



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

December 14, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Mitts, O'Shea, Sposato, Nugent, Lopez, Silverstein, Brookins, Scott, Cappelman, Villegas, Waguespack, Sadlowski-Garza, Gardiner, Moore, Hadden and Hopkins, a memorial resolution honoring Myrna Salazar.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that we express our condolences at the passing of Myrna Salazar, a once-in-a-lifetime visionary, creator of possibility, and Chicago icon; and

WHEREAS, Salazar was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and raised in Chicago and her experiences in both places drove her to champion Latino representation, demand equity, and ultimately pave the way for countless Latino artists to pursue illustrious careers; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer who assumed many dynamic roles, Salazar was crowned queen of the first Chicago Puerto Rican Day Parade in 1966; and

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

WHEREAS, Salazar 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 1980s, Salazar 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, Additionally, Salazar was a member of the Choose Chicago Board, the League of Chicago Theaters Board, and the City of Chicago Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs and Special Events; and

WHEREAS, Salazar's greatest work was undeniably the creation of the "Destinos: The Chicago International Latino Theater Festival", Chicago's annual citywide festival that showcases Latino theater artists and companies from Chicago, the United States and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, It was a privilege to know her and her never-ending passion, love, and energy-she was a true change maker 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; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled on this fourteenth day of December 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; and

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