

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0934 Honoring Black Pride Colorado

WHEREAS Black Pride in the United States was born of grief and refusal; emerging from the Black queer gatherings of Washington, D.C. in the 1970s and 1980s and formalized over Memorial Day weekend in 1991, when Black LGBTQIA+ communities, devastated by the AIDS epidemic and erased from the broader Pride movement, came together to bury their own with dignity, to raise money for their own care, and to insist that Black queer life is sacred, visible, and worthy of celebration; and

WHEREAS that first gathering sparked a national and global movement, affirming across generations that Black queer identity is not a margin of the LGBTQIA+ story but a wellspring of it; and

WHEREAS Juneteenth marks a freedom that was granted, and granted late, while Black Pride marks a liberation that is claimed, an ongoing practice of healing, restoration, and resilience that no authority confers and no authority can revoke; and

WHEREAS Black Pride Colorado carries this legacy forward in our state; fostering inclusivity, deepening cultural understanding, and confronting systemic discrimination against Black LGBTQIA+ individuals through celebration, education, and organizing; and

WHEREAS Black Pride Colorado builds intentional spaces where Black queer joy is itself a form of protest and where Black LGBTQIA+ individuals gather in affirmation, connection, and pride; and

WHEREAS, in a time of rising of anti-Black and anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and policy, such spaces are not merely meaningful but essential to provide safety, to ensure survival, and to ensure our liberation; and

WHEREAS the commitment of Black Pride Colorado to those often pushed to the margins reflects the values of justice, dignity, and shared liberation that define our highest hopes for Denver and Colorado; and

WHEREAS it is both necessary and just to honor the resilience, brilliance, and ongoing contributions of Black LGBTQIA+ individuals, whose lived experiences are vital threads in the fabric of our state and our shared future.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council hereby recognizes and celebrates Black Pride Colorado and affirms that the liberation it pursues must be claimed, cultivated, and protected by us all.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder 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 Dr. Tara Jae, Founder and Executive Director of Youth Seen and Black Pride Colorado.

PASSED BY COUNCIL June 22, 2026

PRESIDENT

