



Proclamation No. 23-0743
A Proclamation Recognizing Tom Luehrs and His Service to St. Francis Center

WHEREAS, St. Francis Center is a place of transformation for people experiencing homelessness in Denver and the greater Metro Area, providing day shelter, housing and additional social services that help people meet their basic needs and transition out of homelessness, guided by the founding principles of creating a more just, diverse, equitable and inclusive society for all, a mission which starts with the staff who carry out this important work every day; and

WHEREAS, Tom Luehrs was dedicated to this mission from day one and served as the Center's Executive Director for 31 years, leading it to unprecedented growth in response to our community's needs, and Tom is recognized as a visionary and dedicated advocate for Denver's neighbors experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, at first, the Center served a few hundred people a day, helping them meet their most basic needs, but under Tom's leadership, the Center grew its services exponentially and serves more than 10,000 people each year, providing them with housing, employment and other services—always meeting them where they're at; and

WHEREAS, Tom is a unique leader who has a skill for bringing concerned stakeholders together and finding the best way to accomplish the mission at hand and provide lasting solutions to Denver's struggle to resolve homelessness; and

WHEREAS, during his time as Executive Director, Tom grew the Center's staff from 15 to 80 and greatly expanded the Center's programs and services, including a street outreach program that reached 9,500 people, employment services that served 1,174 people, helping place 579 of them in full-time jobs, and developing four new supportive housing complexes totaling more than 200 homes—all of which serve as part of his larger than life living legacy at the Center; and

WHEREAS, Tom's work with the Center has been transformational for Denver's response to homelessness, helping us lead with compassion and deliver lasting results that have forever changed the lives of countless people for the better.

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 applauds Tom Luehrs for his service to the people of Denver, congratulates him on a well-deserved retirement, and declares June 5 as Tom Luehrs Day in the City and County of Denver.

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 Tom Luehrs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 5, 2023

COUNCIL PRESIDENT