


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 20-0155 Honoring the Service of Dr. Tracie L. Keesee

WHEREAS, The Denver Police Department just celebrated its 160th Anniversary this past December; and

WHEREAS, in 1890, a group of black community leaders attended the Denver City Council meeting and demanded that the Police and Fire Departments begin the practice of hiring black police officers and firemen; and

WHEREAS, since 1890 the Citizens of the City and County of Denver have been very well served by hundreds of black officers; and

WHEREAS, The Denver Police Department, the Denver Police Black Officers Association, The Blair-Caldwell Library and the Denver Police Museum have all partnered to celebrate Black History Month 2020; and

WHEREAS, the above organizations have chosen to honor an outstanding individual who chose a career serving the City and County of Denver as a Denver Police Officer and a social justice advocate; and

WHEREAS, Tracie Keesee was born in Denver, Co, and attended Thomas Jefferson High School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Keesee began her secondary education with a Bachelor of Arts, Political Science-Public Policy from Metropolitan State College, she also received a Master of Arts in Fashion Journalism, from the Academy of Arts University, Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Colorado at Denver, a Doctor of Philosophy, Human Communications/Intercultural Communications from the University of Denver, a Diversity and Inclusion Certification from Cornell University, and is a graduate of the 203rd Session of the FBI National Academy; and

WHEREAS, on October 1st, 1989, Tracie became a Denver Police Officer upon graduating from the Denver Police Academy. She began her career as a patrol officer in District Three. Later she served in a variety of capacities and ranks within the Department which include, Public Information Officer, in Districts, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Investigations, Internal Affairs, Training Academy, Gang Unit, Research, Training and Technology, and the Colorado Information Analysis Center. Tracie also served in the ranks of Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Division Chief; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Tracie Co-founded the Center for Policing Equity. A research think-tank that focuses on obtaining justice through science and today is the leading center of excellence for the study of bias in policing. In 2011, Tracie became heavily involved in opportunities for upcoming generations and served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Colorado teaching Post Graduate Courses on Race, Crime and Justice. Throughout her career, Tracie facilitated and mentored numerous officers through promotion exams and assessment centers, setting a path for current and future Denver Police Department leaders; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, after 25 years of service to the citizens of Denver, Tracie Keesee retired from the Denver Police Department. Immediately, she was appointed the Director of the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, a Department of Justice Initiative under the Obama Administration. In 2016, Recognizing many of Tracie's skills, Commissioner William J Bratton of the New York Police Department called on her to serve as the Deputy Commissioner of Training for 50,000 members of the NYPD. A few years later, Commissioner James O'Neill would appoint Tracie as NYPD's first ever, Deputy Commissioner of Equity and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Tracie returned to Denver and back to the Center for Policing Equity where she currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Justice Initiatives, with offices located in Denver, New York, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and Salt Lake City; and

WHEREAS, it is very important to the long-term health of our communities that greater understanding, safety and communication between police and are citizens essential; and

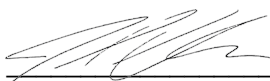
WHEREAS, Dr. Tracie Keesee has developed the expertise to lead efforts toward long-term understanding and greater cooperation through her extensive experience as a police officer, community leader, social scientist, and professor.

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 wishes to recognize Dr. Tracie L. Keesee for her leadership and example as she has served to faithfully perform her duties to protect and serve the Citizens of the City and County of Denver and for her leadership to bring people together, to make our communities safer, stronger and more just.

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 Tracie L. Keesee.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 18, 2020



PRESIDENT