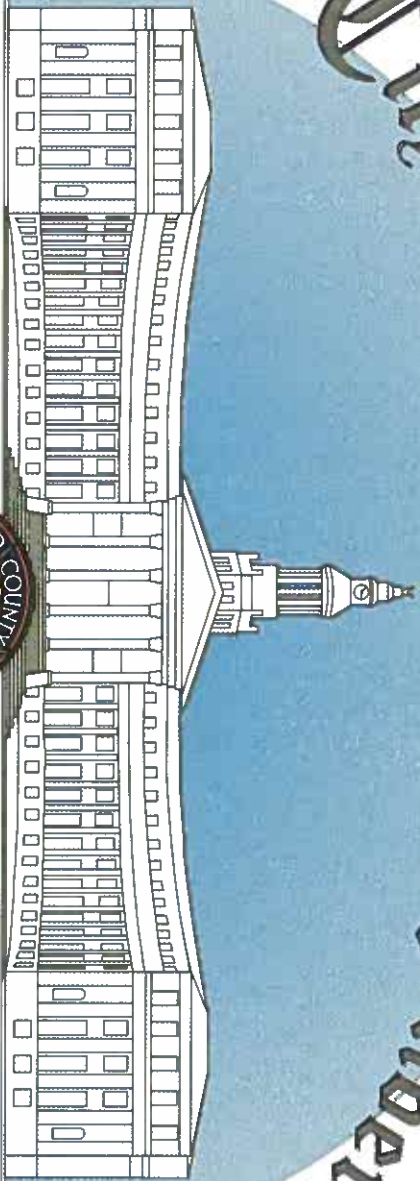


City and County of Denver



Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Phyllis J. Bigpond is the founding Executive Director of the Denver Indian Family Resource Center (DIFRC); and*

WHEREAS, *Over representation of American Indian children in the child welfare system impelled Ms. Bigpond's vision for DIFRC to provide culturally appropriate child welfare services to Denver's American Indian families. Needless to say, her vision became a reality; and*

WHEREAS, *Under her leadership, DIFRC is recognized throughout the State of Colorado as the premiere organization which advocates for American Indian families involved in the child welfare system, and specifically with respect to the City and County of Denver's compliance with the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977 (ICWA); and*

WHEREAS, *Under Ms. Bigpond's guidance, a model Memorandum of Agreement between DIFRC and the Denver Human Services Department was developed; and*

WHEREAS, *Ms. Bigpond is one of the initial ten individuals to create the Denver American Indian Commission and she also served on the Mayor's Early Childhood Commission; and*

WHEREAS, *Ms. Bigpond's work for Denver's American Indian community has been honored by many organizations for her wisdom, generosity, tremendous commitment to the community and selfless devotion to helping people less fortunate in their lives, she has been presented awards from the Denver Foundation, the Family Resource Center Association, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislators, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Native American Resource Group; and*

WHEREAS, *Ms. Bigpond is a member of the Yuchi tribe of Oklahoma who has devoted her life to improving the lives of American Indian families and children. The success of DIFRC and the comprehensive ICWA services, now available throughout the metropolitan Denver area, are the legacy for which she is hereby honored.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, MAYOR of the City and County of Denver, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby officially proclaim Thursday, July 30, 2009 to be known as:

“PHYLLIS J. BIGPOND DAY”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City and County of Denver to be affixed this thirtieth day of July, 2009.


MAYOR

