

PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PITKIN
COUNTY, COLORADO HONORING

Don Bird

WHEREAS, Don Bird has been on the non profit board of A Way Out for 10 years. A Way Out supports people in drug and alcohol crisis with the treatment they need; and

WHEREAS, it may have been Don Bird's first-hand experience as a bartender in Aspen in the 1970s that gave him the perspective and compassion he brings to the A Way Out Board; and

WHEREAS, as Pitkin County Jail Administrator for 30 years, Don Bird saw the impact that substance abuse and mental health issues can have on a community. His knowledge of the legal system has helped A Way Out find the best ways to support residents in crisis; and

WHEREAS, A Way Out helps approximately 400 local youth, individuals and families every year by giving them access to treatment services, free bilingual clinical care, peer support, a specialized family program and education and outreach throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Don Bird also spent many years helping the former Homeless Coalition address food and shelter issues in the community. That work continues to this day with the newly formed Housing Stability Coalition; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2021, Don Bird suffered life-changing injuries in a bicycle accident and has spent the past year-and-a-half re-learning to speak, walk and get back to the lifestyle he loves. There is no doubt that when he is able, Don Bird will get back to work serving the community he so dearly loves.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED the Pitkin County Commissioners and the people of Pitkin County are honored to recognize Don Bird with the Pitkin County Cares "Mental Health" award.

Dated this 13th day of September 2022

County Manager

Pitkin County Board of Commissioners

Jon Peacock

Patti Clapper - Chair