

1 **BY AUTHORITY**

2 ORDINANCE NO. _____
3 SERIES OF 2026

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB-0422
Park, Art and Culture

4 **A BILL**

5 **For an Ordinance approving a proposed donation of surplus American Bison**
6 **from the City and County of Denver to American Indian Tribes and American**
7 **Indian Non-Profit Organizations.**

8 **WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver owns herds of American Bison which graze on
9 lands operated by the Parks and Recreation Department and are part of a conservation program to
10 ensure a strong protected line of bison; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver historically auctions surplus American Bison in
12 order to maintain the health of the herds and in consideration of the carrying capacity of the land; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the City and County of Denver in recognition of the significance of the American
14 Bison to American Indian people desires to donate surplus American Bison to American Indian Tribes
15 and American Indian Non-Profit organizations as an integral component of cultural and spiritual
16 preservation, and

17 **WHEREAS**, Denver City Council adopted a Land Acknowledgement in 2020 to their weekly
18 City Council meeting where they recognize the original stewards of the land and the obligation to work
19 to dismantle legacies of oppression and inequity and this effort is a significant contribution to that
20 charge;

21 **WHEREAS**, the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation and the Executive Director of
22 General Services shall regularly designate the donation of surplus American Bison, and in doing so
23 may at their discretion consult with American Indian Tribes or American Indian Non-Profit
24 organizations; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the proposed donation of surplus American Bison from the City and County of
26 Denver to American Indian Tribes and American Indian Non-Profit organizations cannot be made until
27 approval by the Council of the City in accordance with subsection 2.9.3 (c), Part 9, of Article II of the
28 Charter of the City; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the Executive Director of General Services has determined that American Bison
30 have been surplus in the past and are likely to be surplus in the future and these donations are in the
31 best interests of the City; and

