

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0547

Declaring April 22nd – April 26th, 2024, to be National Youth Violence Prevention Week in the City and County of Denver

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility of all City leaders is to ensure the safety of the people it serves, particularly our youngest and most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, All Denver youth deserve to be safe, supported, and engaged in all spaces they inhabit be it their homes, schools, or neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the reality is that for many Denver youth violence is constant presence in their lives making it harder to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on all those in positions of authority at the local, state, and federal level to embrace the urgency of these challenges facing young people and everything possible to increase the protective factors for youth and address the systemic roots of youth crime and violence; and

WHEREAS, the occurrence of youth violence is a significant problem, but a solvable one when a coalition of dedicated public servants in government and outside of it commit the resources and will to the solutions; and

WHEREAS, groups like the Mayor's Youth Commission, the Game Changers, and other youth leadership committees, Community Collaboratives that have come together across the City, and City coalitions like the Denver Children's Cabinet and the Youth Violence Prevention Action Table and so many others are essential in the collaborative effort to amplify the assets in communities and remove the barriers facing children, youth and families; and

WHEREAS, true and comprehensive youth violence cannot be fully prevented until proper monetary and social investments are made to improve the ecosystems and environments that children grow up in and supported including access to maternal child health, affordable childcare, world class K-12 education, and pathways to postsecondary education and workforce opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in order for Denver to be the safe, vibrant, child-friendly city that it should be, bold and ambitious actions must be taken to achieve the promise made to Denver youth and families; and

WHEREAS, City efforts to combat youth violence are strongest and most enduring when they are community-led, youth informed, and City supported; and

WHEREAS, National Youth Violence Prevention Week serves as both a moment to celebrate the tremendous work of so many community-based organizations as well as a clarion call to reassert the commitment to securing and safety and prosperity for all Denver youth.

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 declares April 22nd through the 26th 2024, to be National Youth Violence Prevention Week and proclaim the Council's commitment to ensuring Denver is the best and safest place for all children to grow, learn, and play.

Section 2: That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest an affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation, and copies be transmitted to the Office of Children's Affairs, community partners, youth leaders, family members, and other stakeholders who have and continue to dedicate themselves to preventing youth violence in all its forms.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 22, 2024

PRESIDENT

