

# City of Commerce City, Colorado



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation; and*

*WHEREAS chronic absence, defined as missing 10 percent (just two of three days a month) or more of school is a proven predictor of academic trouble, course failure, and dropout rates, weakening our communities and local economies; and*

*WHEREAS the impact of chronic absence hits low-income students and children of color particularly hard as they are more likely to face systemic barriers in getting to school and lack resources to make up classroom time; and*

*WHEREAS improving attendance and reducing chronic absence takes commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to the particular challenges and strengths within each community; and*

*WHEREAS Commerce City has made a concerted effort to address chronic absenteeism, changing its police department school resource officer program to a youth services unit and focusing on providing year-round support, including a SafetyNet program that successfully maintains summer relationships with at-risk students to proactively address truancy; and*

*WHEREAS, this approach, coupled with an engaged community can help spread the message that good attendance matters and ensure all children are in school as much as possible.*

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of Commerce City declares September 2015 as ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH and hereby commits to continue our focus on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotional and socially.**

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed on the twenty-first day of September 2015.

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO

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Sean Ford, Mayor

