



Proclamation No. 20-0951

Recognizing the Service of James Jeffrey and Denver Public Library Retirees to the City of Denver

WHEREAS, retiring from the Denver Public Library are a team of passionate people who have a combined 632.2 years of service and institutional knowledge among them. They are Jacqueline Jones, Dennis Ochoa, Stephen Ahuero, Ganna Gorelik, Inessa Kaplan, Phyllis Hyland, Jeffrey Christoffersen, Joan Hansen, Mary Alderfer, Hannah Miles, Marcelino Valdez, Michael Grant, Richie Reese, Teresa Medina Soria, Sherry Spitsnaugle, Chris Gyorgy, Stephanie Two Eagles, Elonda Walker-Vaughn, Louie Casem, Steven Schneck, Lisa Flavin, Steven Divide, David Bustamante, and Coi Drummond-Gehrig; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and work of these individuals makes our city's libraries an outstanding, reliable and valuable asset to Denver citizens; and

WHEREAS, James Jeffrey is also among those retiring from the library having served the City of Denver for 35 years beginning in 1985 and built his career assembling critical historical resources and teaching new audiences about the discovery of history; and

WHEREAS, James' career at the city brought volumes of significant historical material, increased participation and volunteerism from diverse communities, and valuable expertise to the Denver Public Library's Western History and Genealogy Collection; and

WHEREAS when James began his career in 1985 there were 17,000 volumes in the genealogy collection and today, 35 years later, there are over 70,000 volumes representing countless personal stories about the history of the west and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, as a steward of history, James Jeffrey has preserved a vital resource for future generations and he leaves a remarkable legacy of discovery, storytelling, and historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, among the programs James has pioneered at the library are making records available in various formats, including electronic. These records include the Black, White, and Hispanic communities, the Denver Obituary indexes 1912 through 2016, Colorado Marriage index 1858 through 1939, Colorado Divorce index 1858-1939, Denver Marriage index 1902 through 1984, 1861 Colorado Territorial Election, 1864 Denver and Arapahoe County Tax list, Burials in Riverside, Fairmount, Crown Hill and the recreation of Old City Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, James expanded these resources to wider audiences to allow more equitable access to genealogical research and connection to history through his contribution to local and national genealogical societies such as the Colorado Genealogical Society and Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies and in founding or strengthening the following groups: Black Search Group, Genealogical Society of Hispanic America, Hispanic Genealogical Society of Colorado, Olibama Lopez Tushar Hispanic Heritage Society, Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado, and Colorado Chapter of Professional Genealogists.

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 recognizes James Jeffrey and retirees of the Denver Public Library for their service to the people of Denver and their vital work in fostering knowledge, education, discovery, and history in our city.

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 James Jeffrey.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 14, 2020

PRESIDENT