



**Proclamation No. 18-0313
Honoring Denver's Women First Responders**

WHEREAS, Women's History Month designation traces back to the First International Women's Day in 1911. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter made a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th National Women's History Week stating that too often women's contributions to American society were unsung and unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver has a rich history of women serving as members of the Denver Police Department, the Denver Sheriff Department, and the Denver Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the women of the Denver Police Department can track their history back to the 1880's with Police Matron Sadie Likens who oversaw female and juvenile prisoners in the city jail. Margaret Conway led efforts to prevent human trafficking in the 1920's. Josephine Roche started her public service career in 1912 as a Denver Police Officer, ran for Governor, and went on to serve as Assistant Secretary to the Treasury under Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Women officers finally joined their male counterparts in patrolling the streets of Denver in the 1970's; and

WHEREAS, the women of the Denver Sheriff Department can track their history to Aurora Quinn who was appointed a Denver Deputy Sheriff and served from 1902 to 1922. Quinn was the first female Probation Officer in the State of Colorado as well as one of the earliest female deputy sheriffs in the United States. The celebrated Ida Younger started her career as a uniformed Denver Deputy in 1958. In 2007, Marie Kielar became the first female Division Chief overseeing the Downtown Detention Center and Support Services; and

WHEREAS, the women of the Denver Fire Department can track their history to the early Women's Fire Auxiliary. Heather Larson joined the department as the first active female firefighter in 1985. In 2009, Angela Cook became the first woman Division Chief overseeing operations at DIA. Earlier this year, Twannia Clark became the first African-American female engineer in the 150-year history of the department. Most recently on March 7, newly appointed Assistant Chief Carly Helwick was the first Chief to respond to the three-alarm blaze at 1833 Emerson directing the efforts of the firefighters battling that tragic blaze; and

WHEREAS, the women first responders of Denver have served, protected, and saved countless lives in the City and County of Denver while showing leadership, courage, and strength in the line of duty. They are our trailblazers and role models.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER THAT:

Section 1. The Council hereby recognizes and thanks the hundreds of women who have served our community as members of the Denver Police Department, the Denver Sheriff Department, and the Denver Fire Department.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be delivered to the Denver Police Department, the Denver Sheriff Department, and the Denver Fire Department.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 27, 2018

PRESIDENT