

Resolution Honoring and Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Groundbreaking Memoir “Always Running, La Vida Loca, Gang Days in LA” by Luis J. Rodriguez

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago takes great pride in recognizing contributions to Latinx literature and literature produced in the City.

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is grappling with the consequences of historic and generational trauma that has long impacted communities of color.

WHEREAS, Luis J Rodriguez addresses these issues in Always Running and has become an international authority on gang violence and peace in cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and other countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and England.

WHEREAS, Luis J. Rodriguez lived in Chicago from 1985 to 2000 in the Humboldt Park, Wicker Park and Logan Square neighborhoods.

WHEREAS, Always Running was published in 1993 and the following year was published in Paper Back by Simon & Schuster and quickly became a national best seller,

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has listed Always Running among the most band books in the United States for decades.

WHEREAS, Luis J Rodriguez was born in El Paso Texas, the son of Mexican immigrants, began writing in his early teens, despite his involvement with gangs, heroin addiction and prison he was able to overcome those setbacks and has gone on to win international recognition as a poet, journalist, fiction writer, children’s books author, critic and founded Tia Chucha Press in Chicago in 1989.

WHEREAS, Luis J. Rodriguez, wrote Always Running as a warning to his son Ramiro who was a Chicago street gang member and spent 13 years in prison.

WHEREAS, Always Running was written in Humboldt Park and keeps alive the legacy of great works by authors like Saul Bellows, Nelson Algren and Sandra Cisneros among others.

WHEREAS, Always Running will celebrate its 30th Anniversary on Friday, October 13th, 2023 at The Chicago History Museum.

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, do hereby officially honor this author, Luis J. Rodriguez and his literary legacy particularly, Always Running as a major literary contribution to Latinx literature in the United States and the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Luis J. Rodriguez as a token of our city's deep appreciation and respect for his remarkable achievements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JF' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessie Fuentes,
Aldersperson, 26th Ward