

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-1244 Recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day, observed annually on August 31st, is a global event to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related death, and to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or suffered a permanent injury as a result of drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, overdose is a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States and in 2024 claimed the lives of 1,603 Coloradans, including 483 here in Denver, affecting families, friends, and entire communities across every race, age, and socioeconomic group; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver is committed to supporting public health, equity, and compassion in addressing the substance use crisis, and affirms that every life lost to overdose is a preventable tragedy; and

WHEREAS, Denver Health's Center for Addiction Medicine and Behavioral Health Services stand as vital resources in our community, offering comprehensive, compassionate, and evidence-based care to support individuals at every stage of their recovery with respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS, Denver Health's leadership in addiction medicine—through initiatives such as medication-assisted treatment, naloxone access, educational programs, peer recovery support, and direct outreach to unhoused populations—demonstrates the power of a public health approach to substance use and harm reduction; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is an opportunity for all Denver residents to honor those lost, support those in recovery, thank our frontline providers, and recommit to reducing stigma and expanding access to care.

WHEREAS, by recognizing the work of Denver Health's Center for Addiction Medicine and observing International Overdose Awareness Day, we honor the memory of those we have lost, support those in recovery, and rededicate ourselves to a future where overdose is preventable, and recovery is possible for all.

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

Section 1. That the Council hereby recognizes August 31, 2025, as International Overdose Awareness Day in Denver and commends the work of Denver Health's Center for Addiction Medicine and urge all residents to learn about the signs of overdose, carry and know how to use naloxone, and support those in our community affected by substance use. Let this proclamation serve as a call to action, a tribute to those we have lost, and a commitment to a future in which overdose is no longer a leading cause of death in Denver.

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.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 25, 2025

Amursh P. Anderson

PRESIDENT

