



Office of the City Clerk

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Attachments: 1. R2022-962.pdf

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
9/21/2022	1	City Council	Introduced (Agreed Calendar)	
9/21/2022	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass

Chicago City Council

September 21, 2022

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MYRNA SALAZAR

WHEREAS, It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that we learn the passing of Myrna Salazar-a once-in-a-lifetime visionary and creator of possibility, and Chicago Icon; and

WHEREAS, Myrna was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and raised in Chicago-both dualities drove her to champion Latino representation, demand equity, and ultimately, pave the way for countless generations to come; and

WHEREAS, She was a Latina Trailblazer whose impact within art, education, and business throughout the City is an ode to the many shattered ceilings and countless rooms she unapologetically took every inch of space in; and

WHEREAS, Myrna was a pioneer who led many dynamic roles such being crowned Queen of the first Chicago Puerto Rican Day Parade in 1966; and

WHEREAS, She began her career working at the West Town Economic Development Corporation as an Economic Development Specialist, where she generated millions in the procurement housing and business development, contributing to the development of Paseo Boricua and Humboldt Park; and

WHEREAS, Myrna was the Founder and President of Salazar & Navas Talent Agency Inc., a talent agency she ran for over 25 years that launched or furthered the careers of many beloved Chicago artists like Justina Machado, Aimee Garza, Nadine Velazquez, Ricky Gambao, Sandra Delgado, and Miranda Gonzalez; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980's, she was a member of the Chicago Board of Education, where she used her platform to advocate for bilingual programming and to bring educators from abroad who furthered her mission; and

WHEREAS, Myrna co-founded the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance in addition to three of the most prominent Latino cultural institutions in Chicago: The National Museum of Mexican Art, The International Latino Cultural Center, and The Puerto Rican Arts Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, she was a Member of the Choose Chicago Board, Member of the League of Chicago Theaters Board, and Member of the City of Chicago Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs and Special Events; and

WHEREAS, Myrna's greatest work was undeniably the creation of the "Destinos: The Chicago International Latino Theater Festival" (Destinos), Chicago's annual citywide festival that showcases Latino theater artists and companies from Chicago, the U.S., and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, This year, Destinos is dedicated to Myrna and will run its fifth year from September 14-October 16, 2022, with a total of 13 productions-local productions like "Colectivo El Pozo" and "The Wizards", and international productions like "Pequenos territorios en Reconstrucción"; and

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WHEREAS, The creation of the Destinos Festival has led to the largest impact on the cultivation of Chicago Latino theater, not only as a display of Latino theater, but as an incubator beyond the Festival through the establishment of equitable opportunity with investment in new or overlooked theaters; and

WHEREAS, It was a privilege to know her and her never-ending passion, love, and energy-she was a true changemaker at a time that was especially difficult and unheard of for Women, much less, Latinas-as a result, her legacy is deeply woven into Chicago's past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, Myrna is survived by her children Yvette (Steve) Sharp, Iliana (Greg) Romero, stepson Christopher Dovalina; grandchildren Ariela Romero, Andres Romero, Gabriela Bibbens, and Gabe Sharp; mother, Carmen Rosado Feliciano; sister, Carmen Salazar; and preceded in death by her second husband, Cesar Dovalina; and, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago gathered here on this 21st Day of September 2022, do hereby express our sorrow with the passing of Myrna Salazar and extend our sincere condolences to the countless lives she impacted, and honor the legacy she deeply established within the fabric of Chicago's collective and diverse identity.

Gilbert Villegas Alderman, 36th Ward

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Myrna Salazar's family as a symbol of gratitude for her selfless contributions and immense impact toward growth within the Latino community and the City of Chicago.

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RESOLUTION: TRIBUTE TO LATE MYRNA SALAZAR

RECORD NO.: R2022-962

Chicago City Council

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September 21, 2022

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