

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Justina Ford was born in Knoxville, IL in 1871 and in 1899 she graduated from Hering Medical College in Chicago. She worked for a short time in Alabama before moving to Denver, Colorado in 1902 where she practiced medicine until she died in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Justina Ford was a pioneer, a trailblazer, and a Black woman in America. Justina Ford overcame barriers of race and gender to become the first African American woman to practice medicine in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Justina Ford was compassionate, fair, equitable, fearless and determined to help others. She was and continues to be an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, when she was denied access to hospitals so she set up practice in her home in the Five Points district of Denver where she specialized in gynecology, obstetrics, and pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, during her 50-year career, she delivered 7,000 babies and affectionately became known as the 'Baby Doctor' and the 'Lady Doctor'; and

WHEREAS, Justina Ford provided healthcare for the Denver's financially challenged immigrant communities and learned 8-10 different languages and dialects to communicate with her patients during her time as a doctor; and

WHEREAS, for hundreds of families in Denver, Dr. Ford and her medical black bag represented support, in the face of invariably institutionally racist practices; and

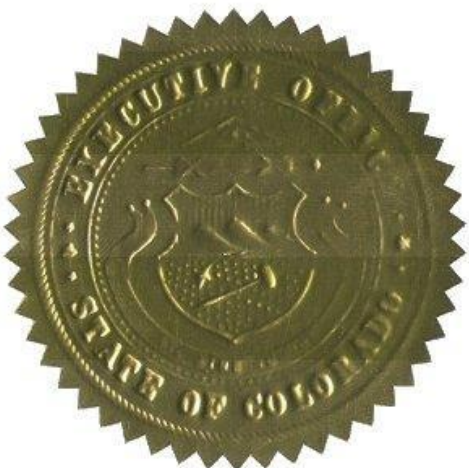
WHEREAS, her enduring legacy can be seen across the city of Denver - from her house which is now home to the Black American West Museum, to her image emblazoned on many buildings;

THEREFORE, I Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim January 22, forevermore, as

DR. JUSTINA FORD DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-second day of January, 2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor