

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-0516

Recognizing the Contributions of Jane Potts and Gertie Grant during National Volunteer Month

WHEREAS, April is recognized across the United States as National Volunteer Month, a time to celebrate the selfless dedication of volunteers who strengthen the fabric of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Denver is fortunate to have two extraordinary women, Jane Potts, representing the Rosedale-Harvard Gulch neighborhood, and Gertie Grant, representing West Washington Park, as pillars of Denver's RNO/neighborhood movement, having worked for decades as volunteers locally and citywide; and

WHEREAS, Jane and Gertie have dedicated decades of their lives to grassroots organizing and civic activism, working tirelessly to make Denver and Colorado more connected, sustainable and inclusive: and

WHEREAS, Jane Potts began her advocacy in the 1960s, first as a student at South High School, then at Colorado State University and continuing as a neighbor as recently as this month as the co-chair for sustainability with Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC). She has organized donation drives to benefit families at Goddard Elementary and the La Paz micro-community and actively planned the Denver INC Youth Awards that encourage our future community leaders. Jane remains active in the Rosedale-Harvard Gulch Neighborhood Association, inspiring her neighborhood to be active and engaged; and

WHEREAS, Gertie Grant has been steadfast advocate with her local Registered Neighborhood Organization since 1977. She helped negotiate Good Neighbor Agreements to increase communication between neighbors and developers and preserve neighborhood character and walkability. She has focused on promoting our urban canopy, beginning her environmental leadership by handing out trees from her garage in 1983, leading to the creation of Denver Digs Trees, which has distributed over 75,000 trees to Denverites through the years. She continues serving as the founder and program lead of Trees Across Colorado, with the mission of preserving, renewing, and enhancing Colorado's community forests. Since 2001, that program has planted 33,000 shade trees in communities across Colorado; and

WHEREAS, both Jane and Gertie have made substantial contributions to historic preservation in their neighborhoods and across Denver, ensuring that community character and stories endure for future generations; and

WHEREAS, both Jane and Gertie are exemplars of what a community volunteer can be in Denver. Their contributions reverberate throughout their neighborhoods and across our city and state, inspiring both current and future generations to commit to activism and volunteerism.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council hereby recognizes and honors the contributions of Jane Potts and Gertie Grant during National Volunteer Month. The Council extends its warmest gratitude to each of them, for their lifelong commitment and extraordinary contributions to community service, sustainability and empowering their neighborhoods and the City and County of Denver's residents.

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 a copy be transmitted to Jane Potts, Gertie Grant, Katie Rice (Rosedale-Harvard Gulch Neighborhood Association), Jonathan Edwards (West Washington Park Neighborhood Associations), and Beth Fluto (Baker Historic Neighborhood Association).

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 14, 2025

PRESIDENT

