

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 14-0096

### In solidarity to stand against bullying in Denver Public Schools, organizations, and the community at large

**WHEREAS**, bullying is the most common form of violent act in our society and can have tremendous negative impacts on victims. Bullying is generally recognized as repeated abusive, offensive, malicious, intimidating, and/or insulting behaviors or the abuse of power directed toward an individual or group; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of increased bullying attacks on local refugee youth and adults, and continuing threats to GLBT high school students in Denver, the GLBT Commission in 2011 began a policy review and anti-bullying advocacy with other Denver Commissioners to address the growing societal problem; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, Denver Commissioners proposed that the Human Rights & Community Partnerships Advisory Board (HRCP) develop a City-wide Commission statement against bullying to encourage the City and community leadership to take actions against these behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of the HRCP Advisory Board Co-Chairs, Jane Frances Echeozo (Denver Women's Commission) and John Kelly (Denver GLBT Commission), a committee of Advisory Board members was convened representing the Denver Women's Commission, the Denver GLBT Commission, the American Indian Commission, the Denver Latino Commission, Denver African American Commission, Denver Commission on Aging, Denver Commission for People with Disabilities, and the Denver Asian Pacific American Commission. The committee researched and drafted a "**Position Statement Against Bullying**" that integrated and reflected the existing City and Commission priorities to respect and value people from all walks of life and to mirror the City's Vision where everyone matters; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 26, 2013, the Agency of HRCP and its Commission Delegates under the Mayor from the Denver Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender (GLBT) Commission; Denver African American Commission; Denver Latino Commission; Denver Women's Commission; Denver Asian Pacific American Commission; Denver Commission on Aging; Denver American Indian Commission; Denver Commission for People with Disabilities; Denver Office for Strategic Partnerships Commission; and the Denver Immigrant and Refugee Commission voted to approve the "**Position Statement Against Bullying**" to represent a collaborative effort to partner against bullying and to promote educational awareness and intervention for the prevention of bullying in our schools and in our Denver communities; and

**WHEREAS**, all Commissions have been encouraged to incorporate the anti-bullying statement and intent into their 2014 goals; the position statement has helped to encourage Denver Public School representatives to include anti-bullying and harassment policies in their Parent/Student Handbook, and that the Agency of HRCP and Commissions collaborate to develop a communications strategy that includes a training component or public service announcement on Denver's Channel 8, to encourage all City residents to take a stand against bullying.

**NOW THEREFORE,  
BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council honors and supports the work of the Agency and the Commissions to foster environments of safety free from bullying, and to advocate for people with no protection against intimidating and harassing environments.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the Mayor; the Agency of HRCP; and to the Denver Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender (GLBT) Commission; Denver African American Commission; Denver Latino Commission; Denver Women's Commission; Denver Asian Pacific American Commission; Denver Commission on Aging; Denver American Indian Commission; Denver Commission for People with Disabilities; Denver Office for Strategic Partnerships Commission; and the Denver Immigrant and Refugee Commission.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 18, 2014

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT