

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 12-0205

Remembering the life, legacy, and vision of César E. Chávez

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez was born in 1927 near Yuma Arizona and moved to California with his family to work as migrant farm workers after loosing their farm during a dishonest loan transaction; and

WHEREAS, before the rise of the UFW, working conditions were harsh for most agricultural workers, who were not provided even the most basic necessities such as clean drinking water or portable toilets; many lived in shacks without indoor plumbing or cooking facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, César Chávez, along with many dedicated farm workers, formed what was to become the United Farm Workers of America, securing historic labor and civil rights concessions for exploited and impoverished farm workers; and

WHEREAS, Chávez and the union marched 340 miles in 1966 from Delano to Sacramento focusing national attention and recognition for the importance and dignity of all farm workers, and by 1970 Chávez—joined by Dolores Huerta—organized the historic grape boycott resulting in union contracts with most of the grape grower industry; and

WHEREAS, César E. Chávez believed in social justice through non-violence, using the picket line and the power of the boycott as well as sacrificing his own life during 3 historic fasts in 1968 for 25 days, in 1972 for 24 days, and again in 1988 for 36 days; and

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez gave his last ounce of strength to La Causa, dying peacefully in his sleep on April 23, 1993, leaving his legacy and symbol of dignity for all people who seek justice; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the City and County of Denver commemorated the birthday of César Chávez by officially designating the last Monday of March as the César Chávez holiday for City employees; and

WHEREAS, the 11th Annual César Chávez Day March will be held on Saturday, March 31, beginning with an 8:00 a.m. mass at St. Cajetan Church located at 299 S. Raleigh Street, and following the mass the march will proceed to the Denver Indian Center located at 4407 Morrison Road; where there will be food, art, music, and plenty of inviting activities for all.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER;

Section 1. That the Denver City Council remembers and honors the work of César Estrada Chávez, and encourages Denver citizens to live by his vision for social justice through non-violence.

Section 2. That 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 the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 19, 2012

PRESIDENT