



City of Los Angeles
Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committees
200 N. Spring Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 30, 2024

**Re: Support Councilwoman Hernandez Motion to Name an area in honor of the
Guatemalan Community.**

Dear Committee Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for Councilmember Hernandez's motion to name an area in honor of the Guatemalan community within Council District 1. This motion recognizes the profound contributions of the Guatemalan community to the cultural and economic vitality of Los Angeles.

Since the 1960s, many Guatemalans sought refuge from the Civil War and established their new lives in Los Angeles, especially in the Westlake area where they have significantly enriched the district's cultural landscape. This community has brought with it vibrant traditions, cuisine, and energy, contributing to the creation of a dynamic and thriving neighborhood.

In addition to their cultural impact, the Guatemalan community has been instrumental in promoting local economic development by opening businesses, acquiring property, and supporting strong local economies throughout Los Angeles.

Despite their substantial contributions, the Guatemalan community has not yet received formal recognition in the form of a designated cultural landmark. It is time for the City of Los Angeles to honor their history, presence, and cultural heritage.

The motion to instruct the LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department to organize a working group to define a culturally significant area within Westlake, develop a name for this area, and plan for a cultural marker is a commendable initiative. This working group, composed of key organizations, community advocates, the Consul General of Guatemala, representatives from Council District 1, the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Economic and Workforce Development Department, and the Board of Public Works, will ensure that the project reflects the true spirit and contributions of the Guatemalan community.

We believe that by incorporating meaningful community engagement, the Guatemala project can become a model for inclusive urban development that celebrates and honors the diversity of our city. BLUE PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL (a non-profit entity) sole mission is to preserve and promote the necessary awareness of Latin/Hispanic identity, heritage, culture, native language is committed to collaborating with your council office, the city, and other stakeholders to ensure the success of this project. Together, we can create a vibrant and welcoming space that reflects the aspirations and contributions of all Guatemalans in Los Angeles, setting a precedent for similar projects in other communities and cities across the United States.

Additionally, we support the instructions for the Department of Cultural Affairs to report back with funding and resource options to support the cultural marker, as well as for the Economic and Workforce Development Department to allocate specific funding and resource options for small and micro businesses within the project area. We also esteem Councilmember's call for the Board of Public Works to report on resources and programs to maintain cleanliness in the identified area.

Your support for this motion will not only acknowledge the significant contributions of the Guatemalan community but also inspire pride and unity among all Angelenos. I urge you to endorse this motion and help ensure that the Guatemalan community receives the recognition it rightfully deserves.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to fostering equity and inclusion in our city.

Best regards,

Jean Meza
Jean Meza
Founder

My commitment to my Latino/Hispanic community is inspired by the men and women who have worked diligently before me to pave the road for those of us who have been inspired to follow. – Jean Meza



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