

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## **Proclamation No. 19-1391 Honoring the Denver Police Department for 160-Years of Service**

**WHEREAS**, the Denver Police Department is being recognized for 160 years of serving the Denver community; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 19, 1859, an organizational election was held resulting in the selection of Wilson E. Sisty as Denver's first Marshal, thus creating Denver's first official law enforcement agency, which then in 1861 saw the construction of the first jail and the appointment of Denver's first Police Chief George Thornton in 1862, and after utilizing horses for police work, which were authorized for purchase by City Council in 1863, the Denver Police Department purchased its first police cars in 1909; and

**WHEREAS**, during the past 160 years, major historical events occurred, including World Wars I and II, Spanish Flu pandemic, civil unrest, and Colorado as one of the first states to legalize marijuana, all during which the Denver Police Department remained a steadfast organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denver Police Department is and has always been highly regarded for its excellence, especially when the international spotlight was on Denver, such as during the 1993 World Youth Day, 1997 Summit of Eight, 2008 Democratic National Convention, several professional sports all-star games; and many other large-scale events; and

**WHEREAS**, during the past 160 years, not only has Denver dramatically advanced, so has the Denver Police Department through utilizing new technologies and creating evidence-based progressive policies, which increase safety for residents and officers – including the implementation of body-worn cameras, an interactive training simulator, gunshot detection technology, life-saving trauma first aid kits supplied to all officers, robust social media communications, a revised Use of Force policy, and many other technological advancements; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, thanks to Denver voters, Denver built a state-of-art Crime Laboratory, which is known as a national model for best practices, has solved numerous cold cases, and solving criminal cases by utilizing the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and the Crime Gun Intelligence Center; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, the Denver Police Department serves the Denver community by preventing crime and treating people with respect, while utilizing precision policing, reducing social harms and taking care of those who take care of others, and

**WHEREAS**, during the 160 years since the founding of the Denver Police Department, nearly 10,000 women and men have served as Denver Police Officers and sadly, 72 Denver Police officers have lost their lives in service to our community but remain in the hearts of our community.

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

**Section 1.** The Denver City Council wishes to officially recognize the 160th Anniversary of the Denver Police Department's founding and to honor all officers and civilian employees who have chosen to serve our city.

**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 transmitted to the Denver Police Department.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 16, 2019

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PRESIDENT