

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0244 Recognizing the 50th Annual Denver March Powwow

WHEREAS Denver is the home of as many as eighty American Indian Tribes represented by residents of the Denver area; and

WHEREAS the Youth Enrichment Program participants and families had the courage in 1974 to establish a time to get together, to give honor, and celebrate traditional Tribal values which laid the groundwork to powwow into the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS the 50th Annual Denver March Powwow will be held Friday, March 20th through Sunday, March 22nd, 2026, at the Denver Coliseum; and

WHEREAS activities at the Powwow will include traditional tribal storytelling, Native Author readings, dancing and drumming, the opportunity to purchase authentic Native American arts and crafts, and food including delicious Indian fry bread; and

WHEREAS annual events include the introduction of the Powwow Royalty, the Grand Entry Processional, the beginning of the song "A Living Hoop", and coronation of the Denver March Powwow Princess; and

WHEREAS Mash-ta Littlecook, the 2025 Denver March Powwow Princess, has traveled throughout the United States and Canada, proudly representing the Denver March Powwow and the City and County of Denver as a cultural ambassador, uplifting Indigenous voices, sharing the rich heritage of Native peoples, and inspiring future generations; and

WHEREAS the Denver City Council recognizes and appreciates the dedication and commitment of the Board of Directors and staff for their combined 160+ years of service to the annual Powwow; and

WHEREAS during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, when the 2020 and 2021 Powwows were canceled, the Board and staff faced profound uncertainty and deep concern for the future of the event but through prayer, ceremony, resilience, and steadfast leadership, the Denver March Powwow endured this challenging period; and

WHEREAS the Denver City Council extends its gratitude to President Ken LaDeaux, Vice President Virginia Irving, Secretary and Treasurer Diane M. Buck, Board Member Nancy Rouillard, Board Member Kelli Baca, the late Member Emeritus Virginia Quintana, Executive Director Grace B. Gillette, and Powwow Coordinator Larissa E. No Braid, for their commitment to sharing and maintaining their tribal traditions; and

WHEREAS the Denver March Powwow has achieved national recognition through its permanent documentation in the Library of Congress's Local Legacies Project—preserved in the national archives—and its permanent exhibit in the "Our Universes" gallery at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., a major museum of the Smithsonian Institution; and

WHEREAS the annual Powwow is an important annual event for the region's Indian people, making a powerful contribution to passing their cultural heritage from one generation to the next, maintaining pride in their heritage, and promoting cultural awareness of the Native American peoples for the general public.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council hereby designates the days of March 20th, 21st and 22nd, 2026 as Denver Native American Cultural Days in honor of the many Native Americans who make their home in the Denver region, recognizes the occasion of the 50th Annual Denver March Powwow and commends members of the Powwow Committee for their efforts to make the event a cultural and educational success for the Denver community.

Section 3. 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 Larissa E. No Braid and the Denver March Powwow Committee.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 9, 2026

PRESIDENT

