



Proclamation No. 23-0955

A Proclamation Honoring Mayor Michael B. Hancock's Service to the City of Denver

WHEREAS, Mayor Michael B. Hancock's lifelong love of Denver has led to a varied and unique career path, including stints working at Wellshire, performing as the Broncos' mascot, leading the Urban League of Metro Denver as the then-youngest affiliate CEO in the country, and working at the National Civic League and Denver Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock stood with the vision of southwest Denver residents in shaping the future of the closed Loretto Heights campus, resulting in an increase in affordable housing units, historic preservation, traffic calming, increased open space and, not least, including \$30 million in bonds later approved by voters to renovate the campus theater to be owned and operated by the city in the largest single city investment ever in Council District 2; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock, prior to being elected to his current role, served with honor and distinction for eight years as the District 11 Councilperson, including two years serving as Council President. His commitment to community, facilitation skills, and optimism served both District 11 and the entire City well during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock and his administration worked in close partnership with members of city council to bring forward transformational legislation and initiatives advancing economic justice, access to affordable housing and stability, reshaping the role of the city in addressing the housing needs of its residents and barriers they face in making ends meet. Those efforts most notably include: creating the city's first dedicated Affordable Housing Fund in 2016 and doubling it in 2018; establishing a more livable minimum wage for Denver's workforce; championing ballot measure 2B, which created sustainable funding to reduce homelessness; and advancing the Expanding Housing Affordability initiative, which passed in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock's leadership promoted investment in our city through the passage of the Elevate and RISE bond measures, and Debrucing; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock through Executive Order established the Office of Social Equity and Innovation with the goal of directly influencing policies, budget, and programmatic decisions in order to lead city agencies in achieving measurable improvements in racial equity, social equity, and social justice in Denver; and

WHEREAS, indicative of the Mayor's open perspective and dedication to inclusion, supported the establishment of the Immigrant & Refugee Commission and the work of the Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs in unprecedented and meaningful ways; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock led Denver through the COVID pandemic as successfully as virtually any city in the United States, preventing catastrophic loss of life and maintaining our economic stability; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock always had an open door for council members to share their thoughts, ideas and to advocate and collaborate; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock, who grew up in northeast Denver and is a proud Manual High School Thunderbolt, created the MY Denver Card program which provides free access to all Denver kids to city pools and recreation centers; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock is always generous with his praise and always acknowledged the people who did the work and other elected officials who provided support; and

WHEREAS, under Mayor Hancock's leadership, Denver's status as a "world class city" was confirmed by the many thousands of new residents who moved to our city and the fact Denver International Airport has grown to be the third busiest in the world; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock prioritized green space by designating over 2,000 acres to the urban and mountain park systems; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock would make himself available to, sincerely, hear your opinion and seek to compromise, if possible, on issues; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock toured District 7 multiple times and worked with the Council Office and community to deliver infrastructure projects throughout the district including restoring the College View Recreation Center to a full city-run center that now boasts one of the most active youth sports programs in the city; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock is the only mayor lucky enough to serve when the Denver Broncos, Colorado Avalanche, and Denver Nuggets won championships; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Hancock's warm smile, humor, friendliness, and optimism makes every person feel at ease and valued.

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 and honors Mayor Michael B. Hancock and his twenty years of service.

Section 2. 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 Mayor Michael B. Hancock.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL July 10, 2023



PRESIDENT