



**COUNCILWOMAN  
SHONTEL M. LEWIS**

**DENVER DISTRICT 8**

# Labor Acknowledgement

Finance & Business Committee  
July 28, 2026

# Background: Denver City Council Land Acknowledgment



The Denver City Council honors and acknowledges that the land on which we reside is the traditional territory of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Peoples. We also recognize the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado.

We honor Elders past, present, and future, and those who have stewarded this land throughout generations. We also recognize that government, academic and cultural institutions were founded upon and continue to enact exclusions and erasures of Indigenous Peoples.

May this acknowledgement demonstrate a commitment to working to dismantle ongoing legacies of oppression and inequities and recognize the current and future contributions of Indigenous communities in Denver.

# Starting Point: Labor Acknowledgement Office of Social Equity and Inclusion



We acknowledge that our country's economy, infrastructure, and resulting generational wealth would not exist as they do today without the stolen and forced labor of enslaved African people who suffered transatlantic human trafficking, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow.

We acknowledge how these dehumanizing practices have social, legal, and economic legacies that continue to haunt to this day.

# Proposed City Council Labor Acknowledgement



We acknowledge that our country's economy, infrastructure, and resulting generational wealth would not exist as they do today without the stolen and forced labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking, chattel slavery, and, later on, dehumanization through segregation and Jim Crow laws.

We acknowledge and remember those who did not survive the Middle Passage, as well as those who were beaten and lynched at the hands of White Americans. We recognize the terror inflicted by the Ku Klux Klan, who historically counted among their members numerous government officials in Denver and others in positions of power. We stand with those who are still suffering while fighting for their freedom.

We acknowledge how these dehumanizing practices have social, legal, and economic legacies that continue to reverberate through the generations, and in so acknowledging, commit to truth, accountability, and repair.



# Stakeholders



## ● Consulted:

- African American Commission
- LGBTQIA+ Commission
- Justice for Black Coloradans
- Collaborative Healing Initiative within Communities
- Office of Social Equity and Innovation

## ● Outreach ongoing:

- Center for African American Health
- Montbello 20/20
- Juneteenth Festival
- Black Arts Festival
- North Park Hill Coalition
- Park Hill Pirates
- Black Student Alliance
  - UC Denver
  - Metro
  - CCD

# Timeline



- November 2025: City Council Operations Meeting
- July 28th, 2026: Finbiz Committee
- August 3rd 2026: City Council
  - One reading
  - Accompanied by proclamation to be read after passage