



Proclamation No. 26-0130
Honoring the late Denver Police Division Chief Armedia Gordon

WHEREAS, in 1880 a group of Black civic leaders attended a Denver City Council meeting and demanded the Denver Police Department and the Denver Fire Department begin hiring Black officers and firefighters; and

WHEREAS, On April 15, 1880, then Denver Mayor Richard Sopris swore Issac Brown in as Denver's first Black Denver Police officer, Brown served the department for ten years; and

WHEREAS, since that time the residents of the City and County of Denver have been extremely well served by hundreds of Black officers; and

WHEREAS, Armedia Gordon was born in Lineville, Alabama on April 20, 1944, and was raised by hardworking parents who instilled in her the values of integrity and dedication which would be the hallmarks that shaped her life; and

WHEREAS, Armedia grew up as a bright and imaginative child who adored her family. After moving to Denver, she graduated from Manual High School and later attended Northeastern Junior College in Sterling Colorado; and

WHEREAS, while attending college she met James Gordon Jr. who she married in 1963. Together they had three children: Bryan Gordon, DeAnna Gordon and James W. Gordon III; and

WHEREAS, later as a single mother, Armedia held many jobs before beginning a distinguished 30-year career with the Denver Police Department in 1973; and

WHEREAS, she joined the Denver Police Department where she broke many barriers and was a trailblazer in every sense. Her first assignment was patrol in Denver Police district three. Later she was the first Black female homicide detective, and was promoted to become the first Black female homicide sergeant; and

WHEREAS, her hard work and attention to detail continued and she was appointed by Denver Police Chief David Michaud as the first Black Division Chief where she oversaw special operations (traffic and the airport); and

WHEREAS, she was later appointed by Denver Police Chief Gerald Whitman to the prestigious position of Division Chief of Investigations. She was the third Black officer to reach the rank of Division Chief after Casey Simpson and CT Smith; and

WHEREAS, Armedia Gordon passed away November 10, 2025. Her many friends and colleagues remember Chief Gordon for more than her titles. She was a mentor, a friend, and a source of strength for many officers. She was always available for a kind word, wise counsel or a warm hug. Her impact extended far beyond her personal achievements-genuinely cared for all people; and

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council acknowledges the important and significant historic role that former Denver Division Chief Armedia Gordon played in development of the Denver Police Department and her commitment of the safety of the residents of the City and County of Denver.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the Gordon family, the Denver Police Department, the Denver Black Police Officers Organization and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 9, 2026

PRESIDENT

