

City of Colorado Springs, Colorado

# *Proclamation*

## **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY**

**January 16, 2021**

**WHEREAS,** on January 16, 1786, the Virginia General Assembly adopted Thomas Jefferson's landmark Virginia Statue for Religious Freedom. This statue later became the catalyst for the establishment and free exercise clause in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

**WHEREAS,** Thomas Jefferson stated, "all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of Religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge or affect their civil capacities,"; and

**WHEREAS,** Religious Freedom Day has been proclaimed by every US President since 1993 and America continues to be one of the most religiously diverse nations in the world; and

**WHEREAS,** our Founders entrusted the American people with a responsibility to protect religious liberty so that our Nation may stand as a bright beacon for the rest of the world. Today, we remain committed to that sacred endeavor and strive to support those around the world who still struggle under oppressive regimes that impose restrictions on freedom of religion; and

**WHEREAS,** on this Religious Freedom Day, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting the precious and fundamental right of religious freedom and honor the foundational link between freedom and faith in our country and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the religious liberty of all Americans; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Richard Skorman, President of the Colorado Springs City Council, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2021 as

## **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY**

in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and urge all citizens to commemorate this day with actions that remind us of our shared heritage of religious liberty and that teach us how to secure this blessing both at home and around the world.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Colorado Springs to be affixed this twelfth day of January, 2021.



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Richard Skorman, President  
Colorado Springs City Council