

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-1090 Celebrating and Thanking Kelly Velez for 33 Years of Outstanding Service to the City and County of Denver Upon her Retirement

WHEREAS, Kelly has announced her retirement from City and County of Denver after 18 years with City Council and 33 years total of loyal and dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, Kelly began her distinguished career with Denver City Council in 2000 as Council Secretary, organizing and overseeing procedures in Council meetings, correcting and assisting councilmembers with motions, tallying and verifying votes, and often staying late in the night as councilmembers and the public debated legislation in over 800 Council meetings. Kelly is well known across the City and County for her quick speaking skills, reading all the bill titles into the record; and

WHEREAS, Kelly is known for her professionalism and institutional knowledge of city government, training new council presidents every year or every other year, incoming councilmembers, central staff, executive directors, and aides; and

WHEREAS, Kelly is the go-to person for the Sire system and now Granicus, which are the technology systems that manage Council and committee meetings and process the legislative workflow; and

WHEREAS, Kelly is famous for her creativity, best exhibited in dais training she designs for Council members and staff, making councilmembers comfortable performing from the dais during Council meetings through prizes, noise makers and jokes, softening the mood and relaxing everyone so they don't take themselves too seriously; and

WHEREAS, Kelly is black belt trained and certified in LEAN business processes and has contributed many innovations to the Denver City Council, making the body's operations more efficient. She was instrumental in revamping the legislative workflow process and consent calendar; and

WHEREAS, Kelly makes every person and every issue the most important when brought to her attention, dropping everything she is doing to listen to a request from a Council member, staff member or member of the public in person or over the phone and immediately addresses it. If she doesn't know the answer, she will research it and provide thorough information, anticipating the next question and answering it without being asked; and

WHEREAS, Kelly coordinated the Denver Employees Charitable Campaign (DECC) for City Council, inspiring employees to donate part of their salary to charities and worthy causes, and due to Kelly's organization, advertising, and engagement efforts, City Council exhibits one of the highest percentages participation in the campaign and raises the most money; and has inspired other coordinators in other departments to replicate Kelly's best practices on how to make campaigns more effective; and

WHEREAS, Kelly proudly shares the talents of her grandsons, Isaac and Jesse, who excel in soccer and music. Kelly taught Jesse to play the fiddle, who has become a national success, winning small fry competitions at the National Western Stock Show and the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest and Festival in 2016, one of the top fiddler competitions in the world; and

WHEREAS, Kelly takes pride in her work and is committed to providing high quality in all that she does. Kelly's work ethic, commitment, organization, and energy for her job are unparalleled and unmatched by anyone. When training employees to cover for her during Council meetings, Kelly advises, "If you mess up, or the system doesn't work, just smile;" and

WHEREAS, Kelly was a willing mentor to new staff, a repository of Council history, records and institutional knowledge for colleagues, and an inspiration to others to be kind solely by example. Kelly is a true joy to work with as a colleague or in any interaction; and

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

Section 1. The Council hereby recognizes and thanks Kelly Velez for her 33 years of service to the City, and wishes her a wonderful retirement.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be delivered to Kelly Velez.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 1, 2018

_____ PRESIDENT