


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 23-0018 Recognizing the service of Alton P. Dillard II

WHEREAS, Alton P. Dillard II was raised by his mother, Hall of Fame Denver Post reporter/theater critic Sandra Dillard and grandmother, Ruth Watson. He attended four elementary schools in seven years, a product of the Keyes court-ordered busing decision. Alton got his first job as a caddy at the Denver Country Club at age 13. He is a proud Denver East High School graduate; and

WHEREAS, Alton received his bachelor's degree in journalism/mass communication from the University of Northern Colorado and a minor in psychology, which has served him well during 30 years in government. Upon graduating into the mid-80's recession, Alton found work as a day laborer and drove a rental car shuttle at the former Denver airport to supplement \$5 an hour income as a sportscaster at KACT Aurora 8 and freelance talk show host at News 4; and

WHEREAS, through his work driving a rental car shuttle, Alton met then Congressman Ben Nighthorse Campbell. This meeting parlayed into working on his 1992 U.S Senate campaign and was subsequently hired as deputy press secretary in 1993; and

WHEREAS, upon moving back to Denver, Alton became the state press secretary where he worked a constituent service portfolio that included telecommunications and criminal justice, on both the enforcement and prevention side. When Sen. Campbell retired in 2005 Alton started the Dillard Group LLC, a communications consultancy where he performed contract media relations work for then City Councilmembers Michael Hancock and Rosemary Rodriguez and the former Denver Elections Commission; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 while he was still a consultant, Alton was named interim director of the Denver Election Commission while a national search for a permanent director was conducted. Alton went on to become the communications director after the elections director was hired. In 2006 he was the public face of a massive tech failure that resulted in more than 20,000 Denverites being turned away without being able to vote and resulted in the election commission being disbanded by a vote of the people in January of 2007. In turn, this solidified his reputation as a crisis communications specialist; and

WHEREAS, from 2007 until 2011, Alton worked in communications for the first elected clerk and recorder in the history of the City and County of Denver, the Hon. Stephanie O'Malley. From 2011 until 2019, he worked in communications for the Hon. Debra Johnson, the first LGBTQ clerk and recorder in the history of the City and County of Denver; and

WHEREAS, from 2019 until 2022, Alton worked for the Hon. Paul D. López, the first elected Mexican-American clerk and recorder in the history of the City and County of Denver; and

WHEREAS, Alton has won the Public Relations Professional of the Year Award, the Kelvin McNeill Grace Under Fire Award, the Pacesetters Award from the Colorado Association of Black Journalists, and the Black Male Power Award from the Colorado Beautillion-Cotillion, Inc; and

WHEREAS, Alton serves his community as a volunteer basketball coach and will be entering his 15th season as the assistant varsity boys basketball coach at Far Northeast/Montbello High School; and

WHEREAS, Alton also volunteers as board president of the Lincoln Hills Cares Foundation and serves as a board member for Lincoln Hills Cares, organizations that provide outdoor education opportunities for black youth and puts them on a path to get a STEM education; and

WHEREAS, Alton is an avid cyclist who has logged more than 15,000 miles, and is a lover of theater and live music.

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 honors Alton P. Dillard II for his service and commitment to the residents of the City and the countless contributions made to the Office of the Clerk and Recorder upon his retirement December 23, 2022.

Section 2. That the Secretary of Council shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Alton P. Dillard II.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 9, 2023



PRESIDENT