

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. CP16-0070

Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Harvey Park Improvement Association

WHEREAS, in March 1954, Denver annexed land from Arapahoe County between Jewell and Yale avenues and Lowell and Sheridan Boulevards, nearly all of which consisted of the former Black and White Ranch; and in August 1954 Denver annexed the adjoining land south of Yale Avenue to Bear Creek; and

WHEREAS, the Black and White Ranch was at one time the property of Denver native Paul Whiteman, the greatest Big Band leader of the 1920s-30s, whose Paul Whiteman Orchestra made him the Jazz King of America; purchased for his father, Wilberforce Whiteman, retired Supervisor of Music at Denver Public Schools from 1888-1924; and eventually was sold in 1948 to Major Arthur "Tex" Harvey, owner of oil and ranching interests in Midland, Texas; and between 1954 and 1957, this land was subdivided into 21 separate filings by Aksel Nielsen of Mortgage Investment Company and a host of top homebuilders who styled it as Harvey Park, eventually building more than 4,000 single-family homes in a wide range of styles and price levels; and

WHEREAS, on Feb. 6, 1956, homeowners in Harvey Park announced the formation of an improvement association for the purpose of organizing the community to demand parks, street improvements, libraries, schools, lighting, public transportation and equity in property tax assessments, and to host social events such as weekly dances; and

WHEREAS, over the 60 years of its existence, 39 homeowners in Harvey Park have served as president and four of the five Denver City Council members elected in District 2, serving for 48 of the past 56 years, were members of Harvey Park Improvement Association, showing a strong spirit of community leadership; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Park Improvement Association continues to be a positive force in southwest Denver through its scholarship fundraising, environmental activism, annual festival, commitment to sustainability, promotion of neighborhood businesses and robust communications with the people of Harvey Park regarding the neighborhood's past, present and future.

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

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver congratulates the members of the Harvey Park Improvement Association on the occasion of its 60th anniversary for maintaining six decades of continuous community activism through volunteerism and commitment to community improvement, and recognizes the vital role that it and its sister organizations play in raising the quality of life throughout this city.

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 a copy be transmitted to the President of the Harvey Park Improvement Association.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 1, 2016

PRESIDENT