

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## Proclamation No. 24-1630

### Recognizing Denver Fire Department's Station 3 for Being Added to the National Register of Historic Places

**WHEREAS**, Fire Station 3, originally known as Hose Company No. 3, became a paid company within the Denver Fire Department on March 15, 1882, and it is Denver's oldest, continually used firehouse in the Denver Fire Department today; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1888, Fire Station 3 opened at 2563 Glenarm Place, across the street from the current station, and began as an all-white company since Black men were banned from firefighter service at the time; and

**WHEREAS**, populist Governor David H. Waite, who won the 1892 election with support from the African American community, backed the creation of a Black fire company in Denver's Five Points neighborhood, allowing Fire Station 3 to include Black firefighters; and

**WHEREAS**, all four members of Fire Station 3 died in a fire at the St. James Hotel on March 23, 1895, including their white captain and three Black crew members, who, against common practice, were mourned together as heroes in a single funeral with all four caskets exactly alike to make them indistinguishable; and

**WHEREAS**, after the funeral, a new crew was hired, consisting of a white captain and an all-Black crew, which included the first Black officer, Lieutenant Silas Johnson, who later became the first Black captain when he was promoted in August 1897, creating the first all-Black company; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1931, the 2563 Glenarm Place station was decommissioned, and the new Fire Station 3 was relocated across the intersection to its present location, 2500 N. Washington Street. Fire Station 3 continued as the city's only all-Black company until 1957, when the Denver Fire Department became desegregated; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001, Roderick "Rod" Juniel became the first Black fire chief in the Denver Fire Department after 26 years of service, recognizing Station 3's history as paramount to that achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denver City Council recognizes the Denver Fire Department's Station 3 as an important community symbol whose legacy of community engagement and representation continues to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denver City Council recognizes the legacy of Denver Fire Department's Station 3 as the first all-Black fire crew in 1897 and the lasting impression it has left on the diverse department we know today.

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

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council congratulates Fire Station 3 on being added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 14, 2024, a well-deserved and overdue recognition.

**Section 2.** That the Denver City Council thanks Fire Station 3 for all it has done and all it continues to do to serve Denver and its historic Five Points Neighborhood.

**Section 3.** 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 that a copy be transmitted to Chief Desmond Fulton of the Denver Fire Department.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 12, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Amursh P. Sanderson".

PRESIDENT

