

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## **Proclamation No. 14-0205 In recognition of the César E. Chávez Holiday.**

**WHEREAS**, César Estrada Chávez was born in 1927 near Yuma, Arizona and moved to California with his family to work as migrant farm workers after losing their farm during a dishonest loan transaction; and

**WHEREAS**, before the rise of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), working conditions were harsh for most agricultural workers, who were not provided even the most basic necessities such as clean drinking water or portable toilets; many lived in shacks without indoor plumbing or cooking facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1962, César Chávez, along with many dedicated farm workers, formed what was to become the UFW, securing historic labor and civil rights concessions for exploited and impoverished farm workers; and

**WHEREAS**, César E. Chávez believed in social justice through non-violence, using the picket line and the power of the boycott as well as sacrificing his own body during 3 historic fasts in 1968 for 25 days, in 1972 for 24 days, and again in 1988 for 36 days; and

**WHEREAS**, César Estrada Chávez gave his last ounce of strength to La Causa, dying peacefully in his sleep on April 23, 1993, leaving his legacy and symbol of dignity for all people who seek justice; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, the Honorable Ramona Martinez, proposed that the City and County of Denver commemorate the birthday of César Chávez by officially designating the last Monday of March as the César Chávez holiday for City employees, and on March 5, 2002, the Denver City Council approved Council Bill 145, Series of 2002, amending the Denver Revised Municipal Code to make the day an official holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, The movie, "César Chávez an American Hero" premieres on March 28, 2014. And all are invited to viewing celebrations at the United Artists Pavilions in downtown Denver and at the Harkins 18 at Stapleton; and

**WHEREAS**, AARP, one of the official sponsors of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Cesar Chavez March and Celebration, organized by the Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver, being held on Saturday, March 29; the march will begin at Regis University and end at the Cesar E. Chavez Park at Tennyson Street and West 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, where there will be a community celebration in honor of Chavez; later that evening, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement is hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cesar E. Chavez Dinner and Dance.

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

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council remembers and honors the work of César Estrada Chávez, and encourages Denver citizens to live by his vision for social justice through non-violence.

**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 that copies be transmitted to AARP, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, and the César E. Chávez Peace and Justice Committee.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 24, 2014

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT