

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation 25-1358

A Proclamation Declaring September 21 to be Jill Sobule Day in Denver

WHEREAS: Jill Sobule, was born in Denver on Jan. 16, 1959, to Marvin Lee Sobule – a veterinarian – and Elaine Kramish Sobule - a musician, was raised in the Hilltop neighborhood along with her brother Jim, and attended Carson Elementary, Hill Middle School and St Mary’s Academy; and

WHEREAS: Sobule began to display her skill on guitar in the 8th grade, taking after her older brother Jim. She eventually enrolled at the [University of Colorado Boulder](#) to study political science and spent her junior year in [Seville](#), Spain, where she performed her first public gigs traveling around Spain, Algeria and Morocco. She later returned to the U.S. and dropped out of CU to pursue her music career full time, sharpening her chops at local venues including Josephinas and the Rathskeller at Larimer Square; and

WHEREAS: Jill began her recording career in 1990, releasing an album, “Things Here Are Different: with the notable single “Too Cool to Fall in Love”, rising to fame in the mid-1990s, merging pop with heartfelt topics and genuine vulnerability, writing songs that tackled the LGBT experience, reproductive rights, anorexia, and more; and

WHEREAS: Her self-titled 1995 album – Jill Sobule - proved to be a big hit, thanks to the single "I Kissed a Girl," a flirty story about a woman's growing interest in other women, the first song with an openly gay theme to reach Top 20 on any Billboard chart. (It also reached No. 67 on the Hot 100 singles chart.); and

WHEREAS: That same record spawned another hit, "Supermodel," a stark takedown of the social pressure on women that was also featured in the film "Clueless", leading Sobule to often describe herself as a “two-hit wonder”; and

WHEREAS: As her career evolved, in 2000, Robbie Woliver wrote in the New York Times, “Now she sings about dumb boyfriends, weight-obsessed women, Alzheimer’s disease and the failings of a long list of celebrated people. With a wicked wit and pliant facility for candor, Ms. Sobule is an artist whose talent goes well beyond whom she kisses,” and

WHEREAS: Discussing her evolving gender identity, Jill once explained that when she was growing up, her only queer role models had been Miss Jane Hathaway, the very proper secretary on *The Beverly Hillbillies*, and her gym teacher, “who looked like Pete Rose.”

WHEREAS: In more recent years, Jill continued to break new ground with her autobiographical off-Broadway play, *F*ck 7th Grade*, a poignant account of: surviving the cruelties of middle school in the early '70s as a tomboy and nerd; tiptoeing her way out of the closet; becoming an MTV sensation in the mid-90s; then getting dropped by the record label that had insisted on sanitizing *I Kissed A Girl* of any lesbian implications; and



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WHEREAS: While her touring career took her around the world, and she at times made her home in far flung places including New York, L.A., Nashville and others, she always made sure people knew she was a devoted Denver girl and remained a rabid fan of the Denver Nuggets and Denver Broncos throughout her life. She maintained her voting status in Denver and voted here in the last election; and

WHEREAS: Unexpectedly and tragically, the night before she was to make a return appearance at Denver’s Swallow Hill Music Hall to perform selections from *F*ck 7th Grade*, Jill died May 1, 2025 at a friend’s home in Woodbury, Minnesota at the age of 66.

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

Section 1. The City Council of the City and County of Denver hereby recognizes Jill Sobule as a Denver treasure, noting not only her amazing musical talent, but her immeasurable contributions in bringing awareness to LGBTQ+ and numerous other social justice issues, and declares Sunday, September 21, 2025 to be Jill Sobule Day in the City and County of Denver.

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 delivered to Doug Gertner, James Sobule, MaryKate O’Neil and John Porter.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Diana Romero Campbell
Diana Romero Campbell (Sep 16, 2025 11:06:46 MDT)

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

