



City of Chicago
Office of the City Clerk
Document Tracking Sheet



O2018-910

Meeting Date: 2/28/2018
Sponsor(s): Solis (25)
Type: Ordinance
Title: Honorary street designation as "Inez Loredo Street"
Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Transportation and Public Way

City Council Meeting

February 28, 2018

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to an ordinance heretofore passed by the City Council which allows erection of honorary street-name signs, the Commissioner of Transportation shall take the necessary action for standardization of South Morgan Street, from West 18th Street to West 16th Street as “Inez Loredo Street”.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.



DANIEL SOLIS

Alderman, 25th Ward

INEZ ALVAREZ LOREDO
NOVEMBER 7, 1921 – OCTOBER 7, 2017

INEZ ALVAREZ LOREDO is an icon to many in the Pilsen community and those who had the privilege to know her and work with her, were truly blessed.

She was born on Nov. 7, 1921 in Harlingen, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, along the Mexican border. Inez was the eldest of six children and was the first Mexican-American female to graduate from high school in her home town. In 1949, she married Antonio Loredo. They relocated to Chicago in 1958 to a small apartment on West Harrison Street seeking better job opportunities. One year later, they were forced to move once again to pave the way for the construction of the University of Illinois Circle Campus. She, her husband and two children relocated to nearby Pilsen.

Pilsen was an entry port to many immigrants – Germans, Lithuanians and other Eastern Europeans. Now, it was Mexicans who were the newest immigrants. The transition from one immigrant group to another was not easy. Not only were the newcomers immigrants, they were Mexican, many of them undocumented, they spoke another language, they celebrated a different culture and for the next ten years, it would be a struggle as the community shifted into a predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhood.

Inez's children were enrolled in Jungman Elementary and in 1960 she became one of the first bilingual Mexican-American to join the PTA in Pilsen. Before long she was the translator for new families enrolling their children at Jungman and later became an officer of the PTA. Trust was built as she consistently created bilingual settings in which parents felt that their voice mattered concerning their children's education.

In 1963, Inez Loredo was offered a position at Jungman School and would become one of the first bilingual School Community Representatives (SCR). In that position, she began to work with Teacher Corps, fighting to bring bilingual teachers into the Chicago Public School system. In doing so, she encountered her first organizing campaign which was to remove a principal that the community had identified as insensitive towards the Mexican students under her supervision. This was evident since the principal refused to implement bilingual and special needs programs into the school.

The campaign to remove that principal introduced her to community organizing and the Pilsen Neighbors Community Council. In the following ten years, she spearheaded many changes in Pilsen such as: the fight to build Benito Juarez High School (serving as Chair of the construction committee to make sure the school opened on time), she was one of the founding member of the Fiesta del Sol which has since become the largest Latino festival in the Midwest. She fought the city to assure regular garbage pick-up, led a campaign to establish a community health center in Pilsen, fought for the construction of the Rudy Lozano Library and helped to win hot lunches for all of the schools in Pilsen. She served as President of Pilsen Neighbors Community Council who was responsible for the creation of the 18th Street Development Corporation, the construction of three new elementary schools, development of affordable housing and a moratorium on liquor licenses that is still in effect 30 years later.

If you ever met Mrs. Inez Loredo, you would encounter a gentle and sweet smiling woman with a fierce heart, strong love for her community and its people. She was trusted, beloved and mentored many current parent leaders. She loved her family, her church, her friends, her neighborhood and she loved life. She serves as a witness to what it means to be a good human being. Inez was endlessly devoted to the idea that all people are equally deserving of a good education and equal opportunities. Through her leadership, she set an example of what parents could accomplish when organized, focused and united for a common cause. Her untiring spirit still shines today and we are still benefitting from her contributions to the Pilsen community.

