

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## **Proclamation No. 25-0361 A Proclamation Celebrating Nowruz**

**WHEREAS**, Denver City Council recognizes and celebrates Nowruz, which is marked by the Vernal Equinox and the first day of spring on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Nowruz, meaning "New Day" in Farsi, is an ancient tradition that has been celebrated for over 3,000 years. Recognized as one of the oldest celebrations in human history, Nowruz predates many modern civilizations. While its origins lie in ancient Persia, Nowruz is widely observed throughout Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and among their diaspora communities worldwide. Today, it is embraced by more than 300 million people across the world, standing as a universal tribute to renewal, unity, and the triumph of light over darkness; and

**WHEREAS**, Nowruz is a celebration that honors the changing of the seasons and the enduring resilience of the human spirit. Families gather in joy, homes are refreshed in anticipation of the new year, and communities come together to share in the promise of renewal. Bonfires are lit and often times - leaped over - as a symbol of leaving behind the past, and the arrival of spring is met with open hearts, reminding us all that brighter days lie ahead; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haft-Sin table is central to Nowruz, with seven symbolic items, each representing a positive intention for the new year; sprouted wheat symbolizing rebirth and renewal; sweet wheat pudding for patience and strength; dried oleaster fruit for love and wisdom; garlic, offering protection and health; apple, embodying beauty and vitality; sumac, reflecting the color of sunrise and the spice of life; and vinegar, symbolizing patience, experience, and the passage of time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haft-Sin table is not just a collection of objects, but a tapestry of symbols that reflect the universal hopes of humanity. These traditions, passed down for centuries, remind us that renewal is not just about the changing of seasons—it is about embracing the possibilities of a brighter future; and

**WHEREAS**, Nowruz carries a message that transcends cultures and borders—a reminder that in the cycles of nature, as in life, every ending is met with a new beginning. It teaches us that the coldest winters will always be followed by spring, and that no matter our differences, we are united by the same longing for joy, peace, and renewal; and

**WHEREAS**, Nowruz is a celebration of inclusion, diversity, and community, bringing together people of various backgrounds, religions, and traditions in the spirit of peace and shared humanity. In Denver, we recognize and honor the contributions of immigrants and communities from Nowruz-celebrating nations, who enrich our city with their traditions, talents, and enduring spirit. Their presence strengthens the cultural fabric of Colorado and reminds us that our diversity is our greatest strength.

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

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council hereby recognizes and honors Nowruz on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as a day of renewal, unity, and celebration.

**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.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL DATE March 17, 2025

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PRESIDENT

