

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## Proclamation No. 26-0332

### A Proclamation Recognizing Soka Gakkai International–USA (SGI-USA) Youth and Community Dialogue for Peace, Culture and Education

**WHEREAS** Soka Gakkai International–USA (SGI-USA) is part of a global community-based network of more than 11 million people in 192 countries and territories who practice Nichiren Buddhism, whose mission is centered on respect for the dignity of life, dialogue and nonviolence based on the conviction that individual happiness and the realization of peace are inextricably linked; and

**WHEREAS** March 16 is observed by Soka Gakkai and SGI members worldwide as Kosen-rufu Day, commemorating March 16, 1958, when second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda entrusted 6,000 youth with the mission of advancing efforts to contribute to the creation of a peaceful world; and

**WHEREAS** on March 16, 2026, SGI-USA will commemorate the 68th anniversary of this historic youth gathering and the enduring commitment to raise a new generation of youthful successors dedicated to peace, culture, education and the happiness of individuals and communities; and

**WHEREAS** SGI-USA youth in the City and County of Denver will work together with youth across the United States and with fellow SGI youth around the world to advance a message of peace through grassroots, one-to-one engagement in their neighborhoods, including dialogue-centered discussion meetings that foster friendship, mutual understanding and hope; and

**WHEREAS** under the banner “One Youth. Infinite Hope.” SGI-USA youth have renewed their focus on inspiring young people to become catalysts for peace through heart-to-heart interaction and community transformation, affirming that one person’s inner transformation can become a source of hope for many others; and

**WHEREAS** SGI-USA maintains a longstanding physical presence in Denver City Council District 10 through the SGI-USA Denver Culture Center located at 1450 North Speer Boulevard, which serves as a community gathering place supporting neighborhood-based dialogue and civic-minded engagement; and

**WHEREAS** SGI-USA members and volunteers in Denver have contributed to environmental stewardship and cultural friendship through a long-standing cherry tree planting partnership with the city, spanning more than three decades and resulting in the planting of more than two thousand cherry trees in Denver-area parks as enduring symbols of peace, friendship and cultural exchange; and

**WHEREAS** SGI-USA youth launched the Victory Over Violence movement to promote nonviolence and respect for the dignity of life, including educational exhibitions and dialogue-based programs that encourage young people to address the root causes of violence through awareness, introspection and individual empowerment; and

#### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver hereby recognizes SGI-USA and its members in the City and County of Denver for their commitment to peace, culture and education through dialogue, nonviolence and respect for the dignity of life.

**Section 2.** That the Denver City Council hereby proclaims March 16, 2026, as **SGI-USA Youth Day of Peace, Culture and Education** in the City and County of Denver.

**Section 3.** 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 SGI-USA Denver Culture Center.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 16, 2026

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PRESIDENT

