

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 19-1362 Honoring the Legacy of Raul Vásquez Jr.

WHEREAS, Raul Vásquez Jr. will leave an indelible legacy in Denver's mariachi community through his founding of Denver's notable Mariachi Vásquez, one of the Southwest's premier mariachi groups; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1987 Mariachi Vásquez was formed, making their debut in the mariachi scene at Denver's annual Cinco De Mayo celebration of 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vásquez Jr began performing mariachi music professionally from the age of 11 and worked tirelessly promoting a positive cultural image for his community, educating young children on the importance of music, and living the values of family, culture, respect and joy; and

WHEREAS, his work and passion were on display between 2000 and 2006 at Denver's Annual Mariachi Festival, serving more than 60,000 national and international attendees over 5 days of live music and dance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vásquez Jr., with the support of Mariachi Vásquez, helped establish and instruct the North High School Mariachi band in 2003, and was inducted alongside his wife, Sylvia Vásquez, into the Chicano Music Hall of Fame in 2013 by Su Teatro Cultural & Performing Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, he led Mariachi Vásquez in numerous performances throughout the region, including such notable events as Hispanic Heritage Night for the Denver Nuggets, the "See You Later, North Building!" party for the Denver Art Museum, Su Teatro Cultural & Performing Arts Center Annual Chicano Music Festival, Elitch Gardens' Hispanic Music Festival; and

WHEREAS, Raul Vásquez Jr. was awarded the Lifetime Achievement and Excellence Award in Mariachi Music for being a leader, innovator, artist and superior role model of integrity and visionary of mariachi music from the Metropolitan State University of Denver Department of Music's Mariachi Program; and

WHEREAS, through all his professional success, Mr. Vásquez Jr. remained a supportive husband for 42 years, a loving father of five, and a devoted grandfather.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER THAT:

Section 1. The Council of the City and County of Denver hereby honors Mr. Raul Vásquez Jr. and remembers him for his devotion to the mariachi community.

Section 2. The Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Mrs. Sylvia Vásquez.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL December 9, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the President.

PRESIDENT