

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 469

Approved November 26, 2024

WHEREAS, Reverend Gustavo Gutiérrez, a Peruvian theologian and Dominican priest, devoted his life to championing the dignity of the poor and marginalized through his groundbreaking work in liberation theology; and

WHEREAS, His seminal book, *A Theology of Liberation*, first published in 1971, articulated the revolutionary concept of a "preferential option for the poor," emphasizing the moral and spiritual imperative to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable as central to faith and justice; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gutiérrez challenged the global community to confront poverty not as an inevitable condition but as a systemic injustice that requires active resistance and abolition; and

WHEREAS, His vision inspired movements worldwide to establish housing, health care, and other basic needs as fundamental human rights and reshaped Roman Catholic social teaching to include empathy and advocacy for the poor as core tenets; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gutiérrez's decades of ministry in the impoverished Rímac district of Lima, Peru, embodied his commitment to standing in solidarity with marginalized communities and addressing poverty not only as an economic issue but as a spiritual and societal evil; and

WHEREAS, His theological approach—centered on reading history through the eyes of the oppressed—continues to inspire grassroots activism and academic scholarship today, making his work relevant across generations and continents; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gutiérrez's contributions earned him global recognition, including an honorary doctorate from Yale University, induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the respect of faith leaders, including Pope Francis, who elevated liberation theology as an essential framework for modern Catholicism; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gutiérrez passed away on October 22, 2024, at the age of 96, leaving behind an enduring legacy of compassion, scholarship, and advocacy for justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby honors the life and contributions of Reverend Gustavo Gutiérrez, recognizing his profound impact as a theologian, author, and advocate who called on the world to embrace a preferential treatment of the poor and to strive for equity and liberation for all;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council extends its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and admirers worldwide and commits to upholding the values of justice, dignity, and solidarity that Reverend Gutiérrez so passionately espoused.

IN CITY COUNCIL
NOV 21 2024
READ AND PASSED, *As Amended*

Rachel M. Baker
RACHEL M. BAKER, PRESIDENT
Jana L. Mastromarino
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Brett P. Smith

Mayor

Date: *11/26/24*
