

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 22-1498 Recognizing November 26, 2022, as Holodomor Remembrance Day

**WHEREAS**, 89 years ago, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and his totalitarian regime committed an act of genocide through the implementation of an engineered famine, confiscating foodstuffs from the Ukrainian people and resulting in the deaths of between seven and 10 million innocent men, women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, this genocide, *Holodomor*, meaning “murder by starvation,” was specifically designed by the Soviet regime to punish independent-minded Ukrainians for their resistance to Stalin’s political, economic, cultural and social subjugation; and

**WHEREAS**, even as the Soviets continued to export Ukraine’s grain to the rest of the world, Ukrainian farmers, who tended to the farms in the breadbasket of Europe, were purposefully starved in a slow and painful death; and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of archival KGB documents created during this genocide detailed and described the Soviet regime’s actions and intent to destroy Ukraine’s national identity by deporting and executing Ukraine’s religious, intellectual and cultural leaders, and prosecuting or executing others who dared to speak of the *Holodomor*; and

**WHEREAS**, the official recognition of the Holodomor as a genocide by the government of Ukraine represents a significant step in adjudicating Soviet crimes and in reestablishing Ukraine’s national identity and the advancement of efforts to establish a democratic and free Ukraine that is fully integrated into the Western community of nations; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last eight months, the current Russian war against Ukraine has seen similar genocidal actions by Russian forces directed at the civilian population of Ukraine, including more than 60,000 attacks on civilians now being investigated as war crimes by Ukrainian authorities and the United Nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Russian Federation, in breaking the agreement brokered by the United Nations that enabled the export of Ukrainian grain, and in stealing grain from Ukrainian territory, is now threatening food shortages and starvation throughout the world, just as Stalin’s actions did in Ukraine 89 years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, the need to raise awareness of past genocides, such as the Holodomor, is essential to preventing their reoccurrence and to supporting countries such as Ukraine that are fighting aggressors that have targeted civilian populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the fourth Saturday in November is marked in Ukraine as Holodomor Remembrance Day and is also observed in Canada and in communities of the Ukrainian diaspora around the world,

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

**Section 1.** That the date of November 26, 2022, be recognized as a day of solemn recognition of the genocide known as the Holodomor, perpetrated by the Soviet Union against the people of Ukraine in 1932-33.

**Section 2.** That the Secretary of Council shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Ukrainians of Colorado.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 14, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT