

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 19-0347

**A proclamation proclaiming the second week of April each year, this year
April 8th - 12th, to be National Youth Violence Prevention Week.**

WHEREAS, it is factual that although Denver, overall, is a very safe city, in 2018, over 1,700 Denver residents under the age of 25 were victims of some type of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, 22 victims nearly half of the 67 homicide victims in Denver were 25 years old or younger with eight of those homicide victims being teenagers; and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of Denver's youth population is jeopardized each day by the real and perceived threat of violence due to cultural, environmental, social and economic influences; and

WHEREAS, the entire community is exponentially impacted adversely by youth violence, including parents, siblings, relatives, friends and neighbors of both the victims and perpetrators of said violence; and

WHEREAS, it is known that the effects of direct and indirect trauma related to youth violence significantly impacts our young people's development, health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, it is a proven fact that a young person's sense of safety and security inside their homes, schools and communities is crucial to their success; and

WHEREAS, in Denver, the rate of gun violence is highest among the residents ages 15 to 24, compared to other age groups; and

WHEREAS, an average of almost 600 young people between the ages of 0-24 are affected by violence, specifically gun violence; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized by the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by leading behavioral health experts, that youth violence is a critical and preventable public health issue; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver along with multiple Denver grassroots community organizations and Denver Public Schools recognize the threat which violence presents to the success and well-being of Denver's youth and have committed to collaborating to seek out and/or create solutions to reduce and prevent instances of youth violence; and

WHEREAS, we all renew our commitment to promote, enhance and increase the assets, strengths and skill sets of our young people by providing the necessary services and resources including opportunities and options for mentoring, social and emotional intelligence education, financial literacy education, post-secondary education, skilled trade training, entrepreneurial education and housing options and access, in order to increase their odds for success; and

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 declares the second week of April each year, this year April 8th - 12th, to be National Youth Violence Prevention Week and encourages all citizens to support the young people of their communities by volunteering to seek out opportunities to be a trusted adult and intentionally contribute positively in the life of at least one individual under the age of 25.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation be transmitted to the multiple community partners, public agencies, parents, relatives, teachers, mentors and various stakeholders who work tirelessly to create and provide safe communities for the youth of Denver.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 8, 2019

PRESIDENT