

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0548

A Proclamation Honoring Chris Conner For His Dedicated Service To The Residents of Denver

WHEREAS, Chris Conner spent his childhood in Wisconsin and Minnesota, coming to Colorado in 2001 to attend graduate school at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, earning his Masters Degree in Communication with a thesis looking at Heroin Injection Users Experiencing Homelessness in Denver; and

WHEREAS, Moving to the Mile High City in 2003, in his own words, “My first relationships in Denver were with people in homelessness — I baked bread weekly, 3 loaves: one for me, one for a neighbor, and the best one for someone living outside. It’s baker’s luck to give away the best looking loaves”; and

WHEREAS, Chris’ first formal position serving those in need in Denver was as an outreach worker for Urban Peak, serving youth experiencing homelessness, from May 2007 to June 2011; and

WHEREAS, Chris joined the Denver city team as a program administrator for Denver’s Road Home, the office for homelessness response, in June 2011 serving in that role until August 2018, before rising to the role of Director and serving in that position through August 2020, before accepting new responsibilities as Denver’s Director of Homelessness System Strategies; and

WHEREAS, While in that role, in addition to his other duties, Chris was pressed into further service by Mayor Mike Johnston as part of the core group developing the successful House 1000 program (Now All In Denver) that got over 1200 unhoused Denverites off the street into housing between July 18 and December 31 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, While spending years putting his heart and soul into Denver’s efforts to end homelessness on a daily basis, Chris also served as an affiliate faculty member at Metro State University teaching Homelessness and Community Responses in the departments of Human Services, Sociology, and Anthropology, from August 2013 to August 2015; and

WHEREAS, Still finding a few spare moments left in his days, Chris also served the Denver community as a commissioner with the Denver Drug Strategy Commission from August 2011 to January 2013, as a mentor with Denver Urban Scholars from January 2013 to May 2017 and on the board of Denver’s Office of Human Rights and Community Partnerships from November 2013 to January 2018; and

WHEREAS, In the 12 years, 10 months and 5 days Chris worked for the City and County of Denver, rather than fighting homelessness, he focused on partnering with people experiencing homelessness. Through that partnership, Chris has helped thousands of people enter shelter and permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, On April 24th, Chris made the hard decision to leave the Denver city family to take on a new career challenge as the Manager of Housing and Livable Communities in the Planning Department at the City of Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, While he has given much of his heart and soul to those in need on the streets of our city he somehow saves the majority for his beloved wife Melanie Asmar and children Woody (the Woodchuck – Age 9) and Rafaela (Girafaelaphant – Age 7).

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

Section 1. The City Council of the City and County of Denver hereby recognizes and honors the service of Chris Conner to ALL the residents of the Mile High City, and declares today, May 13, 2024 to be Chris Conner 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 a copy be delivered to Chris Conner.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 13, 2024

PRESIDENT

