

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 23-0316 A Proclamation Recognizing Norooz

WHEREAS, protests broke out across Iran after a 22-year-old Iranian and Kurdish woman, Mahsa (Jina) Amini, died on September 16, 2022, after being arrested and brutally beaten by the morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic dress code for women; and

WHEREAS, there have been at least four additional executions without due process of law, hundreds of beatings, thousands of arbitrary arrests and belated releases from custody; and relentless intimidations of law abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS, the women-led protests in Iran have turned into a sustained struggle for regime change, and for human rights – especially for women’s and children’s rights, gender equality, economic justice, and environmental protection under the terms Woman Life Freedom; and

WHEREAS, there are thousands of Iranian Americans living in Colorado, as well as many global citizens connected to the people and culture of the land of Iran who cherish the ancient spring equinox celebration of Norooz- March 20 - 21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the current Islamic Republic dictatorial regime has also restricted the internet, cutting access to Instagram, WhatsApp, and other apps to prevent communication, access to information, and freedom of expression to repress the rights of Iranian citizens, journalists, and human rights defenders; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2022, Iran was removed from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women following widespread international condemnation for its attacks on protestors, which was a move supported by prominent women’s rights activists in Iran, several Iranian American elected officials serving in the United States, the Biden administration and thousands of Iranian American residents who signed a petition in support.

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 Norooz on March 20 - 21 and affirms support for the Iranian people engaged in peaceful protest for their fundamental rights.

Section 2. That the Secretary of Council shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the National Iranian American Council – Colorado Chapter and the Colorado Middle East Peace Coalition.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 20, 2023

PRESIDENT