


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-0033
Introduced by Councilman Wayne New

Honoring Helga Grunerud for Outstanding Leadership and Advocacy for Small/Minority/Woman-Owned Construction Companies in Colorado

WHEREAS, Helga utilized her BA in Education and MBA in Operations Management in her career and volunteer time to pursue her passion for diversity, fairness and cooperation for all in education and business; and

WHEREAS, Helga Grunerud, has taught students at the high school and college levels and through an on-line financial class for the Regis University Masters in Nonprofit Management program, thereby influencing future business leaders with the need for inclusion of talent from many sources and with the necessity for and profitability of good operations practices; and

WHEREAS, Helga Grunerud has demonstrated her organizational leadership by serving on a myriad of committees for such entities as Denver Public Schools, RTD, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Denver Water, and the State of Colorado as part of the Colorado Minority Business Advisory Council and the Building Jobs4Colorado Coalition; and

WHEREAS, since Helga Grunerud started with HCC Colorado's Diversity Leader in 2000, the membership has more than tripled and includes some of the largest contractors in the United States plus some of the smallest contractors in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, in her capacity in these organizations, Helga Grunerud has fought tirelessly to develop programs geared toward increasing opportunities for diverse companies and for diverse workforce development, recognizing especially the benefits that such public projects provide for Small/Minority/Woman-Owned companies particularly in the construction industry; and

WHEREAS, drawing upon Helga's teaching experience, HCC secured grants from the TREX Project which launched the HCC Contractor Academy education program offering a monthly series of workshops, a certificate program and scholarships for small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Helga Grunerud has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Minority Enterprise Development 2006 Advocate of the Year, the Associated Builders & Contractors Rocky Mountain Chapter 2008 Excellence in Construction Award, the Independent Electrical Contractors Rocky Mountain Chapter 2009 Construction Industry Service Award, the Denver Metro Chamber 2010 David E. Bailey Small Business Advocate Award, the WTS Colorado Chapter 2015 Diversity Leadership Award, and the RTD 2017 Champion of Growth Award; and

WHEREAS, Helga Grunerud was a driving force, major contributor, and determined champion of the effort to pass the Denver City Council Prompt-Payment Ordinance legislation for Small/Minority/Woman-Owned Businesses initiated by Councilman Wayne New, Councilwoman Deborah Ortega, and Councilman Paul Kashmann, an ordinance which revised and improved the laws and means of enforcement for the protection of diverse construction companies; and

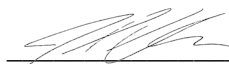
WHEREAS, she retired from the position of Executive Director of HCC in December 2017, but has vowed to stay involved with small business issues, launching her own small business consulting firm, and helping CDOT develop their Mentor-Protégé program, proving that she is still committed to her passion to assist "all contractors, regardless of size, ethnicity and gender to position themselves to become successful.

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

Section 1. That the Council applauds Helga Grunerud for her passion and commitment to the Small/Minority/Woman-Owned businesses and their workers.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Helga Grunerud.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 8, 2018



PRESIDENT PRO-TEM