

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

October 3, 2023

**Recognizing Bobby Arias for Latino Heritage Month**

September 15 – October 15 is Latino Heritage Month and offers the opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and uplift all the ways Los Angeles County’s diverse Latino community has contributed to our history and identity as Angelenos. Today, we recognize Robert “Bobby” Arias, an impactful gang intervention leader who is the current President of Champions in Service.

Arias’ leadership has had transformative results across greater Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. It all started after Arias’ lifelong friend, Blinky Rodriguez, lost his son to gang violence in 1990. Together, they turned their pain into action and have since helped many at-risk youth stay in school and away from gang involvement through Champions in Service. They have scaled their intervention work by convening law enforcement, city officials, nonprofit service providers, and school districts to meet youth where they are with education support and job readiness and placement programs. Arias also leads the San Fernando Valley Coalition on Gangs. Through this vital gang intervention work, Arias is addressing the dropout crisis and providing life-changing services to our community.

**MOTION**

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

Prior to his appointment as President of Champions in Service, Arias had a diversified professional background having served as the Executive Director of USC's Learning Center and the Director of Athletics at Loyola Marymount University.

Arias received the prestigious "Man of the Year" award in 1985 for youth empowerment from MCI and Hispanic Magazine. He served as the 1996 Chairman for the Executive Committee for Arnold Schwarzenegger's Inner-City Games and, in 1998, the California Department of Social Services presented him with the "California All Star Dad's" Award.

A native of the San Fernando Valley, Arias has lived his life as a model for justice-impacted youth, mentoring countless young people and serving as a coach and athletic director in his spare time. He is a beloved Master of Ceremonies, DJing dozens of events annually in LA County and City parks.

Arias earned his Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California in 1974 and now serves on the Community Advisory Board of the USC School of Social Work.

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

In honor of Latino Heritage Month in Los Angeles County, acknowledge and recognize Bobby Arias for his contributions to the residents of the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles County, and the Third District.

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