

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-0513

Honoring the George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team

WHEREAS, the George Washington High School's Speech & Debate Team was founded in 1960, the same year the school was opened, and has been a competitive and nationally ranked team throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, the George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team is currently ranked in the top six nationally, and number one in Colorado. This past summer the GW Speech and Debate team had its 48th national appearance at the National Speech and Debate Association's Tournament in Phoenix, AZ. The GW Speech and Debate team placed in the top 20 debate teams overall at the tournament. This achievement earned them the title of "Debate School of Excellence"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Maryrose Kohan teaches multiple sections of Speech and Debate, as well as coaching the Speech and Debate team along with Assistant Coaches Devin Sarno and Miles Owens. Coach Kohan was awarded the 2023 Sharon Wilch Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in Speech and Debate. The George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team members and coaches put in countless extra hours of work honing their performances during the season; and

WHEREAS, 61 out of the 140 students that are enrolled in a section of Speech and Debate class at George Washington High School competed in the 5A Division of the Colorado State Championships on March 1st & 2nd, 2024; and

WHEREAS, George Washington won the sweepstakes titles in both speech and debate. Caroline Mabey and Flynn Good took first place in policy debate and are co-champions with Greta Batchelor and Maddie Hosking. Lindsay Sieja won informative speaking and in humorous interpretation, Gabriela Fox was crowned champion. The GW Speech and Debate team had 16 top five finishes; and

WHEREAS, based on these results, the George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team was awarded the overall 2024 Division 5A State Title in Speech and Debate for the second year in a row, and are the reigning champions.

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 recognizes and celebrates the achievements of the students and coaches of the George Washington High School Speech and Debate Team, and congratulates them on their success.

Section 2. That the Clerk 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 the Coach MaryRose Kohan.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 15, 2024

PRESIDENT