REMEMBERING

INEZ LOREDO | 1921-2017

Pilsen activist pushed for Juarez Academy

BY MAUREEN O'DONNELL
Staff Reporter

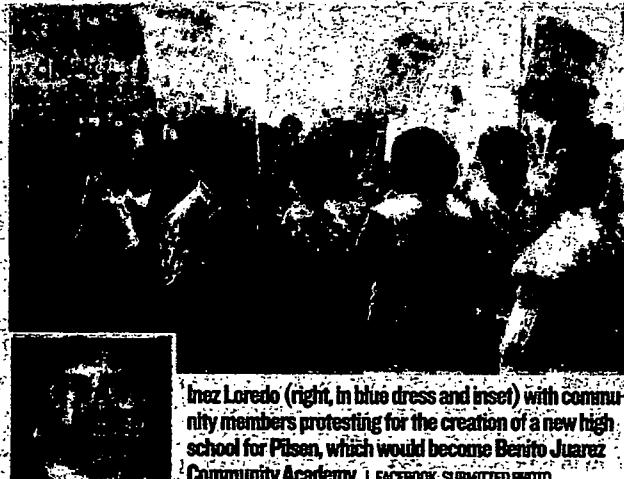
Inez Loredo arrived in Chicago in the 1950s from a small town in Texas, the daughter of a sharecropper with six kids who all picked cotton to make ends meet. She came to Pilsen to join her husband, who was a migrant worker until he moved north for better-paying railroad, construction and factory jobs.

By the time she retired in the late 1980s from Chicago's school system, she'd long been a skilled community organizer. Mrs. Loredo had a soft voice that belied her shrewd strategizing and strong intuition, those who knew her said. She recognized latent talent in the parents she mobilized, some who had been migrant workers with little experience in challenging authority.

Mrs. Loredo, who became president of Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, walked picket lines and took part in candlelight vigils to get a new high school and library for Pilsen: Benito Juarez Community Academy, which opened in 1977, and the Rudy Lozano library, unveiled in 1989. She helped found the 45-year-old Fiesta del Sol, billed as the largest Latino fest in the Midwest.

Her children, Maria Alicia Rodriguez and Natividad Loredo, grew up to be educators. "I became a teacher because of her," said her son, who in time was hired to be principal of the high school that she helped to get built.

Mrs. Loredo, 95, died Oct. 7 at the University of Illinois Hospital from complications



Inez Loredo (right, in blue dress and inset) with community members protesting for the creation of a new high school for Pilsen, which would become Benito Juarez Community Academy. | FACEBOOK SUBMITTED PHOTO

of old age, he said.

She was born in Harlingen, Texas, where her sharecropper parents Guadalupe and Felipa Alvarez scraped together enough to buy a farm. Her Guanajuato-born father insisted that young Inez be educated.

"His thing was, 'My daughter has to go to school,'" said Natividad Loredo, who said his mother was the only Mexican-American in her high school graduating class.

Sixty-eight years ago, she married Antonio Loredo, a migrant worker who moved north and then sent to Texas for his wife.

In 1964, she started volunteering at her children's school. At the time, Pilsen wasn't the Mexican-American enclave it is today. But the Bohemian and Polish mothers who volunteered at Jungman School welcomed her, according to her children.

"The ladies there, they supported her, they taught her how to run meetings, how to take notes," her son said. "As

the neighborhood changed from Eastern European, she became the leader because she had a knowledge of how to run a meeting."

Mrs. Loredo landed a job as a school community representative at Jungman, where she helped Spanish-speaking families with enrollment, immunization forms and social services.

"That position served as a starting point," according to the Pilsen Neighbors Community Council. "She mentored, she encouraged, she led." She walked alongside hundreds of parents and became central to the campaign to win Benito Juarez high school.

"She knew how to pull out their strengths," whether it was lettering signs or giving speeches, her daughter said. One woman she mentored, Teresa Fraga, "was just fresh from Texas," her daughter said. But Mrs. Loredo observed, "She has a lot of talent, and she's keeping it at home. We need it."

"When my child started at

Head Start," said Fraga, now a 75-year-old community organizer. "She never let me go."

She was the first Spanish-speaking person to work at the schools in Pilsen."

Ald. Danny Solis (25th) said that through Mrs. Loredo, "I learned a lot about being an advocate. She was there at every meeting" and protest, he said, in Pilsen or downtown.

One of her biggest supporters was her husband.

"The fact he didn't oppose her work, I think it helped other husbands in the community accept their wives' activities," said their granddaughter, Inez Rodriguez.

To Mrs. Loredo, even cooking could be a community-organizing tool. She was known for her tamales, fried chicken and enchiladas and adept at organizing other home cooks to pull together big luncheons.

