

BY ALDS. COGGS, PÉREZ, MURPHY, PUENTE, ZIELINSKI, DONOVAN, BOHL, KOVAC, HAMILTON, STAMPER, BORKOWSKI.

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Juan Carlos Ruiz.

WHEREAS,

JUAN CARLOS RUIZ

passed from this life on March 3, 2016, at the age of 53, and a memorial service was held on March 10, 2016 at The Astor Hotel, 924 E. Juneau Ave.; and

WHEREAS, *Juan Carlos Ruiz was born in 1963, grew up in Huancayo, Peru, graduated from the Colegio Salesiano "Santa Rosa" in Huancayo and studied Psychology at the National University of Federico Villarreal; and*

WHEREAS, *A community organizer from a young age, Juan Carlos Ruiz was subjected to threats of violence because of work he was doing in opposition to "Shining Path" and was forced to flee his homeland, and four years later he arrived in the United States where he secured political asylum; and*

WHEREAS, *Juan Carlos Ruiz quickly returned to community activism and leadership, helping develop a community nursing center at a Riverwest school while working at the East Side Housing Action Coalition (ESHAC), and he coordinated a crime prevention campaign to identify and close down 50 suspected drug houses, mobilized more than 300 city residents behind a liquor license reform, and helped to create and continue to run a neighborhood group, the Cleaning Out Riverwest Committee, which helped to redevelop Gordon Park for youth recreational activities; and*

WHEREAS, *The recipient of a Robert Wood Johnson award in 1999, Juan Carlos Ruiz was a community organizer for the Wisconsin Citizen Action Fund's Community Lead-Safe Zones project, and as an organizer in Maryland and Milwaukee strived to increase Latino voter turnout, working closely with national groups like LULAC, NCLR, and the Council of Latino Agencies, and he served as the Executive Director of the DC Latino Action Coalition, later founded the Milwaukee Latino Carnival Parade and Street Festival, and marched with 60,000 immigrants and supporters who rallied at the Day Without Latinos and Immigrants on February 18, 2016 at the Capitol in Madison; and*

WHEREAS, *Juan Carlos Ruiz was an active participant in local politics, lending his hand and organizing skills to many city, county and state campaigns, and he was a devoted advocate for his culture and community and was at his best when he brought people together to fight to improve their neighborhood and the city of Milwaukee; and*

WHEREAS, *Juan Carlos Ruiz leaves to cherish his memory his two children, Roberto Ruiz and Paulina Ruiz-Maki, and a whole host of other loving friends and family members; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the family and friends of Juan Carlos Ruiz and mourns with deep sorrow the passing of this fine man; and be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Juan Carlos Ruiz.*

Introduced by Common Council members Milele A. Coggs, José G. Pérez, Michael J. Murphy, Robert W. Puente, Tony Zielinski, Robert G. Donovan, Jim Bohl, Nik Kovac, Ashanti Hamilton, Russell W. Stamper, II and Mark A. Borkowski and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on March 29, 2016.