

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-0946 Recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is recognized around the world as an occasion to acknowledge those who have experienced an overdose, as well as loved ones who have been affected; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day recognizes overdoses from all drugs, because it reflects the reality of the overdose epidemic, allowing us to speak and educate more broadly about the issues; and

WHEREAS, over the last twenty years drug overdose deaths have increased significantly in many parts of the world and continue to worsen. Each year a record number of deaths are reported, which is currently predominantly driven by opioids in combination with other drugs.

WHEREAS, overdose is now the leading cause of death of Americans under the age of 50; and

WHEREAS, 72,000 people died of an overdose in the United States in 2017; and

WHEREAS, last year, the leading cause of death among Denver's homeless population was attributed to overdoses, with 68% of those from opioid overdose; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day hopes to publicly challenge the stigma associated with drug use and overdose; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day sends a strong message to current and former drug users that their lives are valued; and

WHEREAS, this day spreads the message that the tragedy of overdose death is preventable and empowers people to come together to tackle overdose as a community; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day provides an opportunity for people to publicly mourn for loved ones, some for the very first time, without the feelings of guilt or shame.

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 August 31, 2018 as a day to acknowledge and raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death.

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 Lisa Raville, Executive Director of the Harm Reduction Action Center.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 27, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. H.', written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT