

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

September 26, 2023

Proclaiming October 2023 as Filipino American History Month and October 25, 2023 as Larry Itliong Day

October is Filipino American History month, which has been celebrated in communities across the United States every year since 2009, when it was first designated by the United States Congress.

This month is used to commemorate and honor the Filipino experience in America, with the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States occurring in October of 1587. Filipino Americans represent the second-largest Asian American ethnic group in the United States, with over 4.1 million across the country. Los Angeles County alone is home to over 370,000 Filipino residents, the most of any single County in the United States.

Recognizing Filipino Americans is especially meaningful this year, as it marks 125 years since the Philippines declared independence from Spanish rule. In fact, this June, the County recognized Philippine Independence Day, honoring the sacrifices of

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Philippines' national heroes and celebrating the culture and tradition of Filipinos.

October 25 is also recognized as "Larry Itliong Day" in the State of California. Larry Itliong is an important Filipino-American labor leader and civil rights champion. Born in the Philippines, in 1929 he moved to the United States, where he would help shape the farm labor movement. During World War II, he moved to California, where he helped launch the asparagus strike of 1948, representing the first major agricultural strike after World War II. In 1956, he founded the Filipino Farm Labor Union, and helped create the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee. In 1965, he fought alongside farm workers in the Coachella Valley. These workers would ultimately partner with Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and the National Farmworkers Association, helping secure the first farmworker union contracts. His contributions helped form the foundation of the labor movement and helped farmworkers secure many of the rights they enjoy today.

Historic Filipino enclaves span across the County of Los Angeles, including West Covina and Historic Filipinotown in the First District of Los Angeles County, as well as the city of Carson in the Second Supervisorial District. Filipino residents are also an integral part of the County workforce. The Los Angeles County Filipino Americans Employee Association represents many of the Filipino County employees, and for nearly 50 years, their hard work has helped advance the County's mission will preserving Philippine identity and heritage. This month and year-round, it is important to recognize and uplift their significant contributions to the cultural fabric of Los Angeles County.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim October as

Filipino American History Month and October 25, 2023 as Larry Itliong Day.

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