



Proclamation No. 23-0475

Proclaiming April 24th – April 28th, 2023, to be National Youth Violence Prevention Week in the City and County of Denver

WHEREAS, violence in all its forms affects thousands of Denver youth and families annually, including: bullying, child abuse, cyber bullying, harassment, intimate partner violence, human trafficking & runaway violence, peer-to-peer violence, self-harm & suicide, sexual violence, gang violence, substance misuse, and a variety of secondary trauma; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 40% of all Denver's homicide victims were under the age of 25, and 16% of homicide victims were under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, 43% of homicides in Denver were by firearm; and

WHEREAS, nearly 40% of Colorado high school students surveyed in the 2021 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, reported feeling so sad or hopeless over the previous two weeks that they stopped doing usual activities; and

WHEREAS, building on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations, the City and County of Denver (CCD) is applying a public health approach to reduce youth violence across five different areas of practice: health, education, economy, community and environment; and

WHEREAS, In Partnership with the Office of Children's Affairs, the Youth Violence Prevention Action Table (YVPAT) released the 2023 Youth Violence Prevention Plan as a primary guide to provide actionable strategies and tactics for city agencies, Denver Public Schools, and other community partners to proactively collaborate on serving the needs of our youth; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver, its community partners and all other involved individuals renew their commitment to promote, enhance and increase the assets, strengths and skill sets of young people by providing the necessary services and resources, including: opportunities and options for mental and physical health services, mentoring, social and emotional intelligence education, financial literacy education, post-secondary education, skilled trade training, entrepreneurial education and housing options and access, in order to increase their odds for success; and

WHEREAS, the newly developed Community Crisis Response Group will foster collaboration between city agencies, Denver Public Schools, and community representatives to better coordinate communication and the use of resources during an event that causes harm within a community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors Youth Commission created the "Safety Starts with Me" campaign, recognizing that public safety is the responsibility of all residents in the community.

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

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes April 24th through 28th 2023, as National Youth Violence Prevention Week and encourages all residents to support young people by becoming

a trusted adult who works aggressively to reduce the risk factors to the healthy development of our young people while amplifying the conditions that protect youth from harm.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation, and copies be made available to the multiple community partners, public agencies, parents, relatives, teachers, mentors, and various stakeholders who worked tirelessly to create and provide safe communities for the youth of Denver.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 24, 2023



COUNCIL PRESIDENT