

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 106

Approved February 28, 2025

WHEREAS, Eileen M. Rao (fondly known as Mama Lemon) and Joseph A. Rao were Providence natives and longtime proprietors of beloved Providence frozen lemonade stand “Mr. Lemon”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Rao opened the business on June 21st, 1974 with neither of them having any prior knowledge about making frozen lemonade; and

WHEREAS, Together, they toiled endlessly to perfect their product by trial and error to achieve success; and

WHEREAS, After 12 years of running the business together, Mr. Rao passed away in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rao, with unwavering dedication and the help of her three children- Joseph, Janice, and Colleen-worked tirelessly over the next 40 years to make her lemonade store the best; and

WHEREAS, Her customers meant everything to her and she was always ready to greet them with a kind word and a smile; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rao, the beloved matriarch of Mr. Lemon, passed away at the age of 94 on December 28th, 2023; and

WHEREAS, For half a century, Mr. Lemon graced Rhode Island Summers with their fun and interesting flavors and became a true treasure of Providence’s North End neighborhood.

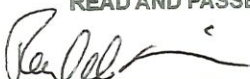
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence wishes to honor the life, work, and legacy of Joseph and Eileen Rao and all the dedication and love they put into their business by establishing a ceremonial designation along Hawkins Street as “Mr. Lemon Place” honorary designation.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the Department of Public Works work to manufacture, install, and maintain one or more honorary signs at prominent and appropriate locations, which shall reflect the “Mr. Lemon Place” honorary Designation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the family of Eileen and Joseph Rao.

IN CITY COUNCIL
FEB 20 2025

READ AND PASSED



RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor

Date: 2/28/2025