PROCLAMATION

City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 19-0838
Celebrating August 25, 2019 as "La Raza and Barnum Park: A Cruise Down Fedz" Day in Denver, Colorado

WHEREAS, Denver has been home to a thriving and vibrant Chicano community for generations; and

WHEREAS, Chicano communities have enjoyed cruising along Federal Boulevard since the 1980s, when, as Su Teatro founder and executive director Tony Garcia wrote, "the cruisers connected the immigrant communities of South Federal, with the Chicano communities of the Northside, and the suburban ex-pats of Federal Heights [in] a symbolic trek through the city's Latino diaspora;" and

WHEREAS, Denver's communities of color have long suffered from racial disparities, and have taken the burden of involuntary displacement, notably to build Auraria campus, targeting by Police of young Chicano men in mid-1990s who cruised their vehicles down Federal Boulevard, and recent gentrification in Denver; and

WHEREAS, cruising culture, lowriders, and car clubs collectively instill a sense of pride and community resilience within many North and West Denver families and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, a new generation of leaders has learned from and been inspired by Chicano movement leaders including Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales and the Gonzales family, Tony Garcia, and Dr. Ramon del Castillo, and recognizes Denver Police Department's Chief Paul Pazen's recent efforts to rebuild trust within communities of color along with the recent election of five Latinas to the Denver City Council; and

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

Section 1. That in the pursuit of the shared goals and responsibilities of promoting knowledge about Chicano cultural traditions, unifying communities, and combating prejudice and eliminating discrimination, the City and County of Denver, Colorado, does hereby proclaim August 25, 2019 as "La Raza and Barnum Park: A Cruise Down Fedz Day."

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 and that a copy be transmitted to the Denver Latino Commission, the Denver Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships, Ben "Opt Won" Chavez, Jolt of Guerilla Garden, Armando Geneyro, Juan Fuentes, Bobby LeFebre and the Governor of Colorado, Jared Polis.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 19, 2019

_____ PRESIDENT