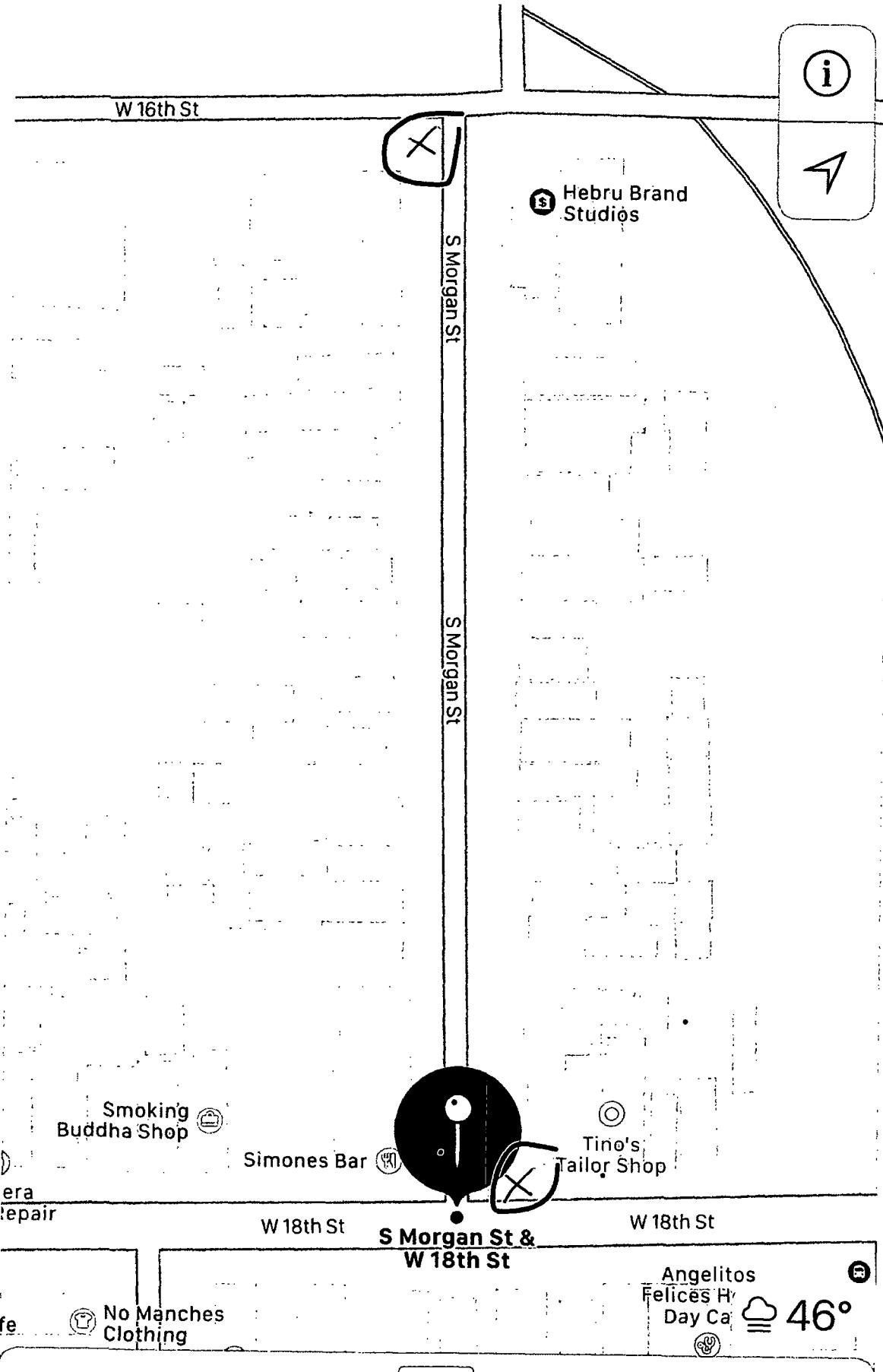
After interim schools Supt. Angeline Caruso came to the Pilsen council for a Mexican feast, Solis recalled, Mrs. Loredo and others invited Caruso to join them for a walk to a crammed school nearby.

"She couldn't say, 'I don't have time,' but she had time to eat," Solis said of Caruso.

So they walked to the school, trailed by TV cameras, and saw the crowded conditions. The Chicago Board of Education later voted in favor of a relief plan for the cramped school, Solis said.

