



Office of the City Clerk

City Hall
121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
www.chicityclerk.com

Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Wilfredo Benitez, 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 Benitez won 53 of his 62 fights by knock out; and

WHEREAS, Nicknamed "El Radar," for his precise ability to land a powerful blow, Wilfredo Benitez sparred off during his remarkable career against boxing greats such as Roberto Duran, Thomas Hearns 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 Benitez 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 Benitez developed boxer's dementia," a condition caused by repeated head trauma; and

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

WHEREAS, Wilfredo Benitez 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 Benitez 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 Benitez Day throughout the City of Chicago; and

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

Alderman - 26th Ward