



**Proclamation No. 23-1512**  
**A Proclamation Celebrating Denver Afterschool Programs and the**  
**2023 Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day**

**WHEREAS**, the Denver City Council stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs that serve Denver's youth. In particular, the Denver City Council specifically supports year-round comprehensive Out of School Time Programs that encompass before and after school, school breaks and the summer because they:

- Provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms.
- Provide evidence-based learning experiences that are proven to help youth develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills.
- Engage families, schools, and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs provide critical support for the academic growth and well-being of youth and offer new experiences and opportunities that help young people learn and grow. Afterschool programs provide innovative, hands-on opportunities for youth to engage in learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs are essential to Denver's economy because they are a vital support for working families who need to keep their children safe and engaged once the school day ends; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs promote and build protective factors that can lead to a reduction in youth violence and other risk factors by creating safe, welcoming spaces for youth during the key hours of 3 to 6 p.m., where they can connect with trusted adults and cultivate the social-emotional skills needed to make positive decisions for themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denver Afterschool Alliance has provided significant leadership, community involvement in education and supported the well-being of Denver youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

**WHEREAS**, many afterschool programs across the country, state and in Denver are facing funding challenges that are forcing them to close their doors to youth and families in need, and the temporary influx of federal Covid-19 relief funds which are ending in 2024, have only provide short-term assistance and not address the Out of School Time industry's systemic funding crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver and the Denver City Council are invested in the health and safety of all young people by supporting expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denver City Council pledges to support afterschool providers so that Denver's youth and families have access to programs that support their success and strengthen our city; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denver Afterschool Alliance is recognized for its 10+ years of commitment to the field of afterschool, strengthening programming and partnerships, elevating quality, tracking impact and prioritizing funding for this critical youth service.

**WHEREAS**, the following organizations are impacting the landscape of Comprehensive Out-of-School Time in a positive way; Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, Colorado Dream Foundation, Girls Inc. of Metro Denver, Heart & Hand Center, Mile High 360, MSU Denver Center for Urban Education, Scholars Unlimited, Sims-Fayola Foundation, Struggle of Love Foundation, Sun Valley Youth Center, VIVE Wellness, and YMCA of Metro Denver, along with hundreds of others who are also contributing to the Out-of-School Time field.

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

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council recognizes the outstanding leadership of the Office of Children's Affairs with the Denver Afterschool Alliance bringing together stakeholders to create a collaborative, long-term plan for our City's afterschool system, and recognizes the 2023 National Lights on Afterschool Day, Thursday, October 26, 2023.

**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 transmit it to the Office of Children's Affairs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 23, 2023



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PRESIDENT

