

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 16-1185

Declaring the City and County of Denver as a Compassionate City in Accordance with the Charter for Compassion

WHEREAS, the entrance to the Wellington E. Webb Municipal Office Building proclaims, “What Is the City but the People?,” and improving the wellbeing of the people of Denver is the shared work of our government, private and nonprofit sectors, and

WHEREAS, Denver’s many historic champions of compassion – Little Raven, Potato Clark, Emily Griffith, Dr. Justina Ford, Paco Sanchez, Min Yasui, Daddy Bruce Randolph, Lena Archuleta, and all the great philanthropists have set a high example for our citizens, and

WHEREAS, elevating mutual helpfulness and human respect among their citizens is the sole intention of the nearly 80 community governments around the world that have endorsed the Golden Rule-based Charter for Compassion (these include the world’s first Compassionate Neighborhoods: Denver’s LoDo and Overland Park), with hundreds more cities pursuing such endorsements, and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted the Resolution “Compassion as an Effective Public Policy”, citing the need for secular leadership in promoting compassion, its benefits to at-risk youth, and potential savings from reduced crime, and; and

WHEREAS, Denver’s own Agency for Human Rights & Community Partnerships, along with other targeted City initiatives, have long facilitated greater equality, deep connection, and full belonging for members of challenged communities within the Denver population, and

WHEREAS, acts of compassion boost well-being for both helper and beneficiary but high city population and density link to increased stress, anxiety and depression; so that, as Denver rapidly grows, measures such as making compassion one of our core civic values can help keep pace with the public health challenges of urban living; and

WHEREAS, in designating Denver a Compassionate City in accord with the Charter for Compassion, Denver calls on its many civic-minded businesses, nonprofits, Registered Neighborhood Organizations, and on its neighboring cities throughout the Metro area and Colorado to join in supporting the cultivation of compassion and acts of compassion for the well-being of all.

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 hereby commits to participate in and help to expand inclusivity conversations and systems that are free of oppression.

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 hereof be forwarded to the Manager of Public Works.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 21, 2016

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alvin Banks".

PRESIDENT