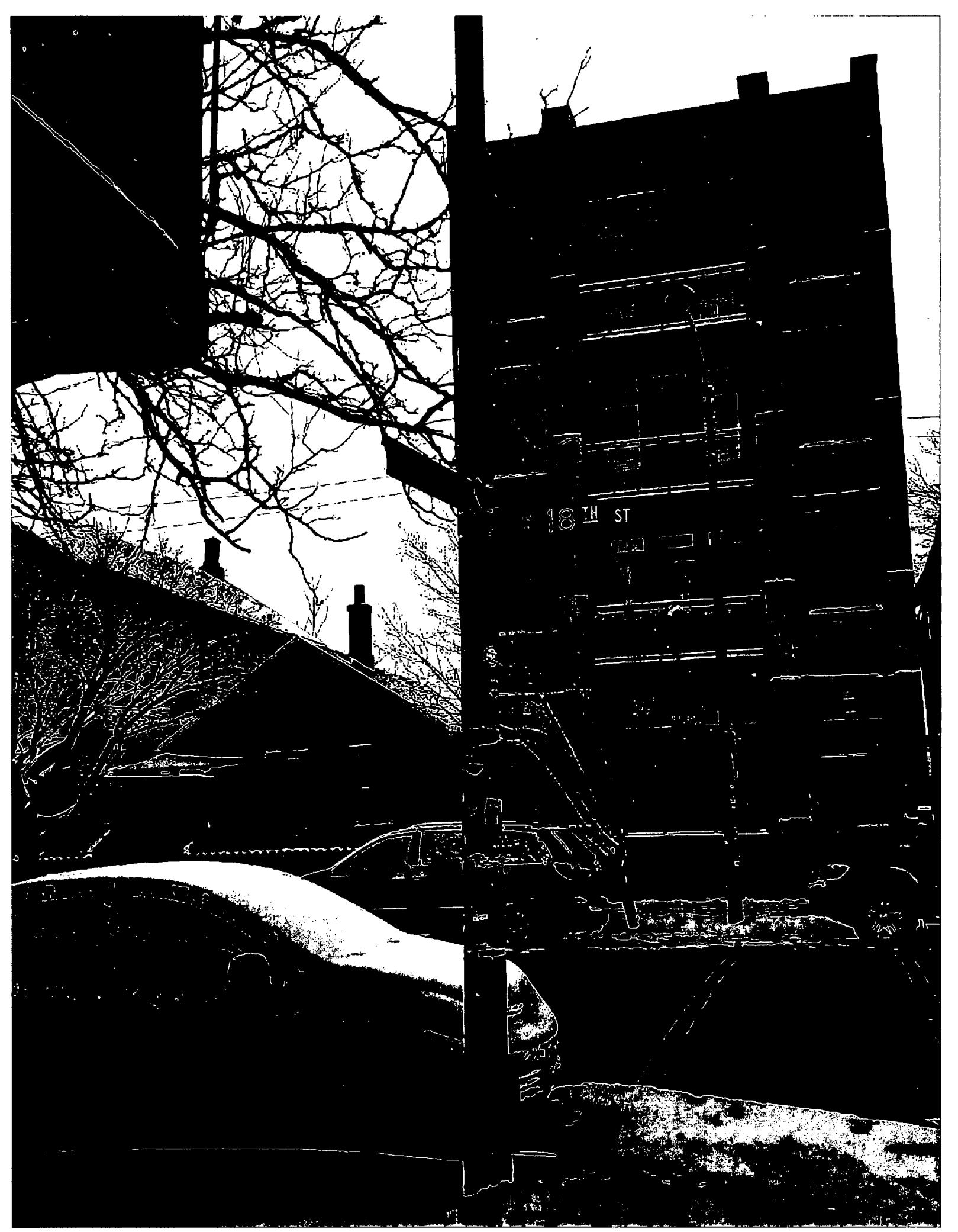
Mrs. Loredo is also survived by seven grandchildren and a sister, Jacinta Alvarez Leal. Services have been held.

