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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

July 19, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Fuentes, Ramirez-Rosa, Lawson, Robinson, Sposato, Knudsen, Reilly, Villegas, Vasquez, Ervin, Rodriguez, Rodriguez-Sanchez, Hopkins, Yancy, Sigcho-Lopez, Chico, Conway, Martin, O'Shea, La Spata, Silverstein, Gutierrez, Gardiner, Waguespack, Dowell and City Clerk Valencia, a resolution honoring Rudy Lozano.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BJ Johnson", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In recognition of the pivotal role he played in uplifting the Mexican-American community in Chicago, the Mayor and Members of this Chamber are proud to commemorate Rudy Lozano; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano was born in Harlingen, Texas, on July 17, 1951, as one of six children to Guadalupe and Anita Lozano; and

WHEREAS, His formative years in Pilsen instilled in Rudy a deep sense of activism and dedication to the betterment of working people, and inspired by his father and the civil rights movement, in 1970, Rudy helped organize Black and Latino students to stage a series of walkouts over substandard and overcrowded facilities, the lack of representation in the curriculum, and the lack of bilingual education at Carter Henry Harrison Technical High School now Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy/Telpochcalli Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, After high school, Rudy attended college at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he maintained his activist spirit, teaching in the community and joining unions; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Rudy met the love of his life, Guadalupe (Lupe); the two were married on December 8, 1973, and the couple were blessed with three sons: Rudy Jr., Jose, and David; and

WHEREAS, Not long after, he became a part of the group Centro de Acción Social Autónoma, Hermandad General de Trabajadores [Center for Autonomous Social Action, General Brotherhood of Workers] (CASA), and he also became involved with and led the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, in which he helped the women express their dissatisfaction with the union currently representing them, and also; and

WHEREAS, After his work in CASA, Rudy began his political work in Chicago's 22nd Ward, where he registered voters and worked to increase unity between Latinos, working class whites and African Americans; and

WHEREAS, He began his campaign for alderman in 1982 but, though he lost the election in 1983, he proved himself to be an invaluable member of Chicago's Latino community by becoming a part of Mayor Harold Washington's transition team; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Lozano's life was tragically cut short on June 8, 1983, when he was murdered in his home, and at his funeral Mayor Washington described him as, "a man driven by a search for unity among people"; and

WHEREAS, His memory remains through the work of many in his family, including his son Rudy Jr. who was recently named to the Chicago Public Schools Board of Directors, his sister, Emma, who created Pueblo Sin Fronteras (People Without Borders), an immigrant rights group, inspired by a phrase used often by Rudy in his own activism, and in the Latino community in Chicago, and through the opening in 1989 of the Rudy Lozano branch of the Chicago Public Library in the Pilsen neighborhood and the Rodolfo Lozano Bilingual and International Center, a magnet elementary school on the City's Near North Side; and

WHEREAS, Rudy's vision survives to this day, carried forward by his compañeros, fellow allies of the movement, and devoted family members, including his widow Lupe, children,

grandchildren, and siblings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this nineteenth day of July 2023, do hereby commemorate Rudy Lozano and celebrate his life and legacy in building a coalition of diverse Chicagoans to work towards creating a more open and equitable City, and in elevating the Mexican-American and Latinx communities in particular to ensure that they have a say in Chicago's future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Rudy Lozano's family as a sign of our appreciation and esteem.