

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0331 Honoring the Service of Denver's Crime Lab Director Dr. Gregory LaBerge

WHEREAS, on Nov. 25, 1966, Gregory LaBerge was born to Eleanor and Edmund (Ted) LaBerge in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, joining his sister Peggy who was 13 years older; and

WHEREAS, Gregg was born into a hardworking, blue-collar family that valued integrity, service and discipline, which would serve as the foundation for his life and career; and

WHEREAS, Gregg attended Northern Heights Public School, later attending Bawating Collegiate and Vocational School where he played soccer and, like any good Canadian, played hockey while fostering his interest in cars and using his natural mechanical instincts to repair cars and equipment; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from high school, he worked on a dairy farm and at a meatpacking plant so he could attend Lake Superior State University and then the University of Guelph where he studied molecular biology and genetics, graduating with honors in 1991; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from college, Gregg entertained the thought of joining the Canadian Royal Air Force as a pilot, but was instead encouraged by a professor to pursue a career in science and to seek more education within the United States; and

WHEREAS, Gregg was accepted to graduate school at the University of Colorado and left Canada with \$185 in his pocket to pursue a master's degree in statistics and later a doctorate in human medical genetics; and

WHEREAS, upon arriving in Denver, he met his future wife, Jennifer Brunk, at a medical conference at the University of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Jennifer introduced Gregg to Denver Police Lieutenant Mark Leone who suggested Gregg consider joining the Denver Crime Lab as a volunteer; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Gregg was hired at the Denver lab as a forensic DNA scientist where he handled more than 3,000 difficult and high-profile cases involving serial killers, sexual assault and other violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, in July 2005, Gregg was named the first non-sworn director of the Denver Crime Lab; and

WHEREAS, under Gregg's leadership the lab focused on unsolved cold cases, bringing justice to hundreds of victims and their families; and

WHEREAS, the crime laboratory also developed a forensic crime gun intelligence program that was later adopted by the ATF as a national model; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Gregg worked with Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey, other city officials and victims' groups to successfully pass a bond initiative to build a new state-of-the-art laboratory that was ultimately delivered on time and under budget; and

WHEREAS, Gregg was called upon by the U.S. Government to represent our nation at numerous international forensic science committees and conferences around the world, including Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East, cementing Denver's position as a world leader in forensic science and criminal justice.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council recognizes the leadership of Dr. Gregory LaBerge as the director of the Denver Crime Laboratory, and the critical role he has played in providing justice and comfort to victims of crime in our community. We also salute his lasting legacy of investigative prowess, forensic excellence and generational mentorship that will long be a tradition of the Denver Crime Laboratory.

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 LaBerge Family, the Denver Crime Laboratory, and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL MARCH 16, 2026

PRESIDENT

