

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-1630

Recognizing Denver Fire Department's Station 3 for Being Added to the National Register of Historic Places

WHEREAS, Fire Station 3, originally known as Hose Company No. 3, became a paid company within the Denver Fire Department on March 15, 1882, and it is Denver's oldest, continually used firehouse in the Denver Fire Department today; and

WHEREAS, in 1888, Fire Station 3 opened at 2563 Glenarm Place, across the street from the current station, and began as an all-white company since Black men were banned from firefighter service at the time; and

WHEREAS, populist Governor David H. Waite, who won the 1892 election with support from the African American community, backed the creation of a Black fire company in Denver's Five Points neighborhood, allowing Fire Station 3 to include Black firefighters; and

WHEREAS, all four members of Fire Station 3 died in a fire at the St. James Hotel on March 23, 1895, including their white captain and three Black crew members, who, against common practice, were mourned together as heroes in a single funeral with all four caskets exactly alike to make them indistinguishable; and

WHEREAS, after the funeral, a new crew was hired, consisting of a white captain and an all-Black crew, which included the first Black officer, Lieutenant Silas Johnson, who later became the first Black captain when he was promoted in August 1897, creating the first all-Black company; and

WHEREAS, in 1931, the 2563 Glenarm Place station was decommissioned, and the new Fire Station 3 was relocated across the intersection to its present location, 2500 N. Washington Street. Fire Station 3 continued as the city's only all-Black company until 1957, when the Denver Fire Department became desegregated; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Roderick "Rod" Juniel became the first Black fire chief in the Denver Fire Department after 26 years of service, recognizing Station 3's history as paramount to that achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council recognizes the Denver Fire Department's Station 3 as an important community symbol whose legacy of community engagement and representation continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council recognizes the legacy of Denver Fire Department's Station 3 as the first all-Black fire crew in 1897 and the lasting impression it has left on the diverse department we know today.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council congratulates Fire Station 3 on being added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 14, 2024, a well-deserved and overdue recognition.

Section 2. That the Denver City Council thanks Fire Station 3 for all it has done and all it continues to do to serve Denver and its historic Five Points Neighborhood.

Section 3. 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 Chief Desmond Fulton of the Denver Fire Department.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 12, 2024

PRESIDENT

