

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0156 Celebrating Lunar New Year 2026

WHEREAS, we honor and recognize the Lunar New Year, which begins on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026, as the Year of the Fire Horse; and

WHEREAS, the Lunar New Year is the largest holiday of the year in many diverse Asian communities with celebrations spanning the globe. Its importance is rooted deep in history and remains the most important occasion for generations of families to reunite, spend time together, and celebrate; and

WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander refugee and immigrant communities have played a vital role in shaping the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Denver. We recognize the contributions of the AAPI refugee and immigrant communities, who retained and shared their cultural identities, languages, and traditions with their families, the AAPI community, and the community at large so we all may recognize and celebrate important traditions, including the Lunar New Year. Their contributions have enriched the strength and vitality of Denver as a community and are deepened by celebrating the Lunar New Year; and

WHEREAS, this is a special time to remember the beauty of Denver's diversity and give recognition to many of Denver's Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, who invite the community to celebrate rich cultural traditions and have made our city so special. Locations like the Far East Center, Little Saigon Business District, Sakura Square, Asia Center, and Alameda Square are among our most treasured spaces and corridors and we look forward to celebrating and lifting the community in these and future spaces; and

WHEREAS, we must also recognize the pain and damage that discrimination and xenophobia have enacted upon our AAPI communities before, during, and since the pandemic that we cannot — and do not — tolerate. We commit ourselves to being an active force in opposing these and other destructive acts that divide our community; and

WHEREAS, we believe that honoring our community's varied ethnic cultures, traditions and religions makes us a strong and vibrant city, and that sharing and celebrating community-based festivals enhances the connection between residents and across generations showcasing the beauty of the more than thirty AAPI ethnicities in Denver; and

WHEREAS, celebrating the Lunar New Year is our opportunity to elevate the heritage, history, and contributions of the global community who celebrate the Lunar New Year. We celebrate both those who have called Denver home for generations and are new to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Lunar New Year has been recognized as an official state holiday in Colorado since 2024; and

WHEREAS, we invite all Denverites to learn, join, and celebrate with the community throughout the upcoming Lunar New Year celebrations as we usher in the Year of the Fire Horse.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council celebrates the holiday festivities beginning Tuesday, February 17th, through March 3rd, 2026, in culminations with the Lantern Festival as "Lunar New Year Celebrations in Denver," and wishes everyone who observes this holiday happiness, longevity, good fortune, prosperity, and a healthy new year.

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 the Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission and Community.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 17, 2026

PRESIDENT

