



Proclamation No. 23-0949

A Proclamation Recognizing Councilwoman Deborah "Debbie" Ortega's Service to the City of Denver

WHEREAS, Deborah "Debbie" Ortega has dedicated her life to serving the citizens of Denver for 42 years, 28 as a member of Denver City Council serving as the District 9 Councilmember from 1987 to 2003 and as an At-Large Councilwoman from 2011 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, she began her career in public service working for Lt. Governor George Brown and U.S. Senator Floyd Haskell; and then as an aide to Denver City Councilman Sal Carpio; and

WHEREAS, Ortega is a champion for the environment, leading efforts to have areas in three neighborhoods named as Superfund sites from the contamination from the ASARCO smelter and other industries. Ortega's efforts to protect the Globeville, Elyria and Swansea neighborhoods from the expansion of I-70 led to precedent setting mitigations and a targeted hiring program for residents of impacted areas. In partnership with Councilwoman Kniech, Ortega passed Denver's first ordinance requiring Denver residents be hired and provided apprenticeship opportunities on Denver construction projects; and

WHEREAS, Ortega led the development of the city's first plan to end homelessness and was sponsor of the original inclusionary zoning ordinance to provide funding for affordable housing. Hundreds of units of affordable housing have been developed by Del Norte Community Development during her tenure as board member and chairman. Ortega's championship of opportunities for all Denverites led to the establishment of the minority, women, and small business ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Ortega's passion for public service influenced her daughter Janelle, a Major in the Denver Sheriff's Department, and her grandson Gabriel, recently sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff, being honored as the valedictorian of his graduating class; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure at the Denver City Council, she has shown time and time again that she gets things done and is an advocate for the residents of Denver. The legacy she leaves will continue to have a lasting impact on Denver.

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 acknowledge and extend its gratitude to Councilwoman Debbie Ortega for her dedication to the residents of Denver.

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 Councilwoman Ortega.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL July 10, 2023

PRESIDENT