

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 22

Approved January 22, 2019

WHEREAS, Josefina “Doña Fefa” Rosario was born in 1928 in the Dominican Republic, where she grew up in the town of Villa Elisa as well as Santo Domingo, the country’s capital; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, she immigrated to New York City, before moving to New Haven and finally to Providence in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Rosario and her husband Tony opened Fefa’s Market at 1232 Broad St, selling food products familiar to Latinos; and

WHEREAS, Every two weeks, they traveled to New York to restock the store as well as encourage people to move to Providence; and

WHEREAS, She owned a three-story house at 145 Chester St. where she and her husband would provide housing at low rates for people moving to the city until they could find housing; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the Providence Children’s Museum memorialized her store as part of its “Coming to Rhode Island” exhibit; and

WHEREAS, She was seen as the start of the Latino community in Rhode Island, especially in paving the way for Latino business owners and entrepreneurs in the State; and

WHEREAS, She will be remembered for her welcoming nature and her ability to create and maintain community; and

WHEREAS, Josefina “Doña Fefa” Rosario passed away on December 13, 2018 at the age of 90 in Our Lady of Fatima Hospital; and

WHEREAS, She is survived by her three children, Cecilia Santana, Miriam Reyes, and Madelaine Rosario, as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, It is a fitting tribute to the life and service of Josefina “Doña Fefa” Rosario to ceremonially name Lenox Avenue in her memory.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby recognize and remember the life and legacy of Josefina “Doña Fefa” Rosario and her immense contributions to the Latino community of Rhode Island by ceremonially naming Lenox Avenue, “Doña Fefa Way”.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 17 2019

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Mayor
Date: 1/22/19