

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 22-0627

A Proclamation Declaring The Month of May to be Mental Health Month In Denver

WHEREAS, Mental Health Month has been observed since 1949 to raise awareness of the importance of mental health; and

WHEREAS, three in ten Coloradoans are in need of mental health or substance use disorder care; and

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQIA+ populations experience disproportionate impacts to mental health due to many factors, including, but not limited to, discrimination, bias, and structural inequality; and

WHEREAS, the many challenges Coloradoans and Denverites faced in the past year have highlighted the importance of promoting mental well-being and developing a strong behavioral health care system; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has broken down barriers when it comes to talking about mental health and seeking care, and this opportunity to reframe the conversation must outlast the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, preventative care and healthy learning environments are central to ensuring healthy minds and a strong start for all of Colorado's children; and

WHEREAS, from childhood to old age, the quality of our lives depends on our mental health. Every phase of life brings its own challenges and opportunities for continuing mental growth and development; and

WHEREAS, building health care capacity will improve health outcomes, save taxpayer dollars, and enhance community well-being; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Denver voters approved the Caring For Denver sales tax that brings earmarks some \$11-million annually for programs that address a variety of mental health related concerns; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is an emerging leader in innovation in mental health promotion and substance use harm reduction and is committed to creative solutions to meet the needs of all communities; and

WHEREAS, Denver is working to increase access to housing, health care, substance misuse and services that contribute to the promotion of healthier minds across the lifespan for all Denver residents; and

WHEREAS, as a community, we can support one another by reducing stigma, encouraging self-care, and participating in open dialogue about mental health; and

WHEREAS, with more trauma-informed practices, we can collectively become more aware, recover from our trauma, and go on to thrive, by having compassion for ourselves and each other; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Denver class of 2022 has assembled a group of community leaders to organize Denver Mental Health Month;

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 declares the month of May to be Mental Health Month in the City and County of Denver.

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 a copy be transmitted to the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce 2022 Leadership Class.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 23, 2022

PRESIDENT