

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 21-1069 [In Honor of Denver's Assistance Animals]

WHEREAS, assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners by being a guide, hearing, or service dog that is specifically trained to perform at least one task to mitigate the effect of an individual's disability; and

WHEREAS, organizations training service dogs perform a vitally important role in helping people with disabilities live safe, independent, and more comfortable lives by providing vigorous training of service animals; and Whereas, in some programs, assistance dogs can be in puppy and advanced training for up to two years, serve their human partners for many additional years, and become pets after age requires retirement from official service; and

WHEREAS, other types of animals also contribute to human assistance. Facility dogs work with a facilitator working in a health care, visitation, or education setting. Therapy dogs accompany their owner into specific settings for the benefit of residents or clients as part of a therapeutic intervention, including at one time in the Denver District Attorney's office. There is also increasing focus on providing dogs trained specifically for our veterans so they have a battle buddy in their transition back to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, training assistance dogs can cost up to \$50,000, but thanks to volunteers and fund-raising, some organizations provide service animals each year in Denver at no cost to their human partners; and

WHEREAS, a service dog proclamation provides an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the selfless way all types of service dogs assist individuals with mitigating their disability-related limitations; and

WHEREAS, service dogs would not be the valuable assets they are without the tireless support from organizations like Canine Companions, Freedom Service Dogs, and others, and without the tireless support from members, volunteers, and donors from all of those organizations.

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 honors all assistance animals in Denver and the important role they play for their human companions.

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 copies be transmitted to Canine Companions and Freedom Service Dogs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 13, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stacie Gilmore", written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT