

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 26-0021

A Proclamation Honoring West East Neighbors United for Leadership on the NWSL Stadium Community Benefits Agreement

WHEREAS, West East Neighbors United (WENU) was formed as a coalition of Registered Neighborhood Organizations, nonprofit partners, small businesses, labor representatives, and community members from neighborhoods both west and east of the South Platte River and Santa Fe Drive, areas long shaped by physical, economic, and social divisions created by highways, rail lines, zoning decisions, and historic patterns of disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, these divisions have too often separated communities that share geography, history, and fate, limiting opportunities for collaboration and shared advocacy across Southwest Denver; and

WHEREAS, West East Neighbors United (WENU) intentionally came together to bridge those divides, creating a unified, cross-neighborhood voice grounded in equity, mutual respect, transparency, and a shared commitment to the long-term wellbeing of residents and small businesses in Southwest Denver; and

WHEREAS, through a community-led collaborative process, WENU organized a representative Steering Committee to guide negotiations and ensure that community priorities remained central throughout complex and high-stakes development discussions; and

WHEREAS, West East Neighbors United (WENU) elected Anita Banuelos (Athmar Park RNO), Adriana Lopez (Valverde RNO), Tim Lopez (Baker RNO), and Connor Shea (Baker RNO) to serve as Co-Chairs, providing steady leadership, cross-neighborhood coordination, and good-faith negotiation on behalf of the broader coalition; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee brought together leaders from Athmar Park Neighborhood Association, Valverde, Baker Historic Neighborhood Association (BHNA), Denver Inter Neighborhood Cooperation (INC), Platt Park, Lincoln/Broadway Corridor RNO, Ruby Hill, West Washington Park Neighborhood Association (WWPNA), Broadway Merchants Association, Colorado Asian Pacific United (CAPU), Denver Streets Partnership, FaithBridge, The Greenway Foundation, The Park People and River Sisters Congreso, as well as inter-neighborhood and community organizations, reflecting the diversity of southwest Denver and modeling what inclusive, representative civic engagement can look like in practice; and

WHEREAS, through sustained dialogue, volunteer labor, and countless hours of meetings, West East Neighbors United (WENU) worked across differences to articulate shared priorities focused on social equity, workforce development, transportation access, environmental stewardship, arts and culture, and long-term neighborhood stability; and

WHEREAS, this collective effort helped secure a significant public and private investment in Southwest Denver, including enforceable community benefits intended to address historic inequities, mitigate development impacts, and ensure that residents and small businesses closest to the project share in its benefits; and

WHEREAS, West East Neighbors United (WENU) demonstrated that community members—when organized, informed, and united—can meaningfully engage complex city processes with integrity, accountability, and care for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the work of West East Neighbors United (WENU) reflects the values of civic participation, bridge-building, and shared stewardship of place that strengthen not only Southwest Denver, but the City and County of Denver as a whole;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL: that the Denver City Council hereby recognizes and honors West East Neighbors United (WENU), its elected Co-Chairs, Steering Committee members, participating organizations, and unaffiliated community volunteers for their leadership in building bridges across historic divides and for their role in securing meaningful investment and community benefits in Southwest Denver; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Denver City Council expresses its gratitude to all who contributed their time, expertise, and lived experience to this effort, and reaffirms its commitment to continued partnership with community-led coalitions working to advance equity, connectivity, and opportunity for all Denver residents.

Section 1. 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 Anita Banuelos, Adriana Lopez, Tim Lopez, and Connor Shea.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 12, 2026

PRESIDENT

