



**Proclamation No. 19-1112  
Recognizing the Work of Denver Urban Gardens**

**WHEREAS**, Denver Urban Gardens was established in 1985 in order to support Denver residents in creating sustainable, food producing neighborhood community gardens; and

**WHEREAS**, over 34 years Denver Urban Gardens has expanded to include more than 181 urban gardens and multiple programs for youth and community engagement and education, including the Master Composter Training Program, the Master Community Gardener Training Program, and Grow a Garden; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 Denver Urban Gardens' programs grew 903,694 pounds of food, leveraged 5,582 volunteers contributing 206,297 volunteer hours, and an estimated 17,000 Denver Metro Area residents gardened at their network of gardens with another 34,000 benefiting from food grown in those gardens; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of Denver Urban Gardens depends on community members like Denise Wanzo and Lara Merriken whose commitment and dedication helps the organization flourish and grow; and

**WHEREAS**, Denise Wanzo founded Fives Loaves Community Garden 20 years ago and most of the food grown at the garden is donated to the local food bank, which is part of the United Church of Montbello; and

**WHEREAS**, Lara is a founding Garden Leader of the Gray Street Community Garden, founded in 1998 and launched a 5K Larabar run to benefit Denver Urban Gardens.

**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 the important work of Denver Urban Gardens in our community and the service of Denise Wanzo and Lara Merriken to the Denver Urban Gardens mission of growing healthy food locally and promoting nutrition and wellbeing through community gardening.

**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 Denver Urban Gardens, Lara Denise Wanzo, and Lara Merriken.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 14, 2019

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PRESIDENT