

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## **Proclamation No. 20-1466 Recognizing the Service of Marvin Kelly to the City of Denver**

**WHEREAS**, Marvin Kelly's service to Del Norte Neighborhood Development Corp began in May 1981 and continued through his planned retirement in December 2020 after four decades of dedicated, passionate work and important leadership for Del Norte and the Denver community; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvin moved to Colorado from his native Texas in 1979. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and he completed the Achieving Excellence Program for community development professionals at Harvard's Kennedy School; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvin resides with his husband, Lee Esparza who he has been with for 29 years, and for whom he is full of gratitude for Lee's unwavering love and support all the years while Marvin pursued his passion of advocating for affordable housing for those in need in Denver; and

**WHEREAS**, Under Marvin's leadership Del Norte grew a very capable staff, and in partnership with many nonprofits, businesses, individuals, city, state and federal agencies, Del Norte has: Developed the first AIDS housing project in Colorado, developed and completed in 1985 the Niblock Yacovetta Terrace property, one of the first projects in the nation that was used as a model for the low-income housing tax credit program, developed housing specifically for the homeless living in Denver, provided thousands of families with homebuyer education, provided over \$3,000,000 in second mortgages to low and moderate-income primarily Hispanic first-time homebuyers, provided post purchase counseling to help hundreds of homeowners prevent foreclosure, rehabilitated more than 300 low-income, owner-occupied homes in Denver, rehabilitated over 600 rental units covering a full range of quality affordable housing products with attention to housing for seniors, persons living with HIV/AIDS, those with and physical and mental disability, families, Veterans and others with special housing needs, developed over 300 units of new affordable housing, developed or redeveloped over 20,000 sf of commercial space, and increased Del Norte's assets from \$0 in 1986 to nearly \$68 million to date; and

**WHEREAS**, Marvin has served on many boards and committees, such as the Neighborhood Development Collaborative, the City of Denver's advisory committee for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, the National AIDS Housing Coalition, and the National Network Advisory Committee for the Enterprise Foundation. He is a former commissioner of the Denver Housing Authority and is a current board member of the Denver Metro Fair Housing Center; and

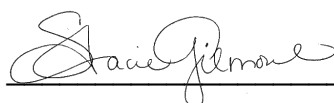
**WHEREAS**, Marvin has received the following awards: Fr. Vincent O'Flaherty Award for Significant Contribution and Commitment to the (Denver) Highland Neighborhood, and Denver Cinco de Mayo Civil Rights Award, and for Del Norte's work in restoring historic properties; the Historic Denver Award and the Colorado Historical Society Award.

**NOW THISEFORE, 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 Marvin Kelly and his passionate dedication to work on behalf of the people of the City of Denver and service to his community during a career of major contributions to affordable housing.

**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 Marvin Kelly.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 7, 2020



PRESIDENT