


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 22-1642 Honoring Dana William Cusack's 40 Years of Service at Windsor Gardens Association

WHEREAS, Tuesday, December 20, 2022, marks the 40th anniversary of employment for Dana William Cusack, this day will be marked as a historical milestone and celebrated as "Dana Cusack Day" at Windsor Gardens; and

WHEREAS, those who work closely with Dana Cusack know him as "Deena," a Huskers and Bears fan, a ball-cap-wearing family man who loves a friendly competition whether it is an office Super Bowl pool or a round of golf; who loves coaching team sports or cheering on his talented boys, eating good lasagna, pizza and wings; who loves listening to Creedence Clearwater Revival and comedy, and really enjoys making people laugh; and

WHEREAS, as a native to Illinois, Cusack moved to Aurora, CO, when he was 8 years old and grew up just blocks away from Windsor Gardens Association, founded in 1962, originally described as "a playground for the young at heart," and home to 3,500 residents as the city's premier active adult living community offering the services and amenities of dining, swimming, golf, art, fitness classes, snow removal, and more; and

WHEREAS, Cusack graduated from Smoky Hill High School and was attending Fort Lewis College when he was first hired at Windsor Gardens in 1981 as a summer groundskeeper temp while home on a school break, never expecting to establish a long-term profession in grounds maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Cusack was promoted to a full-time position on December 20, 1982, almost quitting four days later when a blizzard hit Denver on Christmas Eve, requiring tireless snow removal in his first days on the job; and

WHEREAS, Cusack journeyed through various roles on the grounds crew in mowing and irrigation, was promoted to Groundskeeper Leadman in 1985, and ascended to Golf Course Greenskeeper in 1992 when the leased golf course transitioned to the association-operated course it is today, the Emerald Greens Golf Club, at the center of the community and holding great esteem with residents, the golfing community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Cusack was promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Grounds and Golf Course Superintendent on July 16, 1996, and was then promoted to his current role of 16 years as Grounds Maintenance Supervisor in 2006, overseeing 15+ staff members and the continuous daily care of the grounds at Windsor Gardens that span nearly 160 acres and make the community the largest age-restricted condominium community in the state of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, for the past 16 years, Cusack successfully managed all day-to-day grounds activities of a community the size of a small town, working with his team to complete an arduous program each year, planting 1,500 shrubs, 1,500 perennials, 45,000-50,000 flowers in 170 flower beds and approximately 15 trees, in addition to the trimming, leaf cleanup and overall upkeep of the approximately 2,000 trees that exist at Windsor Gardens; and

WHEREAS, Cusack has traditionally led an annual "Tree Walk" event with close to 75 residents in attendance who are excited and interested to learn about his planting program, the history of various trees, the names he's given them, and their wounds and stories; and

WHEREAS, as Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Cusack leads his team in mowing 22 acres each day, checking 20,000 sprinkler heads and 900 valves each week, and oversees garage sweeping for 3,850 garage stalls and 23 parking lots in order to extend the beauty and life of the community; and

WHEREAS, for 40 winters, Cusack has faced unpredictable weather with early mornings, late nights, missed birthdays and holidays to remove ice and snow from 13 miles of sidewalk, 1.3 miles of street, and again, 23 parking lots, exemplifying his deep commitment to the community and the safety of every resident; and

WHEREAS, Cusack has collaborated and worked side-by-side with hundreds of board members, committee members, building representatives, and golfers over the years to share his historical knowledge and expertise of the community's grounds, earning him the respect and trust of the community's volunteer leadership and golfing community; and

WHEREAS, Cusack takes pride in projects he has participated in or has overseen throughout his tenure, many alongside Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Bill Walsh, such as upgrading the irrigation system for the golf course, relandscaping the community, and redesigning the watering program which yielded thousands of gallons of water saved per minute; and

WHEREAS, Cusack's passion and mastery of his craft have allowed him to teach others the skills he has acquired on the job and has left a legacy of longevity within the department he manages, where many employees achieve 10 years or more of employment; and

WHEREAS, Cusack has an exceptional work ethic and is often guilty of stopping by to "check on things" on his weekends or when he is on vacation, dedicating countless hours planning and scheduling projects and seasonal work while remaining consistent, detail orientated, hardworking, and honest; and

WHEREAS, Cusack always has the best interest of the community in mind and adds a little piece of his heart to everything he does; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the greatest gift to come from Cusack's career at Windsor Gardens was meeting and marrying his wife of almost 26 years, Emilija, and raising their two sons together, Brian (15) and Justin (11); and

WHEREAS, Windsor Gardens Association extends their heartfelt appreciation to Dana Cusack for his significant contributions to the community and are honored to be beneficiaries and witnesses of his successful and longstanding career; and

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, to acknowledge Dana Cusack for his efforts to the Windsor Gardens community.

Section 2. That the Secretary of Council affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Dana Cusack.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 12, 2022



PRESIDENT