

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0040 A Proclamation Honoring RTD Board Director Kate Williams

WHEREAS, RTD Board Director Kate Williams was born on Camp Lejeune where her father was stationed in the Marine Corps, so she and her family moved around frequently, and she says, “my siblings were, and still are, my best friends”; and

WHEREAS, in her spare time, Dir. Williams enjoys singing with DU’s The Spirituals Project and Voices Rock, practices yoga, entertains guests at parties at her home, and is an avowed pescatarian; and

WHEREAS, while working in telecommunications and attending at McHenry County College, Dir. Williams became passionate about sailing, which brought her to Ft. Lauderdale, and there she achieved the status of #2 salesperson in Florida for BellSouth for two years in a row; and

WHEREAS, due to her financial success in telecom, Dir. Williams sailed all over the world, particularly in the Caribbean, and in 2000, when as she says, “it was time to make a change,” she went to work for Shake-A-Leg Miami, a sailing school for youth & adults with physical and developmental disabilities and socio-economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, when she moved to Denver in 2011, Dir. Williams discovered the National Sports Center for Disabilities whose headquarters is here, and at age 60 she learned how to ski herself, and she then became Executive Director at a Senior Activity Center, and with her mother living at her home, Dir. Williams became a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) through Emily Griffith; and

WHEREAS, she has built an extensive career working on transit and transportation issues, including for DRMAC (Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council), the American Federation for the Blind, and most recently for CarePool, a pilot project with DRCOG that provides transportation for aging adults, those with disabilities and Medicaid clients; and

WHEREAS, first elected to the Board of Directors of RTD in 2016, Dir. Williams was re-elected in 2020 and represents District A, which includes portions of downtown Denver, Cherry Creek, Glendale and Lowry, and she was respected as Chair and Vice Chair of Operations and Safety Committee; and

WHEREAS, the motto that guided Dir. Williams’ actions on the RTD Board has been, “Transportation is the social determinant of health. It underlies EVERYTHING”, and that she firmly believes that the future of our planet resides in embracing the transit system more fully, “so that we can get out of our cars and keep our grandchildren alive and spare our air”; and

WHEREAS, Dir. Williams was instrumental in creating RTD’s Zero Fare for Youth so there is now no fare for passengers under 19 years old, which she says is the “best thing I’ve done my whole life”; and

WHEREAS, after almost 8 years of faithful service, Dir. Williams regrettably leaves the Board of RTD, which she would never have otherwise left before end of term, had it not been for her declining health.

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 acknowledges RTD Director Kate Williams for her contributions in the City of Denver.

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 Dir. Kate Williams, RTD’s GM/CEO Debra Johnson, and the Board Office of the RTD.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 16, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT

