


PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 21-0423 Declaring the week of April 12-18, Youth Violence Prevention Week

WHEREAS, “violence” is defined by the World Health Organization as “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation”; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control considers youth violence to be a preventable, significant public health problem that affects thousands of young people nationally each day, and in turn, their families, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS, there are many forms of violence directed by and against youth affecting hundreds of Denver young people and their families annually, including: verbal bullying and threats; physical attacks; weapons-related events involving firearms and other tools of violence; gang related violence; relationship-based violence; and self-harm and suicide; and

WHEREAS, youth who experience violence suffer a spectrum of negative outcomes including: school absenteeism and low academic performance; sadness, depression and suicidal thoughts and behavior; substance misuse; violent outbursts against others and an increased chance of developing obesity, cancer, heart disease, and other serious health problems; and

WHEREAS, youth violence has a direct effect on the mental health and well-being of the entire community, with extreme impacts noted on specific populations whose chances for success have been undermined by historic systemic discrimination due to race and/or ethnicity, gender or gender identification, ability and age; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the movement toward equity demands bold action, ideas, and support for Denver youth; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Youth Violence Prevention Action Table and numerous community partners, with critical and substantial guidance from Denver’s Youth Leadership Team and other young Denverites, recently released the first Youth Violence Prevention Comprehensive Plan to reduce violence by and against Denver’s youth by promoting, enhancing and increasing the assets, strengths and skill sets of our young people through mentoring, social and emotional intelligence education, financial literacy education, post-secondary education, skilled trades training, entrepreneurial education, expanded job opportunities and increased housing options, to maximize their odds for success.

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 recognizes the young people of our city to be our greatest community asset and declares the second week of April each year - this year April 12th - 18th, to be National Youth Violence Prevention Week and encourages all city employees, community partners, residents, and neighbors to view and approach everything we do from a perspective of improving youth mental, physical, and environmental health & safety by crafting intentional, strategic, systematic, and cultural change to reduce the risk factors and amplify the conditions that protect our youth from all forms of violence.

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 copies be transmitted to Jonathan McMillan, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator, and other community partners.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 12, 2021

PRESIDENT