

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 21-0970 Third Annual La Raza Park and Cruise Day

WHEREAS, Denver has been home to a thriving and vibrant Chicano community for generations; and

WHEREAS, for the past two years, the La Raza and Barnum Park: A Cruise Down Fedz Day has honored a proud and joyous celebration of Chicano history and lowriding culture; and

WHEREAS, communities of color in Denver, including neighborhoods in North and West Denver, have suffered the disproportionate impacts of injustice, criminalization, and violence; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 Denverites continue to navigate multiple crises -- including the global COVID-19 pandemic that claimed the lives of hundreds of Denver residents, the economic recession that left countless families struggling, a reckoning with structural racism in nearly every aspect of society, and devastating and senseless gun violence that has victimized communities; and

WHEREAS, in response to the recent wave of gun violence, many lowriding families have reluctantly been forced to change their cruising routes to protect their culture and their families; and

WHEREAS, our communities are calling for justice, inclusivity, and a Denver where all residents and families can thrive; and

WHEREAS, cruising culture, lowriders, and car clubs collectively instill a sense of pride, unity, and community resilience within many North and West Denver families and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Chicano movement achieved a tremendous victory following fifty years of advocacy to officially rename La Raza Park, located at 38th Avenue and Navajo Street in Denver; and

WHEREAS, standing on the legacy of the Chicano movement in Denver, a new generation of grassroots and elected leaders have made great strides to ensure that Chicanos, Mexicanos, immigrants, and people of color are treated with equity, dignity, and respect; and

WHEREAS, the La Raza Park Day Planning Committee wishes to acknowledge and extend our highest gratitude and respect to longtime lowrider and cruise organizer Misty Rael, who truly exemplifies the values of love for community, kindness, and unity, having organized for the past decade lowriding cruises and events to help families and give back to those in need, in their most difficult moments;

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 in the pursuit of the shared goals and responsibilities of promoting knowledge about Chicano cultural traditions, unifying communities, and combating prejudice and eliminating discrimination, the City and County of Denver, Colorado, does hereby proclaim August 29th 2021 as "Third Annual La Raza Park and Cruise 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 La Raza Park Day Planning Committee, Councilwoman Jamie Torres, Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval, the Denver Latino Commission, the Denver Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships, and Ms. Misty Rael.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 23, 2021

PRESIDENT