

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 152

Approved April 10, 2023

WHEREAS, A first-generation American, Cesar Chavez was born on March 31, 1927, near his family's small homestead outside Yuma, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, At age 11, his family lost their farm during the Great Depression, and became migrant farm workers; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez finished his formal education after the eighth grade and worked the fields full-time to help support his family. Throughout his youth and into adulthood, Chavez traveled the migrant streams throughout California laboring in the fields, orchards, and vineyards where he was exposed to the hardships and injustices of farm worker life; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez joined the U.S. Navy in 1946 in the aftermath of World War II and served in the Western Pacific. He returned from the service in 1948 to marry Helen Fabela, whom he met while working in the fields; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez's career in community organizing began in 1952 when he was recruited and trained by Fred Ross, a legendary community organizer who was forming the San Jose chapter of the Community Service Organization, the most prominent Latino civil rights group of its time; and

WHEREAS, Chavez spent 10 years with the CSO, coordinating voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, leading campaigns against racial and economic discrimination, and organizing new CSO chapters across California; and

WHEREAS, Chavez's dream was to organize a union that would protect and serve the farm workers whose poverty and powerlessness he had shared. He knew the history of farmworker organizing was one sad story after another of broken unions and strikes crushed by violence; and


WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez was a civil rights, Latino, and farm labor leader; a genuinely religious and spiritual figure; a community organizer and social entrepreneur; a champion of militant nonviolent social change; and a crusader for the environment and consumer rights; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council wishes to establish a ceremonial designation along Raymond Street in Ward 12 as a fitting tribute to the life, work, and legacy of Cesar Chavez.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council does hereby request that the Department of Public Works and the Traffic Engineer work to manufacture, install, and maintain one or more ceremonial signs at prominent and appropriate locations, which shall reflect the "Cesar Chavez Memorial Way" ceremonial designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Mayor of Providence, the Director of the Department of Public Works, and the Traffic Engineer.


IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 06 2023
READ AND PASSED



RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 4/10/2023