

# City of Commerce City, Colorado



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Lisa Benjamin, executive director of Bridges of Silence, has dedicated 27 years of service to the Commerce City community; and*

*WHEREAS, Bridges of Silence began in 1989 as a sign language choir, cultivating communication and understanding with the deaf community, training over 600 children in sign language; and*

*WHEREAS, Lisa Benjamin, her family, and staff also built the Hands of Hope Food Bank within Bridges of Silence, feeding over 3,000 families with dignity and respect for two decades; and*

*WHEREAS, Bridges of Silence taught Commerce City children to run the community garden, growing and harvesting fresh produce to sell or give to families in need through their food bank, providing skills in self-sufficiency, business, and community service; and*

*WHEREAS, Bridges of Silence offered free tutoring and academic summer camps during the past 15 years and offered alternative high school opportunities through Hope Online, graduating 120 high school students in the last decade to find academic success outside of the traditional public school environment.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of Commerce City celebrates and recognizes Lisa Benjamin, her children Aiesha, Leandra, Ali Augustin and Janae Benjamin, and the Bridges of Silence staff for 27 years of service to the City of Commerce City.*

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed on the nineteenth day of September 2016.

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO



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Sean Ford, Mayor