



Proclamation 25-1360

A Proclamation Honoring Denver Crime Lab National Forensic Science Week 2025

Whereas, the Denver Crime Lab has a long and well-deserved reputation of using technology and investigative excellence to further advance the criminal justice system and provide either exoneration of the accused or justice for victims, and;

Whereas, this longstanding reputation began with its founding by Denver Police Captain Joseph Moomaw in 1940, who purchased the lab's first equipment, a microscope, with his own funds, and;

Whereas, with the approval of departmental and civic leadership, the Denver Crime Lab began its drive to excellence. With forensic science still in its infancy, Captain Moomaw and the staff worked successfully to achieve top ratings in key areas of analysis, including narcotics, firearm identification, ballistic analysis, general chemistry analysis, explosive detection and document authentication, and;

Whereas, the Denver Crime Lab continued to be a trailblazer in the area of forensic science by developing mobile crime lab vehicles that allowed for scientific analysis in the field in the late 1950s and 1960s, and;

Whereas Denver leadership successfully resisted the trend of major cities in the 1970s to privatize crime lab functions. This allowed the lab to build a strong team of scientists dedicated to criminal justice for citizens of Denver, and;

Whereas, Denver voters approved a bond initiative in 2007, which allowed for the development of a nationally-recognized state-of-the-art facility and furthered Denver's leading role in forensic science and DNA analysis, which has since fostered national model programs in DNA cases. DNA property crimes initiatives, innovations in DNA database searching, and gun crime intelligence, and;

Whereas, leadership within the Denver Crime Lab aggressively sought available federal grants for DNA analysis for cold case reassessment, which resulted in countless successful identifications of previously unknown perpetrators of violent crime and closure for many victims. It also resulted in the exoneration of individuals not involved in crimes, and;

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

Section 1: The Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes the important contribution of Denver's crime scene investigators, forensic scientists, laboratory management, and leadership for their work in establishing excellence in forensic science to serve the Citizens of Denver as part of Forensic Science Week 2025.

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 a copy be sent to Gregory LaBerge, Director of the Denver Crime Lab and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

