

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## **Proclamation No. 22-1327 Celebrating Denver Afterschool Programs and the 2022 Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day**

**WHEREAS**, the Denver City Council stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs because they: provide evidence-based learning experiences that are proven to help youth develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs have continued to serve youth and families throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and play an important role in helping Denver youth overcome pandemic challenges of learning loss, social disconnection, and trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs are essential to Denver's economic recovery efforts 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 will 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.

**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' Denver Afterschool Alliance in bringing together all stakeholders to create a collaborative, long-term plan for our City's afterschool system, and recognizes the 2022 National Lights on Afterschool Day, Thursday, October 20, 2022.

**Section 2.** That the Secretary of Council shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Office of Children's Affairs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 17, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT