

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 22-0879

### HONORING THE DIRE FAMILY AND BONNIE BRAE TAVERN FOR 88 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**WHEREAS**, In 1933, Carl and Sue Dire bought property on the western edge of the Bonnie Brae subdivision, on a then dirt road named University Blvd; and

**WHEREAS**, The Dires first opened a gas station on their land, then early the next year added a frame structure for a restaurant at 740 S University Blvd.; and

**WHEREAS**, Carl and Sue opened the Bonnie Brae Tavern in June 1934, in the midst of the Great Depression, barely seven months after the repeal of Prohibition; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tavern developed a widespread reputation for serving a hearty selection of home cooked comfort food, including their namesake pizza as well as a full menu of classic adult beverages; and

**WHEREAS**, The Dires son Michael joined the business in the 1940s and son Hank followed suit in the 1950s, and as the founders aged, they turned tavern operations over to their boys; and

**WHEREAS**, Continuing the family tradition, after growing up working at the restaurant themselves, Hank and Michael's sons Ricky and Michael Jr. eventually took over the business from their parents, and ended up working at the Tavern 44 and 40 years respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, Having served Denver families great comfort food and drink through the 1930s, 40s, 50s, 60s and the heyday of the 70s and 80s when there was an hour wait for dinner on the weekends, as Denver grew, along with more and more options for Denver diners, operating a Denver restaurant in a nearly 100 year old building became more and more challenging; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 6, Bonnie Brae Tavern celebrated 88 years in business; and

**WHEREAS**, After almost 9 decades in business, the Dire family has decided to move on to new challenges and turn the property over to new ownership and new uses, closing the Tavern doors forever on June 25th.

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Sect. 1:** That the Council of the City and County of Denver declares July 25, 2022 to be Bonnie Brae Tavern Day in Denver, and thanks the entire Dire family and their staff for providing 88 great years of fun, food, drink and community to generations of south Denver residents.

**Sect 2:** That the Clerk of the City & County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation, and copies be delivered to the Dire family.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL July 25, 2022

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PRESIDENT