DENVER CITY COUNCIL

Proclamation

Proclamation No. 25-1559
Honoring Bert Keating

WHEREAS, Bert Keating was born November 11,1903 in Buffalo, New York, and moved with his family to Denver as a young child, and attended the University of Denver for his undergraduate degree and received his law degree at Westminster Law School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keating began his political career serving two successful terms in the Colorado State Legislature in 1932 and 1934, and while serving in the legislature he continued to develop a very successful private law practice; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keating was elected Denver District Attorney, a title he would hold until his death in 1967, making him the longest serving District Attorney is Denver history; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Keating's tenure he ran the officer under four key pillars which included: initiative, innovation, diplomacy and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keating was a true trailblazer for his era. His hiring practices were diverse long before civil rights legislation was enacted, hiring diverse individuals from all religious backgrounds, racial groups, female lawyers, and disabled veterans to serve in key roles in the office; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being an outstanding prosecutor, he had a knack for identifying legal talent and building a team of accomplished lawyers and scholars, many of whom went on to head successful private practices and some were appointed and served as accomplished judges; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keating was nationally recognized for his leadership serving as President of both the Colorado and National District Attorney's Association and the National Association of County Prosecuting Attorneys; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Denver District Attorney, Keating led the prosecution of perhaps the most complex and internationally significant case in Colorado history, the successful conviction of John Gilbert Graham, who had placed dynamite aboard United Flight 629 on November 1, 1955, killing all 44 people aboard. Keating's masterful skill as Chief Prosecutor led to the conviction and execution of Graham; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keating also mobilized his staff to convict the officers involved in the 1960 Denver Police Burglary Scandal resulting in major reforms within the department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Keating also gained national attention for prosecuting fathers who failed to pay child support. He also took an aggressive approach to combating organized crime in Denver; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1967, Bert Keating, one of the most popular political figures in Denver history died at Rose Memorial Hospital of lung cancer at 63 years of age. Over one thousand mourners from all walks of life attended his funeral spilling into the street from the local church.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council acknowledges the outstanding legacy of former Denver District Attorney Bert Keating and recognizes his service to the citizens of our community.

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 that copies be transmitted to former Denver Deputy District Attorney Marshall Fogel, Denver District Attorney John Walsh and the Denver Police Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 20, 2025

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PRESIDENT