

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## Proclamation No. 26-0643 Remembering Byron Thomas “Whiz” Weiss

**WHEREAS** Byron Thomas “Whiz” Weiss was a lifelong resident of Denver, Colorado. He was born in Denver on December 28, 1939, to Leo and Jeannette Weiss, and passed away in Denver on March 17, 2026; and

**WHEREAS** Byron was raised in the Clayton and North Park Hill neighborhoods and attended Denver Public Schools throughout his academic career, graduating from East High School in 1957; and

**WHEREAS** Byron began his working life assisting his family in operating their business, the Discount Record Center, located at 434 16th Street in Downtown Denver during the 1960s, and also worked alongside his father in the salvage business along Brighton Boulevard; and

**WHEREAS** in the 1980s, Byron founded Porta Power Inc., originally located on Valencia Street, which began as a business selling golf carts and batteries and later evolved into a successful enterprise specializing in material handling equipment, including forklifts, pallet racking, and industrial shelving, expanding to multiple locations throughout Denver; and

**WHEREAS**, in late 1992, Byron toured the property known as Rock Drill, located in the Cole neighborhood and bounded by 39th Avenue, 40th Avenue, Franklin Street, and Williams Street, a historic site originally home to the Denver Rock Drill Manufacturing Company, which began producing pneumatic mining drills there in 1910, later merging with the Gardner Governor Company in 1927 to become Gardner Denver before relocating operations to Illinois in the early 1960s; and

**WHEREAS** recognizing both the immediate operational potential and long-term redevelopment opportunity of the Rock Drill property, Byron acquired the site in early 1993, anticipating future growth tied to nearby transit development and the expansion of Denver’s urban core; and

**WHEREAS**, despite significant interest from developers, Byron remained steadfast in his commitment to preserving the historic character of the Rock Drill site and honoring its significance to the Cole neighborhood and the broader Denver community, ultimately partnering with a development team that shared his vision and working diligently in his later years to bring that vision to life.

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:**

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council recognizes and honors the life of Byron Thomas “Whiz” Weiss, his lifelong commitment to shaping the east side of Denver, and his stewardship of one of Denver’s most meaningful properties.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk and Recorder 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 Andrew Weiss and Brett Weiss.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 11, 2026

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PRESIDENT

