


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

**Proclamation No. 22-1250
HONORING FORMER DENVER POLICE OFFICERS PAUL MONTOYA AND LOUIS LOPEZ
FOR 2022 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month was recognized and enacted into law by the United States Congress on August 17, 1988 and signed by President Ronald Reagan;

WHEREAS, The Denver Police Department has a long history of strong Hispanic Leadership and courage within its ranks the Denver Police Museum is honored to partner with the National Latino Officers Association to honor two trailblazing officers: the late Denver Police Division Chief Paul Montoya and retired Lieutenant Lou Lopez;

WHEREAS, Paul Montoya Jr. was born on April 6, 1925 in San Miguel New Mexico to Paul and Amalia Montoya and Louis Lopez was born March 11, 1932 in Denver, Colorado to Joe and Vera Lopez;

WHEREAS, Paul Montoya joined the United States Marine Corp and Lou Lopez joined the United States Navy to honorably serve our nation during the Korean War;

WHEREAS, both men realized the American Dream with their wives and families and both attended schools of higher education. Paul attended the University of Denver while Lou attended the University of Colorado;

WHEREAS, both men chose to serve our community as Denver Police Officers. Paul Montoya joined the department in 1950 and Lou Lopez joined in 1955;

WHEREAS, both men were quickly recognized for their ability to build critical relationships between the police department and the community during an especially tumultuous time in Denver history.

WHEREAS, both men were recognized as natural leaders and were promoted to serve in the higher ranks of the Denver Police Department. Paul Montoya was the first Denver Police officer of Hispanic origin, to serve as a division chief, first over the patrol division and later as head of investigations division.

WHEREAS, Lou Lopez was an original member of Special Services Unit (which later became the Metro SWAT Unit). He also served with distinction in the robbery and burglary units, was promoted ultimately to the rank of lieutenant. Lt. Lopez was recognized nationally as an authority on violent street gangs. Following his retirement he served as Director of Security for the Denver Public Schools.

NOW THEREFOR, 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 wishes to acknowledge and thank both Division Chief Paul Montoya and Lieutenant Louis Lopez for outstanding service to the Citizens of the City and County of Denver.

Section 2. That the Secretary of the City Council shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Officers families, the National Latino Peace Officers Association and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 3, 2022

_____ PRESIDENT