

Declaration Honoring Emergency Response Connectors

December 5, 2024

The City of Boulder Council honors and recognizes the Emergency Response Connectors, a dedicated group of community leaders from Boulder's manufactured home and subsidized rental communities. First convening in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, these trusted leaders rose to the call as it became evident that some community members would experience disproportionate impacts due to job loss, financial vulnerability and a historical distrust of public health systems. With compassion and commitment, this team helped to strengthen the relationship between their neighborhoods and city government. Emergency Response Connectors connected with approximately 1,000 households to mitigate these impacts and uplift their neighbors' voices and needs.

Over four years, the Emergency Response Connectors:

- Maintained regular and open dialogue with city staff to bring forward issues, concerns and questions from their neighborhoods,
- Supported the logistics and implementation of pop-up testing and vaccination clinics within their communities,
- Provided essential information and resources to help families stay safe, distributing over 3,000 free masks and COVID at-home tests, and
- Contributed to disaster preparedness, response and recovery, including alerting city staff to the damaging straight-line wind event that occurred alongside the Marshall Fire.

As the program was beginning, one of the Connectors stated, "This is a new and highly important approach because then the community knows that the city is legitimately concerned about all of us."

Specifically, the City of Boulder thanks:

- Current Emergency Response Connectors Bernardo Padilla, Carlos Valdez, Isabel Sánchez, Kathy Schlereth, Lety Garcia, Lorena Zavala, Margarita Estrada, Saroj Gaudel, and Luz Galicia.
- Emergency Response Supporters Dinesh Kumar Karki, Ivan Montes Vaquera, Magali Botello, Miriam De Santiago, and Sonia Sarabia.
- ERC Volunteers David Ensign and Margi Ness.
- And all other volunteers and ERC alumni who have given their time to this program since 2020.

As this chapter of their service concludes, city staff and the Boulder community celebrate the

Emergency Response Connectors

for their steadfast leadership and the enduring lessons they have imparted about compassionate, inclusive and effective service to all Boulder community members.



Aaron Brockett, Mayor

