



Proclamation No. 23-0945

A Proclamation Recognizing Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca's Service to the City of Denver

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca was elected in 2019, the first Swansea resident, first queer Latina, and first Democratic Socialist to serve on Denver City Council. She has been a fierce advocate against the criminalization of poverty, environmental racism, and the displacement of Denver's Black and Brown communities; and

WHEREAS, as a social worker, Councilwoman CdeBaca has brought an empowerment-based approach to policy: she believes that when addressing our most pressing crises as a city, we must view the people who are most affected as the experts and allow them to create the solutions that fit their needs and wants. All of Councilwoman CdeBaca's policy proposals and legislation were crafted in collaboration with community, through over a dozen stakeholder advisory groups that she and her team have convened with constituents since 2019; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Councilwoman CdeBaca successfully led the charge to force the city of Denver to divest from halfway houses run by private prison companies that terrorize and brutalize immigrants across the country. She co-sponsored and passed the Eviction Defense Right to Counsel ordinance, as well as the charter change to require Council approval of certain mayoral appointments. Within the past year, she has co-sponsored and passed ordinances to strengthen worker protections against wage theft, to decriminalize jaywalking, and to protect and modernize zoning around mobile home parks; and

WHEREAS, in addition to legislative wins, Councilwoman CdeBaca is proud of her many other accomplishments in office, including: securing budget expansions for mental health first responders through the STAR program; advocating alongside the unhoused community for innovative tools like Safe Outdoor Spaces and noncongregate motel sheltering in responding to Denver's homelessness crisis; getting constituents experiencing homelessness housed and keeping those in unstable situations housed, through painstaking constituent carework in partnership with city agencies and community organizations; catalyzing the conversations that became the Task Force to Re-Imagine Policing and Public Safety; passing state-level air pollution protections with environmental justice coalition partners during the 2022 Colorado state legislative session; and initiating a food desert solutions advisory group that is working to launch the first community-owned grocery in Elyria-Swansea; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman CdeBaca has fought to make the inner workings of local government accessible to the public, working to dismantle oppressive systems, standing up against corruption, challenging city agencies to innovate—and openly communicating with her constituents about these issues along the way. Councilwoman CdeBaca's office was the first to send out a newsletter on a weekly basis, keeping constituents abreast of key topics and policies, City Council meetings, opportunities for public input, community events, action alerts, and resources. The District 9 office published 175 email newsletters since January 2020; and

WHEREAS, throughout her time on Council, Councilwoman CdeBaca has always uplifted and amplified the voices of community from the dais. She views policy change and movement-building in our communities as a collective story, and she is grateful for the tireless and continuing work of ordinary people in making our city better, healthier, safer, and more just for all of our residents.

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 acknowledge and extend its gratitude to Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca for her dedication to the residents 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 that a copy be transmitted to Councilwoman CdeBaca.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL July 10, 2023

PRESIDENT