

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO. _____
SERIES OF 2021

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB21-1322
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
Finance & Governance

A BILL

For an ordinance naming the Council Chamber in the Denver City and County Building the Cathy Reynolds Council Chamber.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Cathy Reynolds was elected to an at-large seat on the Denver City Council in May 1975, the first woman to be elected to this body; and

WHEREAS, Cathy Reynolds was re-elected at-large in 1979, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1995 and 1999, coming in first each time and ultimately serving the longest tenure of any Denver City Council member, a public service spanning 28 years and two weeks, and which was ended only by the start of term limits; and

WHEREAS, Cathy Reynolds was chosen by her colleagues to lead the Council as President a record four terms and as President Pro-Tempore a record eight terms due to her institutional acumen, deliberative fairness and legislative “smarts;” and

WHEREAS, Cathy Reynolds made an indelible mark as a leader on numerous policy advances of great significance, putting Denver in the forefront of societal change; and

WHEREAS, among these many initiatives was her sponsorship in 1990 of one of the nation's first gay rights laws, igniting a conflict that led to a controversial 1992 statewide initiative seeking to strike down Denver’s and similar local laws, followed by a victory at the Colorado Supreme Court and soon after that, a landmark victory for gay rights in 1996 at the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Cathy Reynolds led the effort to eliminate a zoning regulation that prohibited unrelated adults from living together in the city’s most exclusive residential neighborhoods, which regulation had effectively banned unmarried couples from living together in neighborhoods with that most restrictive zone district, and particularly gay couples since at that time it was not legal for them to marry; and

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WHEREAS, Cathy Reynolds, in the face of strong initial pushback from colleagues, worked tirelessly to establish a dedicated mill levy to provide regular, reliable and sustainable funding for services for people with developmental disabilities, building a coalition after several failed attempts eventually to amend the mayor’s budget to include this mill levy that still serves the community today; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, in the midst of receiving numerous death threats, Cathy Reynolds successfully sponsored a ban on assault-style firearms in Denver, which survived challenges both from the state legislature and in the courts; and

WHEREAS, Cathy Reynolds played instrumental roles in expanding professional sports in Denver as part of the effort to win a Major League Baseball expansion team to the city as the Colorado Rockies and to bring the Quebec Nordiques of the National Hockey League to Denver as the Colorado Avalanche; and

WHEREAS, Denver’s most significant infrastructure projects of the late 20th century bear the fingerprints of Cathy Reynolds as a leader in either the conception, financing or delivery of such projects as the Colorado Convention Center, the convention center hotel (now the Hyatt Regency Hotel), Denver International Airport, the new Denver Broncos stadium, Coors Field and Pepsi Center (now Ball Arena); and

WHEREAS, Cathy Reynolds would be the first person to acknowledge and give credit for the roll call of her record of accomplishments to the many other individuals with whom she worked, because she believed in collaboration, teamwork and solutions; and

WHEREAS, Cathy Reynolds took time to mentor and work with other members of the City Council, who benefitted from her advice and guidance in their development as city leaders; and

WHEREAS; her leadership abilities were tapped by numerous other organizations including the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Board, on which she served for her entire 28 years on the Council and of which she served as chair for the last 23 years of her tenure; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Cathy Reynolds was elected two times to serve as president of the Colorado
2 Municipal League, the state’s principal platform for the interests of municipal governments across
3 the state with more than 250 of Colorado’s cities and towns as members; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, in 1987, Cathy Reynolds was elected president of the National League of Cities,
6 making her the nation’s primary representative of the interests of the nation’s cities, during which
7 time she testified in Congress on matters affecting those interests; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, Cathy Reynolds was a leader in many other community, state and national
10 organizations including Colorado Counties Inc., Denver Regional Council of Governments, Denver
11 Labor Relations Task Force, Denver Anti-Crime Council, the Justice Center Task Force and the
12 Denver Center for the Performing Arts; and
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14 **WHEREAS**, Cathy Reynolds earned numerous awards for her public service including a Colorado
15 AIDS Project Leadership Recognition Award, a Friends of the River Award from the Greenway
16 Foundation and induction into the Colorado Tourism Hall of Fame; and
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18 **WHEREAS**, Cathy Reynolds continued to contribute to the City and County of Denver after term
19 limits ended her service on this body in 2003, by serving as a charter member of the Citizen
20 Oversight Board and the Convention Center Hotel Board; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, Cathy was born Cathleen Lou Carter on Nov. 28, 1944, in Kansas City, Mo., was
23 raised in Fairway, Kansas, was graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School, where she
24 met and dated Rick Reynolds, after which they went to the University of Kansas and then married
25 on June 5, 1965, and raised two sons, Robert and Matthew; and
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27 **WHEREAS**, Cathy and Rick Reynolds moved to Denver in 1966 when Rick was hired by Denver
28 Public Schools, and Cathy soon involved herself in politics, running unsuccessfully for the state
29 legislature before winning her seat on the City Council; and
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31 **WHEREAS**, Section 2-275 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code sets forth the procedures and
32 criteria for naming major components of City-owned buildings, and in accordance with subsection
33 2-275(i), the City Council is submitting this bill for an ordinance to name the Council Chamber in
34 the Denver City and County Building (Room 450) for Cathy Reynolds; and

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WHEREAS, the City Council of the City and County of Denver has determined that Cathy Reynolds was an outstanding Denver resident who was influential in the cultural, political, economic and social life of the community for the reasons described above;

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

Section 1. The Council Chamber in the Denver City and County Building (Room 450) shall be named the Cathy Reynolds Council Chamber.

Section 2. There shall be permanently affixed in or about the Council Chamber a plaque or other appropriate display containing the full name and title of Cathy Reynolds and a recitation of the reasons for which the Council Chamber was named for Cathy Reynolds as set forth in this ordinance.

COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: November 2, 2021 by Consent

MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: N/A

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____

_____ - PRESIDENT

APPROVED: _____ - MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL _____; _____

PREPARED BY: Kevin Flynn, City Councilmember DATE: November 4, 2021

Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance **is not** submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to § 3.2.6 of the Charter.

Kristin M. Bronson, Denver City Attorney

BY: Jonathan Griffin, Assistant City Attorney DATE: Nov 4, 2021