

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-1722

Honoring Anthony Aragon for 20-plus years of Denver Civic Greatness and Pride

WHEREAS, Anthony Aragon served as the Director of Community Engagement & Government Affairs with the National Western Center Authority for two years, having served 19 years with the City & County of Denver in positions in both the Hancock and Hickenlooper administrations, and in Denver's Agency of Human Rights & Community Partnerships; and

WHEREAS, this places him at the forefront of community outreach and engagement efforts in Denver, particularly with the Globeville and Elyria-Swansea (GES) neighborhoods. His extensive experience in public service and community engagement, as well as his leadership in advocacy for civil rights, has made him a trusted figure in the city; and

WHEREAS, for five years, Anthony has worked hands-on to build relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders in the GES communities, from residents and business owners to nonprofit organizations and faith-based groups. This work highlights his commitment to fostering inclusive and collaborative dialogue; and

WHEREAS, Anthony has taken on prominent leadership roles in civic organizations and LGBTQ+ advocacy. His work with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, and as a founding board member of One Colorado and former President of Equal Rights Colorado, underscores his dedication to advancing civil rights and LGBTQ+ equality in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Anthony is deeply rooted in Denver's LGBTQ+ community, having served for 19 years as an organizer of the city's PrideFest parade, and hosting the Drag Eye for the Straight Guy pageant fundraiser, which raised over \$200,000 for the Matthew Shepard Foundation and Project Angel Heart. Anthony also served as bar manager for the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association for 10 years. This involvement reflects both his passion for the community and his ability to spearhead large-scale civic events; and

WHEREAS, Anthony's leadership development is also evident through his participation in prestigious programs like Leadership Denver in 2018 and the Downtown Denver Leadership Program in 2024. His commitment to both his personal growth and the growth of Denver's civic landscape speaks to his broader vision for the city's future; and

WHEREAS, outside of his professional life, Anthony has been happily married to his husband, David Westman, for 27 years. Together, they share their home with their Spanish Water Dog, Arriba, in Denver's Central Park neighborhood.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council recognizes and acknowledges Anthony's experience, leadership and personal dedication to his community.

Section 2. 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 Anthony Aragon.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 2, 2024

PRESIDENT

