DENVER CITY COUNCIL

Proclamation

Proclamation No. 24-1345
A Proclamation Honoring the Contributions of Servicios de La Raza, In Recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month

WHEREAS, based on the 2023 American Community Survey, 199,460 people in Denver, Colorado identify as Hispanic or Latino of any race; and

WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2022, the Hispanic/Latino population in Colorado was the fastest growing demographic and grew by 1.8 percentage points to 22.5%; and

WHEREAS, by 2050, Hispanics/Latinos are expected to make up over one-third of Colorado's racial and ethnic minority population; and

WHEREAS, Servicios de La Raza was founded over 52 years ago by 12 Chicano activists in Denver's Northside to fill the gap in providing culturally responsive, free mental health services to low-income, Spanish speakers; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Servicios de La Raza is to provide, and advocate for culturally responsive, essential human services and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated staff at Servicios de La Raza provided outreach and direct services to 93,643 individuals last fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, 94% of Servicios de La Raza's 118 full-time staff identify as Latino/Hispanic/Chicano/Indigenous and are truly representative of the communities that they serve; and

WHEREAS, Servicios de La Raza intentionally cultivates pathways of self-determination, equity, inclusion, justice, power, and change for all under-represented people; and

WHEREAS, through the 16 years of leadership of president & CEO, Mr. Rudy Gonzales, Servicios de La Raza has moved from an agency facing dissolution to the largest Chicano-founded, grassroots nonprofit in the State of Colorado serving low-income, Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council honors and acknowledges that the land on which we reside is the traditional territory of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Peoples and recognizes that government, academic, and cultural institutions were founded upon, and continue to enact, exclusions and erasures of Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, Servicios de La Raza is an anchor organization for promoting and preserving the values, culture, voice, influence, power, and manifold contributions of all poor and Indigenous communities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council does hereby proclaim Monday, October 7th, 2024, as "Servicios de La Raza Day," and encourages all community members to get involved with nonprofit agencies, like Servicios, that are dedicated to advancing justice, equity, peace, and change for all.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and transmit copies to Rudy Gonzales, Ana Visozo, Josef Lopez, Jacob Heredia, James Gillespie and Board of Directors, advocating for Hispanic heritage and civil rights, as a token of our deep appreciation and gratitude for their enduring commitment to justice, equality, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 7, 2024

_____
PRESIDENT