

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. 22-1289

In Honor of Chief Paul Pazen Upon His Retirement from the Denver Police Department

WHEREAS, Paul M. Pazen, a proud Denver native with lifelong roots in the community and a distinguished career with the Denver Police Department spanning more than 28 years, rising through the ranks to his appointment as Chief of Police in July 2018, and serving as a catalyst of innovative policing and sustainable community/police relations through transparency, accountability, and empowering residents – because an engaged community is a safe community; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pazen joined the Denver Police Department in 1995, after serving honorably in the United States Marine Corps during Desert Storm upon graduating for Denver North High School; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pazen led the creation or expansion of innovative programs with a focus on sustainable, holistic approaches to complex issues notably the Domestic Violence Prevention Program, which assists in breaking the cycle of violence and getting individuals the help they need to prevent domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pazen developed a comprehensive suite of alternative response models including Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), Support Team Assisted Response (STAR), Outreach Case Coordinators, and expanded mental health clinician co-responders; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pazen created specialized units to address unique challenges and drive measurable results; markedly, the Firearm Assault Team (FAST) increased clearance of non-fatal shootings from 32% to 66%, Bias Motivated Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, Citywide Impact Team, and expanded partnerships with Federal agencies to improve information sharing and enhance the investigation of serious, violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pazen's commitment to diversity and inclusivity led to the creation of the Shared Leadership for Institutional Diversity and Equity Bureau, early adopter of Georgetown Law's Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) program, developed the PAVE Program to increase recruitment of under-represented populations, started the Denver Police Department Women's Community Academy to improve the recruiting of women to join the department, and joined the 30x30 initiative to advance the representation and experiences of women in all ranks of the department; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pazen co-founded Bridging the Gap Kids and Cops program with the Office of Independent Monitor, Launched a Spanish-language Community Academy to expand engagement efforts with communities who might be unlikely to connect with the police department; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pazen's focus on neighborhood-based initiatives included the multi-million dollar U.S. Department of Justice Sun Valley grant to work with neighborhood-based organizations to support community involvement in crime prevention and reduction, the Collaborative Crime Prevention Initiative to increase engagement with non-profits already performing great work in the community to improve long-term outcomes for residents, and the Westwood Community-Based Crime Reduction program with competitive DOJ grant dollars to strengthen the well-being of residents by providing quality educational, social, and economic opportunities through partnerships, and the reduction of crimes committed with firearms, motor vehicle theft and theft from motor vehicle in the Westwood neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pazen's commitment for expanded training and education included increasing the POST-required annual training from 24 hours first to 68 hours and then to 80, one of the highest standards for all major cities in the country; developing the Professional Policing and Leadership Institute with the University of Denver to expand high-quality education for all ranks, and expanding the department's Resiliency and Wellness program to ensure full, productive careers and personal lives for those who serve their community,

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 recognizes and honors the dedicated career of Paul M. Pazen and his service to the people of Denver, and thanks him for it.

Section 2. That the Secretary of Council shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Paul M. Pazen.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 10, 2022

PRESIDENT