

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## **Proclamation No. 18-0387 Recognizing April 16, 2018 as National Healthcare Decisions Day**

**WHEREAS**, *National Healthcare Decisions Day* is designed to raise public awareness for the need to plan ahead for healthcare decisions, related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of Advance Directives to communicate these important healthcare decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that only about 20 percent of people in Denver have executed an Advance Directive. Moreover, it is estimated that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an Advance Directive; and

**WHEREAS**, it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion among the public regarding Advance Directives; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the principle goals of *National Healthcare Decisions Day* is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about Advance Directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of Denver residents with Advance Directives; and

**WHEREAS**, Denver is the statewide headquarters of *National Healthcare Decisions Day* under the leadership of elder rights advocate Kelly Grace O'Connor and advance planning advocate Jamie Sarche; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple organizations throughout Denver have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing healthcare choices and executing Advance Directives; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of April 16, 2018, being recognized as *National Healthcare Decisions Day* in Denver, more citizens will have conversations about their healthcare decisions; more citizens will execute Advance Directives to make their wishes known; and fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

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

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council proclaims April 16, 2018, *National Healthcare Decisions Day*.

**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 Jamie Sarche, Director of Prearranged Funeral Planning at Feldman Mortuary and Kelly O'Connor, Eldercare Strategist at Senior Care Authority.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 16, 2018

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PRESIDENT