



**Proclamation No. 21-0049**

**Vitalant Blood, Platelet & Convalescent Plasma Donation Drive**

**WHEREAS**, the need for volunteer blood, platelet and convalescent plasma donations is urgent to meet everyday patient needs for traumas, surgeries, cancer treatments and more; and

**WHEREAS**, Vitalant, the nation's largest independent nonprofit blood services provider, partners with volunteer blood donors to collect about 5,500 donations every day to meet that need across Metro Denver and throughout the country; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 continues to not only force the cancellation of blood drives held at many schools and businesses, but is also causing an emergency need for convalescent plasma donations which is being given to an average of one in four hospitalized COVID-19 patients; and

**WHEREAS**, Vitalant is currently testing all completed blood and platelet donations for COVID antibodies to identify new potential convalescent donors; and

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Surgeon General and FEMA have declared blood, platelet and convalescent plasma donation as essential activities during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, blood donations come solely from generous volunteer donors and cannot be replicated in a lab; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 37 percent of the population is eligible to donate blood yet less than 10 percent do; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of January is recognized as National Blood Donor Month and a time to encourage and recognize volunteer blood donors.

**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 hereby recognizes Vitalant for its work to meet every patient need wherever and whenever it arises.

**Section 2.** That the Denver City Council shares in the efforts to raise awareness about the ongoing need and hereby joins in the national celebration by proclaiming January 2021 as Blood Donor Month.

**Section 3.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Vitalant.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 19, 2021

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PRESIDENT