


David Whitaker, Esq.
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Director, Historic Designation
Advisory Board

John Alexander
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Paige Blessman
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP
Eric Fazzini, AICP
Willene Green
Christopher Gulock, AICP

City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

Derrick Headd
Marcel Hurt, Esq.
Kimani Jeffrey
Phillip Keller, Esq.
Edward King
Kelsey Maas
Jamie Murphy
Analine Powers, Ph.D.
W. Akilah Redmond
Laurie Anne Sabatini
Rebecca Savage
Sabrina Shockley
Renee Short
Floyd Stanley
Thomas Stephens, Esq.
Timarie Szwed
Theresa Thomas
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: October 6, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHICANO PEOPLES' DAY (DIA DE LA RAZA)**

Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHICANO PEOPLES' DAY (DIA DE LA RAZA)**.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHICANO PEOPLES' DAY (DIA DE LA RAZA)

WHEREAS, Dia de la Raza has a long and complex history dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. While Dia de la Raza was originally celebrated on October 12 to coincide with the arrival Christopher Columbus to the Americas, it has evolved to be a recognition and celebration of indigenous people and the multicultural nature of many Spanish-speaking countries; and

WHEREAS, Many Spanish-speaking countries continue to celebrate each year on October 12, however the holiday goes by many different names depending on the country, and countries are continually changing the names of the holiday to reflect a growing recognition of the devastating effects that European colonization has had on indigenous populations; and

WHEREAS, Similarly, the word “Chicano” originated as a racial slur toward Mexican Americans who were treated as second-class citizens in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In the mid-20th century, activists embraced the term Chicano in what became known as the Chicano rights movement, which is a movement associated with individuals such as Cesar Chavez and which fought for the rights of agricultural workers in the American southwest, cultural recognition and civil rights for Mexican Americans, and for the broader Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, Although some use the word Chicano to refer to individuals of Mexican and American descent generally, many still associate the word with individuals who share a spirit of social and political activism, and who proudly embrace their traditional Mexican and indigenous heritage; and

WHEREAS, Chicano culture represents a unique identity that is neither fully American nor Mexican, and which has become internationally famous and influential for lowriding culture as well as muralism, visual art, music, poetry, activism and more; and

WHEREAS, Chicano Peoples' Day (Dia de la Raza) is a day to celebrate the multicultural identities of Chicanos and individuals in Spanish speaking countries, and to reflect on the history of colonization and its continued effect on indigenous peoples; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes October 12 as Chicano Peoples' Day (Dia de la Raza); **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk send copies of this resolution to the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, and the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

