

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 109

Approved March 24, 2022

WHEREAS, Saint Joseph's Day, also known as the Feast of Saint Joseph or the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, is in Western Christianity the principal feast day Joseph of Nazareth, husband of the Virgin Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Since the 10th century, March 19th has been the traditional day of celebration. Popular customs include attending mass, wearing red-colored clothing, and partaking in the Zeppole, a traditional Italian pastry made up of fried dough, and filled with custard or pastry cream; and

WHEREAS, Saint Joseph's Day is an integral celebration within the Catholic Church especially in Italy, where traditions date back to the Roman Empire; and

WHEREAS, Providence is currently home to thousands of proud Italian-Americans, with 14 percent of the population claiming Italian ancestry. Italians have a long and rich history in Providence, with more than 5 million immigrants arriving in the city between 1820 and 2000. In the early 1900s, the Federal Hill neighborhood became one of the most densely populated and largest Italian settlements in the nation; and

WHEREAS, At the turn of the century, Atwells Avenue became the center of business and culture for the city's Italian population and widely became known as Rhode Island's own "Little Italy." While the area today is more diverse, Federal Hill still retains its status as the traditional center for the city's Italian-American community. Providence's annual Columbus Day parade marches down Atwells Avenue; and

WHEREAS, The strength and success of the City of Providence, the vitality of our neighborhoods, and the effectiveness of our American society depend, in great measure, upon the distinctive and sterling qualities demonstrated and exemplified by members of the Italian and Italian-American community, who share with us their rich and unique heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council recognizes March 19th, as Saint Joseph's Day in perpetuity, a sacred and valued part of Italian culture, and an illustrious tradition for the thousands of Italian Americans who call Rhode Island home.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 17 2022

READ AND PASSED

JOHN J. IGLIOZZI, PRESIDENT

ACTING

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Mayor

Date:

3/24/22