

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 22-0115 RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS FIREFIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the Denver Fire Department firefighters serve the residents of the City and County of Denver by putting our safety above their own;

WHEREAS, Denver firefighters' daily emergency response often exposes them to higher levels of toxic environments of smoke, soot, synthetics, and other modern-day carcinogens, and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) firefighter-specific cancer research, found firefighters have a 9% greater chance of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% greater chance of dying from cancer than the general population, and

WHEREAS, Firefighter occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths among professional firefighters;

WHEREAS, Cancer levels among firefighters are reaching epidemic levels and studies have found a direct correlation between the chemical exposure's firefighters experience on the job and their increased risk for cancer, and

WHEREAS, Forty-nine states recognize cancer as a presumptive workers' compensation claim for firefighters, and

WHEREAS, the Denver Fire Department working with Denver's Risk Management and Denver Firefighters Local 858, joined the Colorado Firefighter Heart and Cancer Benefit Trust to actively support the addition of coverage for breast cancer, elevating inclusive protections for all firefighters, and

WHEREAS, Early detection of cancer through routine screening leads to earlier treatment, and better disease outcomes, including improved survival and reduced morbidity, and

WHEREAS, the Denver Fire Department has proactively created an innovative Total Wellness Program that bridges a medical doctor who evaluates a biometric screening obtained from a firefighters' primary medical provider, coupled with a fitness assessment, providing direct referrals to specialists, leading to more rapid detection of early on-set of cancers, developing a personalized plan and overall better prognosis, and

WHEREAS, Denver Firefighters Local 858, The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) have declared January as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month.

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

Section 1. The Council hereby recognizes January as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month 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 Denver Fire Department's Chief Desmond Fulton and Denver Firefighters Local 858.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 24, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Gilmore", written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT