

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 19-0263

Honoring Denver Police Detective Gail Riddell for Women's History Month

WHEREAS, the Denver Police Department is celebrating the 160th Anniversary of its founding in 1859; and

WHEREAS, women have played a very important role throughout the history of the Department, first serving as matrons managing and running the jail, in the 1920s as inspectors of theaters, leading law enforcement efforts against sex trafficking, and in the late 1960s joining their male counterparts on the streets of Denver fighting crime; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 President Jimmy Carter through Executive Order declared March of each year as Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, The Denver Police Department and the Denver Police Museum have chosen March 2019 to honor the life and service of late Detective Gail S. Riddell; and

WHEREAS, Gail was born in 1946 to Mary Margaret in Salem, Oregon and later adopted by Robert Riddell; and

WHEREAS, Patrolwoman Riddell joined the Denver Police Department in 1969 at the age of 23 after getting into a fiery debate with a male friend who insisted that women could not succeed as police officers; and

WHEREAS, Officer Riddell brought her full dedication to work every day and persevered in a roll without precedents, serving in the Patrol Division, Communications Bureau, Burglary/Theft/Shoplifting units of Criminal Investigation; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, she was promoted to detective due to her strong work ethic, immense attention to detail, and her uncanny ability to engage people inside and outside policing, stating that a police officer must be a composite professional including social worker, humanitarian, and teacher; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Detective Riddell was named Colorado Policewoman of the Year.

WHEREAS, Gail, in her personal life, adopted her daughter Molly, serving as a single mother, community leader and Denver Police Officer all with distinction.

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

Section 1. The Council hereby recognizes and honors the life and service of the late Detective Gail Riddell and her service to the Citizens of the City and County of Denver.

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 delivered to the family of Detective Riddell and the Denver Police Department.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 26, 2019

PRESIDENT