

DRAFT PROCLAMATION 19-0146
HONORING THE SERVICE
OF
RETIRED DIVISION CHIEFS
CASEY SIMPSON AND ARMEDIA GORDON

Whereas, The Denver Police Department will celebrate its 160th Anniversary in 2019; and

Whereas, In 1880, a group of black community leaders attended the Denver City Council meeting and demanded that the police and fire departments begin the practice of hiring black police officers and firemen; and

Whereas, Since 1880 the citizens of the City and County of Denver have been very well served by hundreds of black officers; and

Whereas, The Denver Police Department, the Denver Police Black Officers Association, The Blair-Caldwell Library and the Denver Police Museum in honor of Black History Month have partnered to honor two outstanding black individuals who served the City and County of Denver as police officers.

Whereas, Casey Simpson came to Denver and joined the Denver Police Department in 1956 where he served as a Denver Police patrolman for 13 years. In 1969, he and Officer Chris Wilkerson were appointed by Denver Police Chief George Seaton to serve as the first black sergeants in the history of the department; and

Whereas, In 1973, Sergeant Simpson was appointed lieutenant where he oversaw Community Services and later as a captain to oversee the Denver Police Training Bureau; and

Whereas, In 1983, Denver Police Chief Thomas Coogan appointed Simpson as division chief where he oversaw the Juvenile Division and later the Criminal and Detective Divisions of the department. Division Chief Simpson was the first black officer in the history of the department to achieve this rank; and

Whereas, In 1988, after 33 years of service, Division Chief Simpson retired from the Denver Police Department; and

Whereas, In 1973, private citizen Armedia Gordon chose to enter the Denver Police Academy and was successfully appointed as a Denver Police Officer and;

Whereas, Officer Gordon proved to have extremely strong skills that were quickly noticed, she became the first black woman to serve as a Denver Police Homicide Detective; and

Whereas, Detective Gordon studied successfully for the sergeant exam which she passed and was appointed as a supervisor in patrol in Denver Police District 1, then excelled and was appointed as a sergeant in the Homicide Division.

Whereas, Sergeant Gordon continued her advancement by successfully passing and being promoted to the rank of lieutenant, the first black woman to hold that rank within the Denver Police Department.

Whereas, Lieutenant Gordon was appointed by Denver Police Chief David Michaud to serve as division chief for the Investigative Unit of the department, being the first black woman in the history of the department to achieve this rank; and

Therefore, The Denver City Council wishes to recognize Retired Division Chief Casey Simpson and Armedia Gordon for their leadership and example they served as they faithfully performed their duty to protect and serve the Citizens of the City and County of Denver;