included sexual orientation.

When we first approached Cathy, she was working to amend Denver's discriminatory R-Zero zoning. We worked with Cathy and others to change R-0 zoning as it would set the stage for the introduction of our comprehensive civil rights ordinance. Cathy was keen on political strategy and understood the importance of patience and coalition building.

Cathy did not shy away from, what was at times, very ugly and hateful opposition. She was steadfast in her support through an attempted repeal of only the “sexual orientation” portion of the ordinance, the fight over Amendment 2, and she celebrated with us vindication when the Supreme Court decided *Romer v Evans*.

Cathy opened her door when many others would not. On this and so many other issues Cathy supported, she demonstrated leadership in the face of significant obstacles, not out of political gain but out of conviction -- because it was the right thing to do for the people of the City and County of Denver. As others have and will continue to say about Cathy, she loved this City, was dedicated to it, and committed to making it a better place.

I would go so far as to say, Cathy’s leadership and courage in fighting discrimination is one reason Colorado has an openly gay governor today. I am proud to have worked with Cathy and to have regarded her a friend.

Renaming Council Chambers in honor of Councilwoman Cathy Reynolds speaks to what it means to be a public servant - leadership, dedication, commitment, honor, and integrity. Her name on this chamber will serve as a constant reminder of those values.

I urge your support and thank you for the opportunity to share one small story about how Cathy helped make this City a better place for me and many others.

Thank you.