

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## **Proclamation No. 24-0354 A Proclamation Honoring Nowruz**

**WHEREAS**, Denver City Council recognizes and celebrates Nowruz, which is marked by the Vernal Equinox and the first day of Spring on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Nowruz means “New Day” in Persian and is commonly known as the Persian New Year, an over 3000-year-old holiday celebrated by more 300 million people worldwide, spanning from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia; and

**WHEREAS**, the holiday has its roots in ancient Iran and signifies the arrival of Spring, symbolizing light, growth, life, and letting go of the ill thoughts from the previous year; and Nowruz traditions are observed over the course of many weeks and include jumping over fire, visiting with family members, celebratory dancing, and spending the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the new year in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, Nowruz is symbolized by seven items on the haft-sin table, each representing a positive intention for the New Year: sumac symbolizing the color of the sunrise, vinegar symbolizing age and patience, dried fruit symbolizing love, wheat pudding symbolizing affluence, sprouts symbolizing the rebirth of nature, apples symbolizing health and beauty, and garlic symbolizing medicine; and

**WHEREAS**, many peoples from Nowruz-celebrating-countries living in the Denver area continue to make contributions to all sectors of public life — including business, nonprofits, medicine, engineering, art, architecture, construction, government and many more — and enrich the communities in which they live; and

**WHEREAS**, especially during this Women’s History Month, we recognize the Woman Life Freedom movement, which is fighting for equality for women and freedom for all people in Iran; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and County Building will be lit up in green from March 23-25 to commemorate Nowruz and the arrival of spring, as the Denver City Council wishes all peoples observing this holiday a healthy and happy New Year.

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

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes Nowruz on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Persian Cultural Circle.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 18, 2024

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PRESIDENT

