

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0198 Honoring the Life and Legacy of Norman Strickland Early Jr.

WHEREAS Norman Strickland Early, Jr. was born on November 14, 1945, in the District of Columbia to Norman Strickland Early Sr. and Gloria Robinson Jackson; and

WHEREAS he attended school in Washington D.C. at Paul Junior High and Calvin Coolidge High School, graduating in 1963; and

WHEREAS Norm distinguished himself as both a scholar and a gifted athlete, becoming a top recruit in track and field; and

WHEREAS after graduating high school, he attended American University, where he received his bachelor's degree and developed his passion for politics with his election as president of the sophomore class, vice president of the student association, and was the first elected Black president of the AU student government in 1966-1967; and

WHEREAS after graduating from AU, Norm earned a law degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Law, where he received a fellowship that provided him the opportunity to assist under-resourced communities in Denver; and

WHEREAS he was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1970 and continued to pursue his interest in politics, becoming the Colorado delegate for Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to run for president; and

WHEREAS Norm joined the Denver District Attorney's Office in 1973 as a Deputy under DA Dale Tooley, eventually becoming a chief deputy; and

WHEREAS he distinguished himself as a highly skilled trial attorney with a keen sense of fairness and justice; and

WHEREAS in 1983, Governor Richard D. Lamm appointed Norm as Denver District Attorney, a position he held in 1993, after winning consecutive elections in 1984, 1988 and 1992 by wide margins; and

WHEREAS, his leadership style resulted in many of his staff members ascending to city, state and national positions; and

WHEREAS during his career, he helped establish numerous organizations including the National Organization for Victims Assistance, where he served as president and continued fighting on behalf of victim's rights. His record of accomplishment was so significant that the Colorado Organization for Victim's Assistance named their highest honor "the Norm Early Exemplary Leadership Award"; and

WHEREAS Norm was the co-founder of two premier organizations dedicated to helping ensure the success of Black lawyers within the legal profession and served as the president of the National Black Prosecutors Association; and

WHEREAS as a father, brother, grandfather, and father-in-law, he treasured time with his family and friends; and

WHEREAS decades later, the impact of Norm's efforts as a public figure and a family member continue to leave an indelible impression on the lives of all those with whom he interacted.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council recognizes and honors the tremendous service and lasting legacy of Norman Strickland Early Jr. and his outstanding service to our community.

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 copies be transmitted to the Early Family, The Denver District Attorney's Office and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 23, 2026

PRESIDENT

