

URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
d/b/a
MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 27, SERIES OF 2022
(Recognition of the Contributions of Ken MacKenzie)

WHEREAS, the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District d/b/a Mile High Flood District was established by the Colorado General Assembly in 1969; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mr. Ken MacKenzie made the serendipitous decision to switch careers from aviation management to civil engineering; and

WHEREAS, this decision was not surprising considering Mr. MacKenzie's passion for the public sector sparked at a very young age; and

WHEREAS, urban legend has it that at the tender age of 15, he purchased a fake ID, not to purchase alcohol like most teenagers, but to register to vote in the upcoming primaries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. MacKenzie was hired by the District as a Student Intern in April of 1995; and

WHEREAS, since then, Mr. MacKenzie has never missed an opportunity to remind District staff that "back in HIS day, interns worked in a dark broom closet and liked it!"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. MacKenzie graduated summa cum laude from Metropolitan State College with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering Technology and while working at the District, went on to obtain a Masters in Science in Civil Engineering – Hydrology and Hydraulics from the University of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 1997, the District hired Mr. MacKenzie as an Engineering Inspector to join the District's full-time staff thereby moving his office from the broom closet to the break room; and

WHEREAS, Mr. MacKenzie quickly became "submerged" in the South Platte River riding his bike along the trail to ensure nothing escaped his notice; and

WHEREAS, due to his work ethic and dedication, was promoted to a Project Engineer position with the condition he would pass his professional engineer licensing exam; and

WHEREAS, he delivered as promised and the promotions kept coming to Project Manager then to Program Manager of the Master Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. MacKenzie's role as Program Manager shifted his focus towards broader issues affecting the District and the communities we serve; and

WHEREAS, in this role, Mr. MacKenzie led legislative and regulatory pursuits on a state and nationwide level; and

WHEREAS, Mr. MacKenzie quickly gained notoriety as a knowledgeable and entertainingly witty (for an engineer) speaker and was asked to present at numerous national conferences including Asia and Europe, one continent of which (according to sealed court documents), he is not allowed back; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Mr. MacKenzie was appointed his final role at the District, Executive Director (Resolution No. 51, Series of 2016); and

WHEREAS, during Mr. MacKenzie's tenure, has made several significant contributions to the District, including:

- Has been active and influential in several professional organizations including NAFSMA, ASCE-EWRI, CASFM, and UWRI
- Led a statewide coalition to pass State Bill 15-212, to secure the rights of government agencies to treat and store stormwater to protect Coloradans

- Spearheaded the recalibration of the Colorado Urban Hydrograph Procedure, the core hydrologic model that is the underpinning of all planning, design, construction and maintenance activities at the District
- Drafted the very first version of the now widely used and loved (by engineers) MHFD-Detention Tool. Originating from his Master’s thesis, Mr. MacKenzie worked so many hours on this tool, others thought it was his screensaver
- Created the Colorado Stormwater Center, a non-profit education and outreach center hosted within the CSU extension service
- Served as a champion and collaborator in repurposing the High Line Canal for stormwater while maintaining it as a public amenity
- Published **A September to Remember** photo essay book chronicling the devastating 2013 Colorado Floods
- Led the District in the de-Brucing effort ([an industry favorite](#)) that changed the landscape of the District’s funding and influence (an effort he claims was ‘no big deal’ but tell that to his customized “The Real O(7)G” license plate)
- Led the District in the effort to increase Board compensation for meeting attendance ([a board favorite](#)) to meet current standards
- Supported Douglas County in the state legislature to increase their representation on the Board
- Facilitated the renaming and rebranding of the District from the clunky and confusing “Urban Drainage and Flood Control District” to the very sleek and, dare we say, sexy “Mile High Flood District”
- Contributed the same staple item to every District potluck, which is his famous MacKenzie “don’t ask what’s in it” Queso Dip
- And with just days and hours left in his role as Executive Director, purchased the first building owned by MHFD thereby securing the new MHFD Headquarters!

WHEREAS, during Mr. MacKenzie’s tenure as Executive Director, he has facilitated 43 board meetings, had the pleasure of working with 6 Board Chairs; and has hired ‘like a gazillion’ employees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. MacKenzie has consistently demonstrated an attitude of professionalism and helpfulness, and has always represented to our partners the absolute best the District has to offer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. MacKenzie will retire from the District on February 28, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Directors of the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District d/b/a Mile High Flood District hereby recognizes the contributions of Executive Director Ken MacKenzie, and expresses its profound appreciation for his leadership, vision, and commitment for his 27 years of service.
2. Further, the Board is grateful for having had the professional guidance of Mr. MacKenzie since he was hired in 1994.
3. Further, the Board recognizes that the contributions of Mr. MacKenzie were vital to the success and growth of the District and to the continued safety and welfare of the citizens of the District.
4. Further, the Board wishes Mr. MacKenzie the best of luck in retirement, continued fishing trips, quality family time, and success in the presumed future MacKenzie Vintage Auto Sales business.

URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL
DISTRICT d/b/a
MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT
Date: 22 February 2022

ATTEST:

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Secretary 0A78D67A7F3245B...

DocuSigned by:


Chairperson 4FFCBC57D2C5440...