

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-0862

Affirming and Uplifting Black Pride Colorado and Black LGBTQIA+ Community Leaders

WHEREAS, YouthSeen is an organization dedicated to celebrating and uplifting the Queer, Transgender Black, Indigenous, People of Color (QTBIPOC) community by providing vital support, resources, and empowerment through advocacy, healing-centered programming, and community-based events; and

WHEREAS, Black Pride Colorado, a program of YouthSeen, plays a vital role in fostering inclusivity, promoting cultural understanding, and combating systemic discrimination against Black LGBTQIA+ individuals through celebration, education, and organizing; and

WHEREAS, Black Pride Colorado was founded by Dr. tara jae with co-founder Tyrell Rae and organizing committee members Eboni Coleman, Theariale St. Cyr-Stallings, Nizhoni Smocks, Lex Dunbar, and John Roberts, each of whom has contributed with vision, heart, and leadership to this movement of joy and justice; and

WHEREAS, Black Pride has historical roots dating back to May 1991 in Washington, D.C., when the first Black Pride event was held as a response to the erasure of Black queer experiences, and to create space for celebration, resistance, and healing within our Black LGBTQIA+ community. That inaugural event sparked a national and global movement, affirming that our Black queer identity is sacred, powerful, and worthy of visibility; and

WHEREAS, similar to how Juneteenth emerged as a celebration of freedom granted by others, Black Pride is rooted in an ongoing process of liberation to bring about healing and restoration of Black LGBTQIA+ communities; and

WHEREAS, Black Pride Colorado carries forward the deeply rooted collective power that fuels our legacy of resistance, cultural celebration, and community healing—creating intentional spaces where Black queer joy is a form of protest and where Black LGBTQIA+ individuals can gather in affirmation, connection, and pride. In a time when anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and policy continue to rise, such spaces are not only meaningful, but they are also essential to survival and our liberation; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of Black Pride Colorado to build safe, inclusive, and celebratory environments—particularly for those most often pushed to the margins—echoes the values of justice, dignity, and shared liberation that define our collective hopes for Denver and Colorado as a whole; and

WHEREAS, it is both necessary and just to honor the resilience, brilliance, and ongoing contributions of Black LGBTQIA+ individuals, recognizing their lived experiences as vital threads in the tapestry of our state and our shared future as our liberation cannot just be granted; it must be claimed, cultivated and protected.

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

Section 1. The Denver City Council affirms and uplifts Black Pride Colorado for their visionary leadership, enduring resistance, and unapologetic joy, and we call upon all residents to celebrate, support, and protect the voices, lives, and legacies of Black queer and trans people across Colorado.

Section 2. The Denver City Council recognizes the importance of Black LGBTQIA+ community leaders and their efforts to combat the heaviness of inequitable systems to create a more just and equitable city for future generations.

Section 3. 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 YouthSeen's Executive Director Dr. tara jae.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 9, 2025

PRESIDENT

