



PROCLAMATION

presented for

César E. Chávez

Fourth Annual Holiday Celebration

March 28, 2005

Whereas, César Chávez, first president of the United Farm Workers, was born in Yuma, Arizona in 1927 into a Mexican American family, and, as a child, picked every conceivable crop in Arizona and California with his parents and four siblings; and

Whereas, a soft-spoken, courageous person, Chávez became an internationally recognized labor leader and spokesperson who raised America's consciousness of the unfair practices and conditions American farm workers had endured for decades; and

Whereas, Chávez advocated non-violence and personally sacrificed for La Causa, "the cause," in search of justice and equality, and went on three lengthy fasts to publicize United Farm Workers struggles, such as the use of pesticides and grower violence against farm workers; and

Whereas, Chávez brought attention to unfair labor practices by California grape growers and rallied the support of 17 million Americans to boycott California grapes for five years; and priests, nuns, rabbis, ministers, students, and politicians marched at his side to demand justice for American farm workers; and

Whereas, César Chávez believed in fair and equal treatment for all people, participated in and supported numerous civil rights marches on behalf of African-Americans, women, and ultimately gays and lesbians; and for many, Chávez was much more than an organizer, he was a great labor leader and a great humanitarian; and

Whereas, local organizations have coordinated a month-long series of events in Long Beach to celebrate the legacy of César Chávez including an Annual César E. Chávez Holiday Celebration Luncheon on Monday, March 28, 2005, at César E. Chávez Park;

Now, Therefore, I, Beverly O'Neill, Mayor of the City of Long Beach, on behalf of the Long Beach City Council, do hereby proclaim Monday, March 28, 2005, as the official Fourth Annual César E. Chávez Holiday Celebration in the City of Long Beach.



Beverly O'Neill
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MAYOR

Bonnie Lowenthal
Councilmember, First District

Dated: March 22, 2005