



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 19-1890, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAQUEL GUERRERO, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AND FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE *ASOCIACIÓN PRO DERECHOS OBREROS*

WHEREAS, Raquel Guerrero was a leader, organizer, and activist in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, Her efforts to support education, culture, and social justice will continue to have a long-lasting impact on her community; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1960's, she played an instrumental role in the boycott and occupation of Froebel High School, then a satellite branch of Harrison High School; and

WHEREAS, These actions were meant to protest against the lack of resources for the school and led to historic walkouts organized by both African-American and Mexican-American students; and

WHEREAS, These walkouts started an education reform movement in Pilsen between parents, clergy, and activists that led to the efforts towards the first public high school in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, As a result, in 1972, Mrs. Guerrero and hundreds of other community members delivered petitions to the Chicago Board of Education and made a case for a public high school which is now known as Benito Juarez Community Academy; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Guerrero's education efforts continued as she organized residents and advocated for funding to establish Pilsen's local branch of the Chicago Public Library, which was named for critical community figure, Rudy Lozano; and

WHEREAS, Raquel Guerrero also contributed to establishing Fiesta del Sol, one of the largest summer festivals in the Midwest which has drawn visitors for over 45 years and is emblematic of the Mexican-American community in Pilsen; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Mrs. Guerrero was a founding member of *Asociación Pro Derechos Obreros*, a workers' rights organization with an important history as a resource for the community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Guerrero arrived to the U.S. from Mexico in the 1950's and made Pilsen her home until her passing on February 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Raquel Guerrero was the beloved mother of nine children, grandmother to thirty-six grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and devoted spouse to the late Jose Acosta Guerrero; and

WHEREAS, Known for her strength and compassion, Raquel Guerrero's legacy will live on through the lasting impact her work will have on the Pilsen community for generations to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor the life

and work of cherished community leader Raquel Guerrero; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Raquel Guerrero's family and to the *Asociación Pro Derechos Obreros* as a symbol of condolence and recognition of her dedication.