

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 18-1511

### Recognizing Donna Altieri, founder of Altieri Instrument Bags in the City and County of Denver

**WHEREAS**, Donna Rae Altieri started her business Altieri Instrument Bags in the early 1980s, making musical instrument bags and case covers out of her home in the Baker neighborhood, beginning with a tuba bag with back straps; and

**WHEREAS**, she expanded her product line to bags for French horns, flutes and nearly all symphony instruments and developed a customer base around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, she designed bags for traditional Japanese instruments for musicians in Denver's sister city, Takayama, Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, Altieri Instrument Bags have always been manufactured in Denver using American components, first in the Baker neighborhood, then Curtis Park and for the last 15 years again in Baker; and

**WHEREAS**, Altieri Instrument Bags has employed a work force made up mostly of women, including people working from home raising families, those struggling to find employment, parolees and at least one relocated refugee, all making high wages for the sewing trade; and

**WHEREAS**, Altieri Instrument Bags ultimately grew to export half of its instrument bags internationally; and

**WHEREAS**, Altieri Instrument Bags was recently acquired by JL Smith of Charlotte, North Carolina, in a transaction intended to keep up with growing demand, expand the workforce and keep the business in Denver.

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

**Section 1.** That Donna Rae Altieri be honored for producing the first backpack for the professional musician, for developing the industry standard known around the world for instrument bags, for her business acumen in professional music, for her insistence on making instrument bags locally using American components and an underserved labor force, for exporting these Denver products around the world and for working to keep Altieri Instrument Bags in Denver; and

**Section 2.** That the seal of the City and County of Denver be affixed to this proclamation and a copy be transmitted to Donna Rae Altieri.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 17, 2018

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PRESIDENT