

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 19-0429

Honoring Reverend Leon Kelly, Jr.

WHEREAS, Reverend Leon Kelly Jr., better known as “Rev”, is the Executive Director of Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives, the longest sustained Denver based gang violence prevention/ intervention program; and

WHEREAS, Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives has been recognized by multiple elected officials, community leaders and law enforcement experts such as Governors, Mayors, Senators, Denver District Attorney’s, Denver City Councilmembers, past and present; School Superintendents, Managers of Safety and Police Chiefs;

WHEREAS, under Reverend Kelly’s leadership, thousands of Denver metro area young people and their families have received gang prevention, intervention and mediation services including mentoring, after-school tutoring and meals, housing assistance, medical care and financial support; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Leon Kelly has personally stood directly in harm’s way to intercede and de-escalate hundreds of volatile gang tensions and conflicts, undoubtably saving dozens of lives; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, he has encouraged, promoted, and modeled non-violence as the only option for healthy homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities throughout Denver and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Kelly has built and nurtured meaningful, healthy, productive relationships between at-risk young people and the larger community, government and law enforcement thus creating opportunities for these youth to obtain education, employment and leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Kelly has modeled redemption and restoration for people who have made mistakes early on in life by modeling dedication to change for not only himself, but for the community he’s served for over 30 years and rightfully earning a full and unconditional pardon from Governor Ritter in 2010; and

WHEREAS, he has demonstrated a commitment to assisting formally incarcerated individuals to live a whole, healthy life after release by developing the re-entry program “Flippin’ the Script”, which was adopted by the Colorado Department of Corrections re-entry services.

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 hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to “*Rev. Leon Kelly, Jr.*” for his dedicated work and tireless efforts on behalf of the young people, their families and the community; and that the Council of the City and County of Denver, Colorado, hereby officially proclaims April 29, 2019, to be known as: “Rev. Leon Kelly, Jr. Day”.

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 be transmitted to “Rev. Leon Kelly, Jr.” who has worked with parents, relatives, teachers, multiple community partners, public agencies, numerous stakeholders to create and provide safe communities for the youth of Denver.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 29, 2019

PRESIDENT