



# City of Chicago



R2022-665

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 6/22/2022

**Sponsor(s):** Maldonado (26)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Congratulations extended to Wilfredo Benitez on being honored at Puerto Rican People's Day Parade and declaration of Jun 11, 2022 as "Wilfredo Benitez Day" in Chicago

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Wilfredo Benítez, a world-renowned boxer and a native of Puerto Rico, will be honored at the *Puerto Rican People's Day Parade* on June 11, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, The youngest world champion in the sport's history, Wilfredo Benítez won 53 of his 62 fights by knock out; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicknamed "El Radar," for his precise ability to land a powerful blow, Wilfredo Benítez sparred off during his remarkable career against boxing greats such as Roberto Duran, Thomas Hearn and Sugar Ray Leonard; and

**WHEREAS**, Even the legendary Mohammed Ali called him one of the greatest boxers of all-time; and

**WHEREAS**, In recognition of his illustrious and storied career, Wilfredo Benitez was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, Despite his overwhelming success, Wilfredo Benítez has suffered degenerative brain damage due to the grueling nature of the sport; and

**WHEREAS**, In the years following his retirement from the ring, Wilfredo Benítez developed boxer's dementia," a condition caused by repeated head trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Wilfredo Benítez, challenged with greatly reduced motor skills, was relocated to Chicago under the guidance of his good friend, fellow boxer Luis Mateo; and

**WHEREAS**, Wilfredo Benítez arrived in Humboldt Park in Chicago in 2018 and spent his first week at what was then known as Norwegian American Hospital, and was later cared for by his sister; and

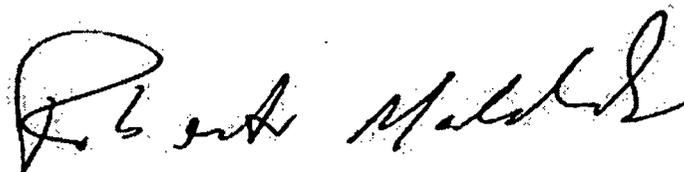
**WHEREAS**, Due to the improved care and the love and support of his friends and family, Wilfredo Benítez has regained limited movement; and

**WHEREAS**, Chicago's Puerto Rican community has embraced Wilfredo Benitez and is proud to celebrate their very own international boxing star; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, do hereby officially honor this legendary boxer and icon of the Puerto Rican community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That June 11, 2022, shall be recognized as *Wilfredo Benítez Day* throughout the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Wilfredo Benitez.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Maldonado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

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*Alderman – 26<sup>th</sup> Ward*