


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 23-0746

A Proclamation Recognizing 40 Years of The Denver Principles: Honoring those Surviving and Thriving with HIV/AIDS

WHEREAS, It has been four decades since the first known reported cases of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and today, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) remains a critical public health issue that impacts millions of people worldwide, especially those harmed by systemic racism and the legacy of colonial violence; and

WHEREAS, we recognize HIV affects everyone regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, gender, age, or where they live; and

WHEREAS, we commemorate The Advisory Committee of People with AIDS, namely: Richard Berkowitz, Bill Burke, Michael Callen, Bobbi Campbell, Bob Cecchi, Artie Felson, Jim Geary, Phil Lanzarratta, Chuck Morris, Tom Nasrallah, Bobby Reynolds, Jeff Richards, Matthew Sarnier, Helen Schietinger, and Dan Turner, who came together on June 12, 1983 to share their experiences about combating stigma and advocating as people living with AIDS at the Fifth Annual Gay and Lesbian Health Conference in Denver, Colorado, at The Executive Tower Inn, located at what is now The Curtis Hotel; and

WHEREAS, this gathering led to the establishment of the Denver Principles in 1983, the Paris Declaration in 1984, the HIV Care Continuum in 2011, and HIV decriminalization in 2016; and

WHEREAS, we commit to a renewed vision of the Denver Principles: empowering people living with HIV at all levels, in which they are equal partners in political, legal, and social actions; preventing HIV, in which prevention services and interventions are available to all Coloradans equitably; improving outcomes for people living with HIV, in which inclusive care is available when and where people need it in order to thrive while working to reduce stigma; disrupting/reducing inequities, in which Colorado is a state where all people living with HIV and vulnerable to the acquisition of HIV have equitable and just access to care and services in their communities; and achieving integrated, coordinated efforts that address HIV and other intersecting epidemics among all partners and interested parties; and

WHEREAS, today we unite to eliminate the disparities and inequities that create barriers to HIV testing, prevention, care, and reduce quality of life, as well as to remember those we have lost to HIV/AIDS and stand in solidarity with those who are living with and affected by HIV.

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 honors and thanks all those involved in their commitment to ensuring that the Denver tradition of empowering people living with HIV through the recommendations and rights stated in The Denver Principles.

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 Colorado Organizations and Individuals Responding to HIV/AIDS (CORA).

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 5, 2023

COUNCIL PRESIDENT