

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0377 A Proclamation Commemorating Nowruz

WHEREAS the Denver City Council recognizes and celebrates Nowruz, which commenced on the Spring Equinox on Friday, March 20th, 2026, and is celebrated for thirteen days; and

WHEREAS Nowruz, meaning “new day” in Persian, is an ancient celebration of renewal, marking the triumph of light over darkness and the rebirth of spring. Celebrated for millennia, Nowruz is an over 3,000-year-old celebration observed across many ethno-linguistic and cultural communities, creating a shared sense of hope and renewal among those who celebrate it; and

WHEREAS Nowruz brings together family and friends through feasts, community festivities, and music. For centuries, on the eve of the last Wednesday of the year, people gather around bonfires, jumping over the flames in a ritual that leaves behind the sickness, sorrow, and darkness of the year, and welcomes rebirth in the coming year; and

WHEREAS the Haft Sin table, one of the central components of Nowruz festivities, is an arrangement of seven symbolic items that begin with the Persian letter “S” and set forward positive intentions for the new year. Wheat, barley, or lentil sprouts represent renewal and growth; germinated wheat pudding represents abundance and strength; dried oleaster represents love and wisdom; garlic represents health and protection against evil; an apple represents beauty and good health; crushed sumac berries represent the triumph of light over darkness; vinegar represents age, patience, and wisdom; and,

WHEREAS On the thirteenth and final day of Nowruz festivities, commonly known as nature day, friends and family gather outdoors and picnic, hoping to cleanse their minds and year of all evil thoughts through joy and laughter; and,

WHEREAS Nowruz is a unifying celebration that transcends borders. It is celebrated by over 300 million people across Iran, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia, and embraced by Kurdish, Turkic Uyghur, Parsi, and diaspora populations worldwide. The traditions of Nowruz have prospered for generations, adapting through political change, conflict, and distance. The rituals connect people with their heritage and preserve a sense of cultural identity, underscoring their unifying power in our interconnected world; and,

WHEREAS Nowruz symbolizes collective spirit and harmony by bringing together people of different backgrounds, religions, and traditions. We recognize and honor the courage and resistance of immigrants and communities from Nowruz-celebrating countries who enrich Denver with their traditions, talents, and prevailing hope.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council hereby recognizes Nowruz as a day of renewal, unity, and celebration, and honors those around the world who continue to fight for freedom.

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.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 23, 2026

PRESIDENT

