

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## Proclamation No. 25-2015 Honoring the Life and Legacy of Michael Henry

**WHEREAS**, Michael Henry, a beloved Denver civic leader, passed away in 2025, leaving behind a profound legacy of public service and community leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, he served nearly two decades (2001–2019) as executive director of the Denver Board of Ethics, guiding city officials and employees on ethical conduct and integrity in government; and

**WHEREAS**, Michael Henry played a pivotal role in empowering Denver’s neighborhoods by co-founding the Denver Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) and helping draft the 1979 “Neighborhood Registration and Notification” ordinance that established the Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) system, giving neighborhood groups an official voice in city planning; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to his ethics role, he faithfully served the City and County of Denver in other capacities, including as temporary executive director of the Denver Civil Service Commission and as a Magistrate of the Denver County Court, and earlier as chief investigative attorney for the Colorado Supreme Court’s Attorney Discipline Office; and

**WHEREAS**, he was appointed by Governor Richard Lamm to the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission, on which he served with distinction, including three years as its chair, helping to shape policies for cleaner air in Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, Michael Henry was a tireless advocate for Denver’s neighborhoods, serving as president of Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) and chairing CHUN’s Zoning and Historic Preservation committees, through which he helped thwart the demolition of historic properties and spearheaded the designation of several historic districts in Capitol Hill; and

**WHEREAS**, he continued this advocacy as a board member and Historic Preservation Committee chair of Neighbors for Greater Capitol Hill, working to preserve the character and vitality of his community; and

**WHEREAS**, Michael Henry lent his expertise to numerous city initiatives, including 10 years of service on the Mayor’s Commission on Homelessness, five years on the Denver Zoning Code Task Force (which overhauled the city’s zoning code), and membership on the Group Living Advisory Committee to improve housing options for Denver’s residents; and

**WHEREAS**, he was also a champion of transparent elections and civic engagement, partnering in the “Denver Decides” program to organize fair candidate debates and help Denver voters stay informed about local issues — a commitment that left a lasting mark on the integrity of Denver’s elections.

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

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council hereby honors the life and legacy of Michael Henry and recognizes the immeasurable positive impact of his leadership on the City of Denver.

**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 his family.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 1, 2025

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PRESIDENT

