

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 21-1138 In memory of Alonzo Ashley

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2011, Alonzo Ashley, a 29-year-old Black man died during an arrest by Denver Police Department officers on an extremely hot day at the Denver Zoo; and

WHEREAS, since the time of Alonzo Ashley's death more than a decade ago, the social significance and disparate impact of policing on Black men has risen in our public consciousness through the steadfast work of bereaved families and our activist community; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver is committed to ensuring a safe and equitable City for everyone displaying signs of distress by taking a public health and evidence-based approach to public safety; and

WHEREAS, on the day of his death, Alonzo Ashley was a young man who had his life ahead of him and was on an outing at one of his favorite places in the city, the Denver Zoo; and

WHEREAS, Alonzo Ashley's mother Mrs. Gail Waters, who grieves every day for the premature loss of her son, has worked tirelessly for 10 years to establish a memorial drinking fountain for her son Alonzo to raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of heat stroke and appropriate crisis-intervention strategies; and

WHEREAS, over the past 10 years, Alonzo's family and friends have held many water giveaways on the anniversary of his death, including in the parking lot of the Denver Zoo and at Civic Center Park; and

WHEREAS, Alonzo's family does not want any other family to ever experience the pain and loss of a family member in the way that they have; and

WHEREAS, we now invite the community to gather at the fountain and drink freely of the life-giving water that will flow in Alonzo Ashley's memory commencing on this Friday, October 1, 2021.

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 celebrates the life and honors the memory of Alonzo Ashley.

Section 2. 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 his mother Gail Waters.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 27, 2021

PRESIDENT