DENVER CITY COUNCIL

Proclamation

Proclamation No. 25-0835
Recognizing the Five-Year Anniversary of the Denver Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Program

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver is committed to building a safer, more compassionate, and more equitable city for all residents; and

WHEREAS, on June 1st, 2020, the City of Denver launched the Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Program as a pilot initiative designed to provide an alternative, community-based response to people experiencing mental health crises, substance use issues, poverty, and other non-violent challenges; and

WHEREAS, the STAR Program deploys teams of mental health professionals and paramedic - rather than armed law enforcement officer - to respond to certain 911 calls, ensuring care and support are prioritized over punishment and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the STAR Program represents an endeavor of community and government collaboration that included Denver Alliance for Street Health Response, Servicios De La Raza, and former members of Denver Justice Project; and

WHEREAS, the STAR Program has grown and evolved through strong partnership between the City of Denver and key community service providers including Wellpower, Denver Health, and Servicios de la Raza; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, STAR has successfully diverted thousands of calls from law enforcement, reducing strain on the criminal justice system, improving outcomes for vulnerable residents, and serving as a national model for public health-first emergency response; and

WHEREAS, community support and engagement have been instrumental in the program's expansion and continued success through the STAR Community Advisory Committee, and Denver remains committed to scaling this model in alignment with the program's original vision.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council hereby recognize and honor the five-year anniversary of the Denver Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) Program, commend the dedicated professionals and community organizations who make the program possible, and reaffirm our support for expanding compassionate and community-centered approaches to public safety across Denver.

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.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 2, 2025

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PRESIDENT