

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-161

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA APPROVING THE NAMING OF EAST 1ST AVENUE FROM EAST 8TH STREET TO EAST 9TH STREET/NORTHWEST 62ND STREET AS “MODESTO PEREZ WAY”, WITH THE COST OF SIGNAGE TO BE PAID BY THE CITY, IN HIS HONOR, AS A COMMUNITY LEADER, ADVOCATE, AND OWNER OF A LONG-ESTABLISHED SMALL BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF HIALEAH.

WHEREAS, the street naming at East 1ST Avenue from East 8th Street to East 9th Street/Northwest 62nd Street, Hialeah, Florida as “Modesto Perez Way”, is in Honor of Modesto Rafael Perez, who has been a community leader, advocate, and owner of a long-established small business in the City of Hialeah; and

WHEREAS, born in Cienfuegos, Cuba to a hotel administrator, Mr. Perez flourished as a jai alai player in Havana and reached the professional ranks of the sport; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perez’s success as a jai alai player was shattered when he was arrested by the Cuban communist government and held as a political prisoner for nearly a decade for refusing to join the revolutionary militia and for opposing Fidel Castro’s totalitarian regime; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1970’s Mr. Perez fled from his native homeland to Queens, New York, where he operated a restaurant for several years with the aspiration of achieving the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, eventually, Mr. Perez relocated to Miami-Dade County where he settled in the City of Hialeah; and

WHEREAS, to provide for his five children, Mr. Perez then went on to found Mr. Cool Appliances, a successful air conditioning business in Hialeah, which he continues to operate successfully to this day; and

WHEREAS, since 1983, Mr. Perez has led La Asociacion de Comerciantes y Profesionales de Hialeah (The Hialeah Merchants and Professionals Association) which provides assistance to local small businesses; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Mr. Perez has continuously distinguished himself as a selfless advocate for the elderly and less fortunate and, most notably, as a trusted advisor to many

entrepreneurs and political figures whose respect he has earned; and

WHEREAS, true to his generous spirit, Mr. Perez routinely coordinates the donation of food and goods from local businesses to be distributed to the neediest in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perez’s experiences as a political prisoner, exile, family man, businessman, and advocate reflect the story of countless other Miami-Dade County residents who have overcome similar challenges, and who have woven into the fabric of this community a legacy of hard work, service, sacrifice, and determination which will undoubtedly be a source of inspiration for generations to come; and

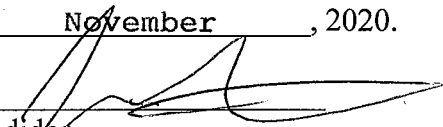
WHEREAS, in recognition of Mr. Perez and his contributions to the community, this Board would like to urge the City of Hialeah to codesignate that portion of East 1st Avenue from East 8th Street to East 9th Street/Northwest 62nd Street as “Modesto Perez Way”; and

WHEREAS, that portion of East 1st Avenue from East 8th Street to East 9th Street/Northwest 62nd Street is a city-maintained street located in the City of Hialeah and County Commission District 6.

Section 1. East 1st Avenue from East 8th Street to East 9th Street/Northwest 62nd Street shall be known as “Modesto Perez Way”, with the cost of signage to be paid by the city, in his honor, as a community leader, advocate, and owner of a long-established small business in the City of Hialeah.

Section 2. The City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor of Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

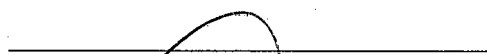
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10 day of November, 2020.



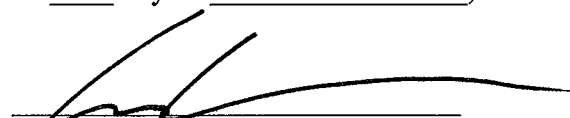
Jesus Tundidor
Council President

Attest:

Approved on this _____ day of _____, 2020.

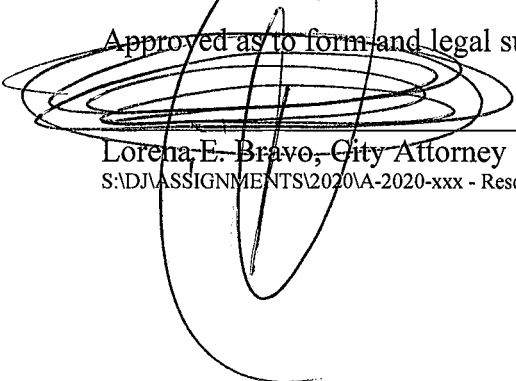


Marbelys Patjo, City Clerk



Mayor Carlos Hernandez

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Lorena E. Bravo, City Attorney

Resolution was adopted by 7-0 vote with Councilmembers, Cue-Fuente, De la Rosa, Garcia-Roves, Hernandez, Perez, Tundidor and Zogby voting “Yes.”