

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

March 19, 2019

**Commemorating César E. Chávez Day**

On March 26, 2017, the County of Los Angeles joined the federal government in celebrating César E. Chávez Day by establishing a holiday to commemorate the birthday and legacy of civil rights and labor movement leader César Chávez.

César Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, and spent much of his youth as a migrant farm worker with his family. His life in the field provided him with firsthand experience of the mistreatment, low wages, and deplorable working conditions migrant farm workers were subjected to. César Chávez was committed to making a change for the better, and become a labor organizer in the 1950s. He formed the National Farm Workers Association in 1962, which would later join forces with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee to form the National United Farm Workers. All through his life, César Chávez was at the forefront of leading marches, hunger strikes, and boycotts to bring attention to the plight of the migrant workers.

César Chávez used nonviolent means to bring national focus and drive change to improve workers' rights, and to win medical coverage, fair wages and benefits for workers. President Bill Clinton recognized César Chávez's contributions with the posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994. In 2004, the State of California established an official holiday for César Chávez, and President Barack Obama later declared César Chávez Day a federal commemorative holiday in 2014. The County of Los Angeles was proud to follow suit in 2017.

**MOTION**

Solis \_\_\_\_\_

Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Kuehl \_\_\_\_\_

Barger \_\_\_\_\_

Hahn \_\_\_\_\_

César Chávez's efforts changed the lives of countless farm workers and their families. His slogan, "Sí, se puede" which means "Yes, we can" continues to resonate and inspire today. On this holiday join us in reflecting upon César Chávez's legacy and by actively engaging in service to our communities in honor of his memory.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors

1. Proclaim March 25, 2019, as César Chávez day throughout Los Angeles County; and
2. Encourage all County residents to participate in volunteering efforts as well as events being held throughout their communities to commemorate the legacy of César Chávez.

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