

SUBSTITUTE
RESOLUTION

A Resolution Commemorating the Mexican American Heritage Day Association and Their Efforts in Calling for February 2nd as Mexican American Heritage Day

WHEREAS, Chicago is home to one of the largest Mexican-origin populations in the United States, and Mexican Americans represent approximately 1 in 5 Chicago residents, making them one of the largest ethnic communities in the city; and

WHEREAS, Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans have been foundational to the growth and vitality of Chicago's neighborhoods, contributing significantly to the city's small business ecosystem, workforce, public service, education, arts, culture, and civic leadership; and

WHEREAS, generations of Mexican Chicagoans have played essential roles in labor movements, civil rights advocacy, military service, and the ongoing advancement of equity and opportunity in the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, marking a pivotal moment in the history of the United States and Mexico, reshaping the geographical, political and cultural landscapes of North America; and

WHEREAS, while the Treaty ceded lands that make up most of today's Southwest, it also granted US citizenship to the Mexican citizens living in that territory, thus creating a new ethnic identity, the Mexican Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mexican Americans comprise the largest indigenous ethnic group in the United States, representing nearly 40 million people, acknowledging the historical roots with the people of Mexico and that these two communities were separated only by an artificial border; and

WHEREAS, February 2, 1848, symbolizes the birth of a new identity for Mexican Americans, and in that a determination to preserve culture, language, traditional values, and honor as a people who survived and thrived in the face of marginalization and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, this day honors the vital role Mexican Americans have carried out in building and strengthening the fabric of this nation, shaping the U.S. economy and society, enriching the arts, serving in its defense in time of war, and advocating for civil rights and labor reforms; and

WHEREAS, this day deserves recognition with events and activities that are appropriate to the nature of the cultural values that merit preservation and respect for the history held and one that must be passed on to the youth and children; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council commemorate the efforts of the Mexican American Heritage Day Association and support their call for February 2nd to be Mexican American Heritage Day as they continue to foster greater understanding and unity in a diverse America and thereby enhance recognition of the history and culture that the American people have in common.