

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART
MARIACHI POTOSINO EXHIBITION WHICH RECOGNIZES THE LIFE WORK OF
DON JOSÉ CRUZ ALBA**

WHEREAS, The National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA) was founded to stimulate knowledge and appreciation of Mexican art and culture from both sides of the border through a significant permanent collection of Mexican art, rich visual and performing arts programs, high quality arts education programs; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the institution has grown, its audience has broadened, and its reach now extends across the United States and beyond; and

WHEREAS, On February 24, 2024, a one-of-its-kind exhibition opens and recounts the story of José Cruz Alba (1918-2002) and his immigrant journey from Iganico Allende, Durango to Chicago.; and

WHEREAS, Archival photographs, videos, newspaper clippings and family interviews trace his life's work with members of *el Mariachi Potosino*, an active mariachi group from its founding in 1958 until it disbanded in 2019; and

WHEREAS, During those years, *Mariachi Potosino* became an integral part of family celebrations, community events, city parades, protests and political gatherings in Chicago Mexican communities and beyond; and

WHEREAS, The music he carried became a flag of identity, an immediately identifiable cultural touchstone, and a bridge to home; and

WHEREAS, Most of what has been written about the history of Mariachi in the U.S. does not recognize Midwestern states and cities like Chicago as important centers of Mariachi performance; and

WHEREAS, *Mariachi Potosino*'s musical journey helped establish Mariachi as an important and unique musical genre, while paralleling the growth of Mexican cultural identity across the entire country; and

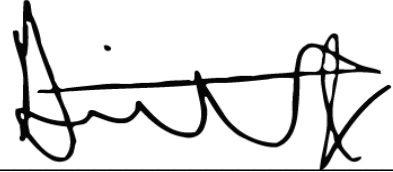
WHEREAS, This important exhibit was co-curated by Rita Arias Jirasek and Roberto Vargas; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Vargas, is the proud nephew of José Cruz Alba, recognized *Mariachi Potosino* had made significant impact to the City of Chicago and the musical genre nationally that he brought the concept for this exhibit to the NMMA in January of 2023; and now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assemble on February 21, 2024, to hereby honor the NMMA, José Cruz Alba and all who formed the original *Mariachi Potosino*: Amador Alba, Raul Aguirre, Rafael Gaspar, Nestor Gomez, Pedro Meza, and Viviano Meza, as well as long-time members Alfonso Aiello, Andrés

Avalos, Alfonso Castillo, Angel Gonzalez, David Gonzalez, José Hernandez, Ramon Isabola, Jesus Pantoja, Ruben Vasquez, Beto, José Ma. "Chema" Llanos and Cesar "Chayo" Villalobos;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this Resolution be presented to the NMMA, each co-curator, and the family José Cruz Alba as a token of our respect, gratitude, and best wishes for their bright and prosperous future.



Gilbert Villegas
Alderman, 36th Ward