

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 20-1088

**Celebrating Denver Afterschool Programs and the
2020 Annual National Lights on Afterschool Day**

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs because they: provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help youth develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills, while supporting working families by ensuring their children are engaged in opportunities after the school day ends; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs serve as a vital resource to prevent youth violence in Denver by creating safe, welcoming spaces for youth during the key hours of 3 to 6 p.m., connecting youth with trusted adults, and helping youth learn how to make positive decisions for themselves; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Afterschool Alliance has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, Lights on Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 22, 2020 promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado more than 256,263 youth are waiting for an available program, 1 in 6 kids are alone and unsupervised when the school day ends, and for every student engaged in afterschool, two more would participate if a program were available; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs in our city and our state, and across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

WHEREAS, The City Council are invested in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy;

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council pledges to support afterschool programs so that Denver's children and families have access to programs that support their success and strengthen our city.

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

Section 1. That the Denver City Council recognizes the outstanding leadership of the Denver Afterschool Alliance in bringing together all stakeholders to create a collaborative, long-term plan for our City's afterschool system, and recognizes the 2020 National Lights on Afterschool Day, Thursday, October 22, 2020.

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 transmit it to the Office of Children's Affairs.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL DATE October 20, 2020

PRESIDENT