

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



**Proclamation No. 24-1173
Celebrating Denver's Diversity & Commitment to Accepting and Supporting People of All
Backgrounds**

WHEREAS, The Denver City Council honors and acknowledges each week that the land on which we reside is the traditional territory of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Peoples, recognizing the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Denver is a city made up of many people from many diverse backgrounds who have had to overcome legal discrimination and violent subjugation to build a community united in continuing the course to equity while celebrating the successes made; and

WHEREAS, Communities of color in Denver are united in confronting white supremacy by emphasizing the similar forms of oppression of marginalized people, including shared experiences of subjugation; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that grassroots advocacy by civil rights groups leads to material policy change for marginalized people, like Denver's Gang of 19, who staged community-led advocacy efforts in 1978, which led to the creation of the National Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, The Denver Office of Human Rights and Community Partnerships recognizes that Denver has a long history and culture of being a welcoming city, and is a community that has had to come together throughout the decades against discrimination, racism, and injustices; and

WHEREAS, Denver's Office of Social Equity and Innovation reports that the future of our city's communities relies on our ability to eradicate racial harms and inequities and to promote a society where all community members can succeed and that outcomes cannot be predicted by race; and

WHEREAS, This Council believes that, with appropriate efforts enacted, true equity can be realized in the City of Denver, where race and other social identities will no longer be used to predict life outcomes, nor will race impact the quality and depth of services received by individuals; and

WHEREAS, This City Council condemns hate speech in all forms, which causes ongoing harm to historically marginalized communities and will commit to create policy which unites – rather than divides – Denver.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. The Denver City Council celebrates our city's diverse population, which has been evolving and growing since before modern borders were drawn and one which will continue to welcome newcomers with a vested interest in our shared success.

Section 2. The Denver City Council will strive to ensure new policies, procedures, ordinances, and laws continue to dismantle the institutional thresholds and barriers still existing after a long history of policies that perpetuate negative outcomes from racial bias.

Section 3. The Denver City Council recognizes the need to uplift all marginalized and downtrodden communities by addressing the structural and institutional barriers that prevent everyone from having an opportunity to life, liberty, and the pursuit of justice.

Section 4. 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 Dr. Ben Sanders at Denver's Office of Social Equity and Innovation, a copy be transmitted to Perla Gheiler at Denver's Agency for Human Rights & Community, and a copy be transmitted to the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 9, 2024

PRESIDENT

