

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0586 Recognizing National Interpreter Appreciation Day

WHEREAS, National Interpreter Appreciation Day is annually observed on the first Wednesday of May, and in the year 2024, it falls on May 1st. This is an occasion to recognize and express gratitude for the invaluable contributions of interpreters and language justice advocates across the nation; and

WHEREAS, National Interpreter Appreciation Day serves as a reminder to honor the linguistic diversity that enriches our society and to appreciate the individuals who facilitate cross-cultural connections through language justice; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of interpreters contribute significantly to building bridges between people of different languages and cultures, promoting mutual understanding, and fostering a world where communication is accessible to all; and

WHEREAS, since Executive Order 150 was established, the Language Access Program within the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs as a part of the Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships, serves as the main resource for the City and County of Denver's efforts to provide our community members with equal access to the city's public programs, services, and activities regardless of English proficiency and at no cost to the community member; and

WHEREAS, The Language Access team works closely with city agencies to ensure compliance with local and federal regulations by assisting in the development of language access plans outlining language access procedures and protocols for each public program, service, and benefit. They have developed a mandatory language access training for all employees and all new hires; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Language Access Program launched Interpreter Workforce Training Program which is a free program for the community members who are proficient in English and a foreign language to receive interpreter training and assistance in obtaining City's small business certification. This program will run through 2025 and has 49 graduates so far; and

WHEREAS, The Language Access Program manages the "Denver City Guide", a document that outlines resources and services available to the immigrant and refugee Denver community and has coordinated the translation of the guide into Spanish, Vietnamese, French, Lingala, Arabic, Amharic, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Nepali, Dari, and Pashto.

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 May 1st, 2024, as National Interpreter Appreciation Day and extends our gratitude to all the multi-lingual partners throughout the City who ensure all are informed and feel they also belong to our overall civic community.

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 Atim Otii and Claudia Castillo, Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships' Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs Director and Language Access Program Manager.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 29, 2024

PRESIDENT

