

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0002

A Proclamation Thanking the City Employees supporting Denver's Migrant Response and House1000 initiative.

WHEREAS, on the first day of his administration, Mayor Mike Johnston signed, and Denver City Council approved, an emergency declaration to tackle homelessness in Denver with an ambitious goal of moving 1,000 Denverites indoors; and

WHEREAS, Denver has simultaneously been responding to the multifaceted challenge of significant newcomer arrivals with more than 35,000 arrivals since December 2022, hundreds of new daily arrivals and more than 4,500 migrants sheltered; and

WHEREAS, throughout these two challenges, city employees demonstrated an overwhelming commitment and generosity, working tirelessly around the clock, on weekends, holidays, and beyond traditional working hours to address critical humanitarian needs and support the wellbeing of our community; and

WHEREAS, employees across the city have delved deeply into solving two of the most intricately complex crises with no single clear solution. These crises can be unequivocally declared as two of the most arduous challenges facing our nation today; and

WHEREAS, our fantastic city employees showed their commitment to the wellbeing of our community through their tireless efforts over six months; and

WHEREAS, Denver City employees have exhibited patience and tremendous kindness in assisting a city in transition. They have answered questions, provided direction, and demonstrated a deep understanding of the scope of their roles and departments. This includes facilitating community meetings, staying late to answer questions, deescalating tense situations, and responding to hundreds of phone calls, emails, text messages, and in-person requests; and

WHEREAS, employees including the Department of Safety and various street outreach teams, go above and beyond visiting encampments to put a name and identity behind a person experiencing homelessness, and identifying resources -- using their purchase cards to reserve hotel rooms or their vehicles to provide rides to warming shelters on our coldest days. The Fire Department has worked tirelessly to ensure micro-communities meet fire protection safety requirements and are properly permitted. Our first responders work regardless of holidays and no matter how dangerous the weather conditions are; and

WHEREAS, we'd like to thank the Ashland Recreation Center employees who were essential partners in standing up the housing navigation resource events, during the holiday season when many people were taking time off; and

WHEREAS, several outreach workers from HOST personally assisted newcomers at the housing navigation resource events by finding available housing, filling out apartment applications, and providing numerous other resources for the newcomers living at the Zuni encampment. In total, 122 households and 404 people, including children, were successfully placed in housing because of their amazing efforts; and

WHEREAS, the willingness of Denver City employees to go above and beyond in responding to the needs of others, bringing their humanity to work every day, and tapping into their depth of knowledge is commendable. They learn alongside others on the journey, and when it has been the darkest, the light of the employees of the City and County of Denver shines, guiding others with compassion, laughter, tears, and hope; and

WHEREAS, the unfailing commitment of city employees to connect every individual in need with housing access, resources, support, and services has resulted in far-reaching, generational impacts, significantly improving countless lives for generations to come.

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 joins in recognizing the employees who have supported the House1000 initiative and migrant crisis for the work they continue to do and the example they set as public servants for the City and County of Denver.

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 Lana Dalton from the Office of Housing Stability, Tina Axelrad from Community Planning & Development, Kaye Templeton from Denver Human Services, and Director Armando Saldate from the Department of Safety.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 22, 2024

PRESIDENT