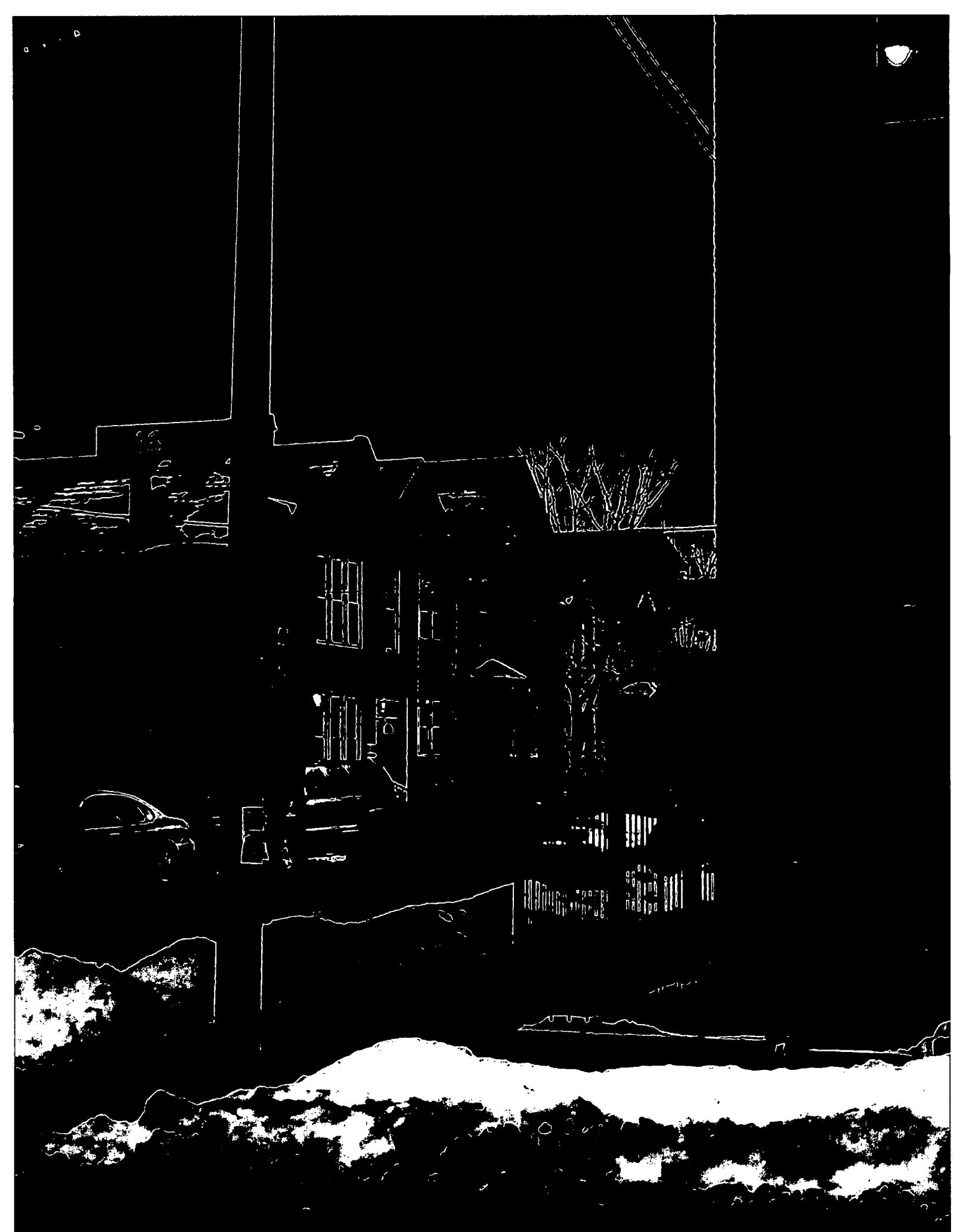
Email: modonell@suntimes.com
Twitter: [@suntimesobits](https://twitter.com/suntimesobits)



S Morgan St & W 18th St

0.6 mi





Date: February 28, 2018

Office of Budget and Management
121 North LaSalle, Room 604
Chicago, IL 60602

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Daniel Solis, Alderman of the 25th Ward, hereby authorize the Office of Budget Management to withdraw the funds associated with the cost of installation for this honorary street designation for Inez Loredo Street from my:



Ward's annual menu program budget



Ward's aldermanic expense allowance

upon passage of this honorary street designation ordinance, pursuant to Section 2-8-040 of the Chicago Municipal Code.

Sincerely,



Daniel Solis
Alderman, 25th Ward