

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is home to the largest group of Guatemalans (“or Guatemaltecos”) outside of Guatemala and has been a home to this proud community since the 1960s during the onset of the Guatemalan Civil War. Many of these Angelenos started their new life in Westlake in Council District 1, adding rich culture, food, and vibrancy to the District. In addition to this, the Guatemalan community has opened businesses, bought property, and supported the development of robust local economies across LA.

The City of Los Angeles has honored its diverse residents through naming cultural landmarks and designating community areas, recognizing the contribution of cultural groups and populations across the city. The Guatemalan community, despite its outsized contribution to our economy and social and cultural fabric, has not been afforded this honor.

It is due time that the City honors the work, presence, and culture of the Guatemalan community. Due to their notable presence in Council District 1, there is an interest by the community to create a designated area to formally recognize the contribution of this community. The Guatemalan Community Landmark Naming Project proposes to bring a working group together to identify a culturally significant area and marker with the goal of highlighting and celebrating the history and contributions of the Guatemalan community, while also developing tailored support to their needs.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department to organize and facilitate a working group consisting of but not limited to: individuals and organizations or businesses advocating for the Guatemalan community, the Consul General of Guatemala, Council District 1, the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Economic and Workforce Development Department, and the Board of Public Works. The working group should report back in 180 days on the following items:

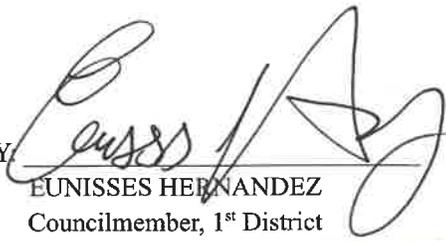
- Defining boundaries around a culturally significant area within the Westlake neighborhood that can be named in honor of the Guatemalan community;
- Developing a name for the area defined by working group; and,
- Initial plans for a cultural marker to be placed in the defined area.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Department of Cultural Affairs, with support from the City Administrative Officer, to report back in 180 days with funding and resource options to carry out the plans for the cultural marker defined by the working group.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Economic and Workforce Development Department, with support from the City Administrative Officer, to report back in 180 days with funding and resource options specific to the needs of the small and micro businesses within the project area.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the Board of Public Works, with support from the CAO, to report back in 180 days on resources and programs to support cleanliness in the identified area, such as the Clean LA Program or the community beautification.

PRESENTED BY


EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:


Heather Salt


APR 26 2024

ORIGINAL