

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 22

A RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF PIKES PEAK LIBRARY
DISTRICT CHIEF LIBRARIAN JOHN SPEARS

WHEREAS, the City of Colorado Springs has benefitted from the outstanding leadership of John Spears as the guiding force of the Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) for the past six years; and

WHEREAS, since 2016, he has directed sixteen library locations, three mobile libraries, and a large and heavily used collection of online resources with over 400 staff and 550 volunteers to keep the library smoothly functioning daily for its 265,000 card holders.

WHEREAS, in 2020 alone, there were over 1 million total library visits, 5.5 million circulating items, and 2.2 million website contacts; and

WHEREAS, John led PPLD through the pandemic, with District-wide efforts ranging from a full closure to reopening all services inside Library facilities, along with launching virtual programs and curbside services. PPLD received national recognition and served as a model for several library innovations that begun during this difficult time; and

WHEREAS, he has increased access to materials by eliminating most overdue library fines, making the Knights of Columbus Hall available for use to everyone in downtown Colorado Springs, and new fostering new partnerships such as the co-location of Manitou Springs Library and the Manitou Art Center; and

WHEREAS, two new public services were introduced to better serve the community. A community resources manager was hired to help patrons during difficult times. Also, a service to broadly focus on equity, diversity, and inclusivity to ensure all feel welcome using the library, including those with disabilities, older adults, people of color and different faiths, and military service members, families, and veterans; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments supported PPLD in receiving the prestigious four-star rating from the Library Journal for several years, in addition to being awarded "District of the Year" by the Special District Association of Colorado in 2019. He brought PPLD into the international library world by joining International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and encouraging staff participation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Colorado Springs City Council expresses its gratitude to John Spears for his six years of service and as a champion of intellectual freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. The City Council appreciates the service of Pikes Peak Library District Chief Librarian John Spears to the City of Colorado Springs and wishes him well in the future.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 22nd day of March, 2022.

Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk