



**Proclamation No. 19-1154
Celebrating Denver Afterschool Programs and the
2019 Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day**

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

WHEREAS, students who regularly attend high-quality afterschool programs benefit in terms of academic performance, social and emotional learning, and health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, a strong focus on Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning (SEAL) impacts students' positive social behaviors and attitudes, skills such as empathy and self-confidence, and academic achievement providing youth with lifelong skills and setting them up for success in school, work and beyond; and

WHEREAS, more than 256,000 children in Colorado are waiting for an available program, 146,856 are alone and unsupervised after school, and many afterschool programs in Colorado and across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

WHEREAS, Lights on Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Afterschool Alliance connects and unites providers, school and city officials, families, funders and youth to create a long-term collaborative plan for high-quality afterschool programs citywide; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council pledges to support afterschool programs so that Denver's children and families have access to programs that support their success and strengthen our city.

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 in bringing together all stakeholders to create a collaborative, long-term plan for our city's afterschool system, and recognizes the 2019 National Lights on Afterschool Day, Thursday, October 24, 2019.

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 DATE October 21, 2019

PRESIDENT