



Proclamation No. 24-1584

Honoring former reporters for sharing a warning about the dangers of white nationalism

WHEREAS, on June 18, 1984, at approximately 9:30 p.m., Denver police dispatch received an emergency call for service indicating gunshots at 1445 Adams Street, the home of Denver radio talk show personality Alan Berg, who was killed, beginning the story of what could be described as Denver's most notorious murder; and

WHEREAS, Alan Berg was known for provoking audiences about every type of controversial topic imaginable, including baiting the local leader of the Ku Klux Klan calling the group "slime" and stirring up controversy about a local anti-Semitic publication; and

WHEREAS, due to outstanding investigative work from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Attorney's Office and the Denver Police Department, law enforcement quickly zeroed in on several members of a white supremacist group called The Order as suspects in Mr. Berg's murder; and

WHEREAS, Rocky Mountain News reporters Kevin Flynn and Gary Gerhardt provided in-depth coverage about the crime and soon realized a larger story was emerging of related bank robberies, bombings and car heists with a goal of creating a whites-only nation in the northwest United States; and

WHEREAS, the reporters felt strongly that the story about terrorism in the cause of white nationalism must be told as a warning to America; and

WHEREAS, Flynn and Gerhardt spent two years traveling the northwest, visiting the Aryan Nations compound in Idaho, a survivalist camp in the Arkansas Ozarks, and meeting local police and FBI agents at crime scenes from California to Montana to research and publish the harrowing true story of racism, crime and murder in their book "The Silent Brotherhood: Inside America's Racist Underground" released in 1989; and

WHEREAS, working to further the message of the dangers of white nationalism the book is being released as a major motion picture called "The Order" starring Jude Law and Nicholas Hoult and making its local premier at the Denver Film Festival on Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, before being released into theaters Dec. 6, 2024.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council recognizes Flynn and Gerhardt for their courageous and dedicated efforts to share this story of political terrorism that had far-reaching impacts on our country that we are still feeling today.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder 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 Kevin Flynn, Nancy Gerhardt and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 4, 2024

PRESIDENT

