

October 18, 2022

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Recognizing Second District Hispanic Heritage Month Honorees

Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month gives Los Angeles County (County) an opportunity to honor the individuals and organizations that work to empower and showcase the diversity of Hispanic and Latinx populations in the County. Angelenos can look to this year’s honorees and celebrate the work being done to improve the lives of Angelenos and uplift Hispanic and Latinx individuals’ experiences. This year, the Second Supervisorial District honors individuals and organizations whose contributions empower their communities while working towards bridging racial and cultural divides and cultural preservation.

Susana Fattorini has been an educator for the Culver City Unified School District for 10 years. As an educator, Ms. Fattorini teaches Arts and Culture at Culver City High School, a new class that builds on an ethnic studies framework. Her class examines counter-narratives and identity, and allows students to explore their rings of culture and learn how to express themselves through artwork. She is a proud Latina, who was born in Argentina and raised in the County. Ms. Fattorini is married to a Mexican American and is raising their son to be proud of his Latino roots. For her many years of dedicated service in the field of education, Susana Fattorini is this year’s recipient of the Public Service Award.

Founded in 2012, Compton Health Bar is a community wellness space offering herbal remedies that are rooted in ancestral healing traditions. Tapping into the wisdom of generations of family healers and curanderismo practitioners, Dani Solorio founded Compton Health Bar to make holistic wellness more accessible to underserved communities of color and to nourish the BIPOC, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ communities across the United States. Their team of herbalists includes a certified integrative nutrition health coach, registered nurse assistant, iridology practitioner, and curanderismo apprentice. Many of their herbal remedies utilize organic

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ingredients sourced locally and from around the world. For their innovative thinking in bringing tradition and entrepreneurship together, Compton Health Bar is this year's recipient of the Small Business Influencer Award.

Elizabeth Caamal is a high school student who lives in the unincorporated Florence-Firestone community. Like many students, she has taken a long and hard look at her community and understands there is room for improvement. As a young and civically engaged youth, Ms. Caamal has a deep interest in environmental justice and wants to help create greener spaces in her community. She has delved into this work by continuously writing to elected officials and asking that they create green projects and by advocating for funding for projects that have already been established. She recently met with the County's Department of Parks and Recreation where she presented her vision for a park in the vacant lots located on 92nd Street in the Florence-Firestone community. She also helped launch an initiative to call for improvements to Col. Leon H. Washington Park. Ms. Caamal acknowledges that all communities can use improvements and strongly believes that constituents need to engage in that process. For her advocacy and commitment to improving the community of Florence-Firestone, Elizabeth Caamal is this year's recipient of the Young Leader Award.

Teresa Jasso is a dedicated leader and longtime member of the community-based organization Sisters of Watts. As part of her work with Sisters of Watts, she helps bridge the gap between Black and Hispanic residents by providing translation services to Spanish speaking families that benefit from the organization's resources. This August, the Sisters of Watts hosted a back-to-school supply giveaway in partnership with the Second District and Children's Institute in which 2,000 constituents participated. She aided with translating forms that assisted the organizations in capturing key data. Her impact is reflected in her children who often join her at community events to volunteer and learn the importance of being civically engaged. In addition to her efforts with Sisters of Watts, Ms. Jasso also serves as a member of the Resident Advisory Board for the Jordan Downs Housing Project, where she provides feedback on improving programs by building relationships with the youth who use the Jordan Downs recreation/resource

center. For her commitment to community engagement and empowerment, Teresa Jasso is this year's recipient of the Community Engagement Award.

Sociedad Jose Marti is a Cuban community organization that strives to preserve the culture and livelihood of Cubans as well as immigrants from other countries. Named after Jose Marti, who is a renowned poet, writer, and leader of the Cuban Independence movement from Spain, Sociedad Jose Marti has positioned itself as an organization that embodies the values and principles of this notable Cuban leader: freedom, tolerance, and love. In the 1960's, when a large Cuban community in Inglewood spread across the County, the idea of a Cuban fraternal organization in California came to life with the vision of Cubans uniting and assisting one another after uprooting to a country they now call home. Sociedad Jose Marti members visit community newcomers from Cuba and other countries and provide them with necessary support, food, clothes, and furniture. They also provide English language and citizenship classes to members and neighbors, and provide job opportunities for many Cubans experiencing relocation. Store owners donate toys to be distributed among the members and neighbors. Sociedad Jose Marti is inspired to give back to the community that has supported them. They spearheaded efforts to have a fountain installed in the lobby of Hawthorne City Hall by soliciting donations from its members. The Cuban men and women are grateful to a nation that has welcomed them into this country from their native soil. Many who are unable to, or will never return to Cuba, have it within their hearts to give back to the communities which have embraced them. For their commitment to cultural preservation, boundless neighborly spirit, and community engagement, Sociedad Jose Marti is this year's recipient of the Trailblazer Award.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, acknowledge and recognize the contributions of Susana Fattorini, Compton Health Bar, Elizabeth Caamal, Teresa Jasso, and Sociedad Jose Marti for their numerous contributions to the County of Los Angeles.

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