

BY PÉREZ, BORKOWSKI, COGGS, DODD, SPIKER, STAMPER, RAINEY

Resolution congratulating Landmark Lanes on its 95th anniversary.

WHEREAS,

LANDMARK LANES

was founded in 1927 and it celebrated 95th anniversary from September 26th to September 30th with a week of community events, commemorating 95 years filled with bowling, music, darts, billiards, arcade fun and good times at its subterranean location at 2220 N. Farwell Ave.; and

WHEREAS, *Founded in 1927 as the Oriental Theater and Bensinger's Recreation at the site of a horse, mule and streetcar barn, Landmark Lanes quickly became a place where people could gather to recreate and be entertained, a haven especially during the dark times of the Great Depression; and*

WHEREAS, *In 1943 the facility's ownership was transferred to Triangle Publications, owned by the son of ML Annenberg, the original owner of Bensinger's, after his sudden passing, and during the next 29 years changed hands twice before being sold in 1972 to the Pritchett brothers, who renamed the facility Oriental Landmark Lanes and opened a second bar in the back room by removing the five remaining manual lanes; and*

WHEREAS, *The back room was renamed the Jazz Oasis in 1973 and featured jazz guitarist George Pritchett, and it soon welcomed local and national jazz artists, and seven years later opened as a large, open bar area featuring pool tables, dart lanes, a superb jukebox, and – for years – some large caricature portraits of patrons and workers; and*

WHEREAS, *Whether they went there just out of curiosity, thirst, in need of a foosball fix or a dose of darts, a Tuesday night import, a dozen credits on Space Invaders, or to rub elbows with pro athletes and celebrities such as David Byrne, Ringo Starr, Former Mayor Frank Zeidler, Gloria Estefan, Everclear, Ted Nugent, Norah Jones, The Dixie Chicks or Gloria Steinem, patrons of Landmark Lanes went there because it has always offered a welcoming place for people of all races, religions, ages, sexual orientation, colors and ethnic backgrounds, providing a rich and diverse Milwaukee destination to be proud of, and the tradition continues under New Land Enterprises and majority owner Slava Tuzhilkov; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Landmark Lanes on its 95th anniversary, recognizes its recent National Historic Landmark Status as of February 2022 along with its festive contributions to the City of Milwaukee, and extends its sincere wishes for continued success; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Landmark Lanes.*

Introduced by Common Council members José G. Pérez, Mark A. Borkowski, Milele A. Coggs, Nikiya Dodd, Scott Spiker, Russell W. Stamper, II, and Khalif J. Rainey and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on September 20, 2022.