

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-0517

Honoring Deputy Chief Joseph Montoya for his service to the Denver Police Department

WHEREAS, Joseph “Joe” Montoya was born on Dec. 13, 1962, to Joseph and Carmen Montoya in Denver and spent his formulative years attending Denver Public Schools, ultimately graduating from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1981; and

WHEREAS, while attending Whittier College in California on an athletic scholarship to play football and majoring in sociology, Joe made friends with several police officers who encouraged him to pursue a career in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, in December 1984, Joe returned to Colorado to attend the Colorado State Police Academy resulting in him joining the Northglenn Police Department as a patrol officer, later a field training officer and finally a detective; and

WHEREAS, Joe married Joan Madril in 1987, and went on to have two children, Jenarae and Joelle, and a grandson Emre; and

WHEREAS, in September 1991, Officer Montoya joined the Denver Police Department where he played a key role including saving a young woman’s life by forcing entry into a house just prior to a man lighting her on fire after dousing her with gasoline, solo-arresting a suspect in a Halloween murder, serving on the Bike Unit during the visit of Pope John Paul II to escort pilgrims to Cherry Creek State Park, and conducting surveillance on a potential rapist who targeted Vietnamese women; and

WHEREAS, Officer Montoya was an early member of the Weed and Seed program designed to build stronger relationships between the community and the Denver Police Department and providing more than 2,000 holiday gifts to children in marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, Detective Montoya served in the Vice Unit as a core training detective and later was assigned to the Major Peddler Complex Investigations Team, where his work resulted in a number of arrests and indictments removing large quantities of illegal drugs from the streets of Denver, earning him a Distinguished Service Cross; and

WHEREAS, Detective Montoya was promoted to sergeant, then as a vice narcotics sergeant and later as an Internal Affairs lieutenant, where through these assignments he brought outstanding leadership and innovative techniques that benefited the officers under his command and provided a safer city for Denver residents; and

WHEREAS, Montoya was again promoted to lieutenant, captain and then commander where in these leadership roles he approached challenges with a positive outlook and a can-do attitude while building strong relationships with the community and members of the Denver City Council, and

WHEREAS, in July 2018 Commander Montoya was promoted to division chief of investigations and was instrumental in developing a safety plan for the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in 2021, resulting in the successful arrest of several suspects who were in possession of multiple guns in a hotel two blocks from Coors Field the day before the Home Run Derby; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2023, he was appointed deputy chief by Denver Police Chief Ron Thomas, playing a critical role on the leadership team managing the department on a day-to-day basis;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That Denver City Council recognizes and acknowledges the outstanding service and career that Deputy Chief Montoya provided to the Denver Police Department and the residents of Denver serving 17 years in a command capacity; and

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder 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 Montoya family, the Denver Police Museum and the Denver Police Department.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 14, 2025

PRESIDENT

