



Proclamation No. 15-0758

Celebrating Denver Afterschool Programs and the 2015 Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council recognizes that afterschool programs make a lifelong difference for kids and their parents; and

WHEREAS, Denver is home to over 93,000 school-aged youth, producing a significant need for afterschool programs to support their academic, social, and physical development; those engaged in high-quality afterschool programs outpace their peers in academic growth, have better school attendance, and have better behavior in school while staying on track to graduate high school; and

WHEREAS, high-quality afterschool programs provide students with access to academic support, music, arts, sports, leadership development, conflict resolution, and more; building many important 21st Century skills that inspire increased confidence, making connections to future education and career opportunities; and

WHEREAS the demand for afterschool programs far outweighs the availability; for every one student enrolled in a quality afterschool program, there are two students waiting to get in; and national studies show parents without regular afterschool care for their children miss eight more days of work per year than their peers whose children are in regular afterschool programs, revealing the importance of these programs in supporting working families and the economic strength of our great city; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Afterschool Alliance – a collaboration among the City and County of Denver, Denver Public Schools, and many of Denver’s funding and community-based organizations – helps improve program quality and increase afterschool access for all of Denver’s youth; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Afterschool Alliance provides tools and resources to help providers improve program quality and measure outcomes; creates a long-term collaborative plan addressing the need for high-quality afterschool programs across Denver; and maps programs citywide, addressing gaps in availability, and helping parents find the right program for their child; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves \$9 by reducing crime and welfare costs; improving kids’ performance at school; and increasing kids’ earning potential; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council pledges to support afterschool programs so that Denver’s children and families benefit from quality afterschool programs that help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete and succeed.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council recognizes the outstanding leadership of the Denver Afterschool Alliance for their innovative afterschool programs for Denver children and recognizes the 2015 National Lights on Afterschool Day, Thursday, October 22, 2015.

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 transmit it to the Office of Children’s Affairs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 19, 2015

PRESIDENT