

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 23-1294

A Proclamation Honoring Allegra “Happy” Haynes’ Generational Impact and Service to the City of Denver

WHEREAS, Allegra “Happy” Haynes was born in Denver and grew up in the Park Hill neighborhood, is best known by her nickname, “Happy,” which is derived from the English translation of her first name and because of her fun demeanor, which improves even in the most stressful situations; and

WHEREAS, As an advocate for life-long learning, Happy graduated from Denver's East High School, went on to receive a B.A. in Political Science from Columbia University and a Master’s Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Colorado in Denver, this education along with her leadership ability and life lessons made her uniquely qualified for the number of roles that she would later hold; and

WHEREAS, Being a true trailblazer, Happy has held elected office twice in her career, as the first African American woman to be elected to Denver City Council, representing Council District 11 for three terms between 1990 and 2003, as well as being Council President from 1998 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, As Happy was elected to the Denver School Board from 2011 to 2019, serving as the board’s president between 2013 and 2015; as well as providing leadership on numerous civic and community boards, her wisdom and impact have extended to the entire country, and

WHEREAS, In addition to her time in elected office, she held multiple public and private sector positions, in her 34-year career with the City and County of Denver she worked in city council, the mayor’s office and most recently as the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation for eight years, always prioritizing the best interest of the Denver Community; and

WHEREAS, During her time as the Executive Director of Denver Parks and Recreation, Happy established equity, health, and resilience as core values of the department; preserving and expanding the city’s legacy park system by envisioning and leading multiple initiatives and projects that create community through beautiful places and dynamic programming reflective of Denver’s diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, As the “Tree-Hugger in Chief” and true nature-lover, Happy Haynes is an advocate for Denver’s urban forest, from prioritizing tree care and long-term planning, to ensuring that the historic bur oak tree in Civic Center Park was protected during countless city events; Denver’s urban canopy is stronger thanks to Happy’s strength and wisdom; and

WHEREAS, Like the bur oak tree, Happy is steadfast in her purpose to improve the surroundings of her community; and with deep roots in Denver, she has made tremendous effort to support the health and wellbeing of every resident; and

WHEREAS, In tribute of a career of shaping policy on conservation, watershed management, water quality, wildlife protection, and recreational access; and in the spirit of partnership and a shared devotion to nature, the Denver Botanic Gardens shall propagate thirty “Happy Haynes” bur oak trees in honor of her thirty years of service to the City and County of Denver; and

WHEREAS, Bur Oak trees cultivated from the historic bur oak in Civic Center Park shall be known as the “Happy Haynes Oak” in Denver, symbolizing Happy’s strength, vitality and life-affirming wisdom for Denver generations that follow.

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 Allegra “Happy” Haynes for her countless contributions to generations of Denverites.

Section 2. That the Council of the City and County of Denver declares Monday, September 18, 2023, as “Allegra ‘Happy’ Haynes” day in the City and County of Denver.

Section 3. 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 Happy Haynes.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 18, 2023

_____ PRESIDENT