



**Proclamation No. 23-1332
Honoring the Celebration of Ashenda in Colorado**

WHEREAS, The City and County of Denver has a long history of partnership with Denver-Axum Sister Cities and The Tigray Community of Colorado to host the annual Festival Ashenda in honor of Black womanhood, sisterhood, femininity, joy and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Ashenda is a holiday celebrated by Tigrayans around the world from all religions through freedom of expression in fashion, dance, song, drumming, spoken word, art and more; and

WHEREAS, Ashenda is a celebration to uplift and empower women and girls in Tigray and the Tigrayan Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Ashenda recognizes the contributions of women and girls as pillars of strength and joy in their communities; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of Denver recognizes and values indigenous peoples' cultural traditions, especially those centered around women and girls; and

WHEREAS, Ashenda is celebrated at the City of Axum Park in Denver introducing the local community to the strength and beauty of the people of Tigray; and

WHEREAS, Ashenda passes down the customs and traditions of the Tigray people from the elders to girls and young women through stories, song, and dance; and

WHEREAS, Ashenda is a family-centered celebration emphasizing the importance of Tigrayan family values and traditions.

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

Section 1. The City Council of Denver recognizes the Colorado Tigray community for their incredible contributions to our city, commitment to each other, and their efforts to build stronger global connections.

Section 2. The City Council of Denver celebrates the historic partnership with Denver-Axum Sister Cities for their efforts building bridges across borders, celebrating cultures, and fostering international collaboration between our sister cities.

Section 3. That the Clerk 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 Millete Birhanemaskel, President of Tigray Community Of Colorado.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 25, 2023

PRESIDENT