

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 22-0552

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM "BILL" HIMMELMANN

WHEREAS, Denver City Councilman William "Bill" Himmelmann passed away on February 10, 2022, leaving behind a legacy of service to the City and County of Denver and Southwest Denver Residents; and

WHEREAS, Bill Himmelmann began working for New York Telephone & Telegraph Co. as a teenager. After falling in love with Colorado, he obtained a transfer to Mountain Bell in 1969 and retired with 30 years of service at the age of 47; and

WHEREAS, During and after his time at Mountain Bell he served as president of the Denver Area Labor Federation, which represented approximately 110,000 union workers in the Denver area. He was also very active in the community, serving on some 50 volunteer boards and councils. A few of note are:

The Council for Public Television (Channel 6) where he served as vice president
The Washington Street Community Center where he was a Board member and former President
Mile High United Way where he was an Honorary Life Trustee
The Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Awards where he was a Board Member and former Chairman
The Colorado Historical Society where he served as a trustee

He also served on:

The Transportation Committee of the Denver Regional Council of Governments
Governor's Light Rail Study Commission
Mayor's Economic Development Council
Kaiser Permanente Health Advisory Council
District Attorney's Crime Advisory Council

He sat on the City Issues Committee for the League of Women Voters and cohosted their public affairs TV program on Denver's Channel 8

In 1978, he cofounded Citizens Appreciate Police, a nonprofit formed to publicly recognize good police work and foster positive community engagement; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, the Denver Post recognized him for his "mind-boggling" community involvement, writing that, for Bill Himmelmann "building a better community has been truly a labor of love", and;

WHEREAS, His community connections allowed him to play a supporting role in the creation of the Denver School of the Arts. He met actor Raymond Burr while managing labor relations with Burr's *Perry Mason* television series that filmed in Denver, including a courtroom in the City and County Building. Burr wanted to help establish a school of the arts in Denver and asked him to organize a meeting with civic leaders. Approximately 50 people attended that meeting, including Governor Roy Romer, Denver Mayor Federico Peña and Aurora Mayor Paul Tauer, and the wheels were set in motion that ultimately resulted in Burr providing financial backing to open the DPS magnet school, and;

WHEREAS, After retiring from the phone company and the labor federation, Bill Himmelmann completed the Denver Metro Chamber Foundation's *Leadership Denver* program in 1994 and ran for Denver City Council in 1995, and;

WHEREAS, In endorsing his candidacy, the Denver Post wrote that "His public service resume is long and impressive" and "It would be impossible to list every civic board, charity, neighborhood group and task force that that has benefited from Himmelmann's participation", and;

WHEREAS, During his term on City Council, he was actively involved in convincing the EPA to clean up the Shattuck Chemical Superfund Site in the Overland neighborhood, was instrumental in the creation of Grant-Frontier Park along the Platte River, and co-sponsored a bill extending benefits to same-sex partners of City of Denver employees. He also co-chaired the Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee along with Dennis Gallagher. The two good friends joined the City Council together in 1995 and passed away less than three months apart in 2022, and;

WHEREAS, Bill Himmelman continued to serve his community after his term at Denver City Council and until his final illness. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at St. John's Cathedral, 1350 Washington Street, with a reception to follow.

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 hereby recognizes Bill Himmelmann and expresses the Council's gratitude for his decades of service to the community.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this Proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the family of Bill Himmelmann.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 9, 2022

_____ PRESIDENT