

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE HIALEAH HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD RECOMMENDING THE STREET NAMING AT WEST 15 STREET FROM WEST 4 COURT TO WEST 6 AVENUE HIALEAH, FLORIDA, AS "LUIS 'WICHY' RODRIGUEZ WAY", WITH THE COST OF SIGNAGE TO BE PAID BY THE CITY, IN HIS HONOR, AS A CUBAN AMERICAN AND A RESIDENT OF HIALEAH WHO STARTED "WICHY TOWING SERVICE.

WHEREAS, the street naming at West 15 Street from West 4 Court to West 6 Avenue Hialeah, Florida as "Luis 'Wichy' Rodriguez Way" is in Honor of Luis Rodriguez who emigrated at age 40 from Cuba to Spain, then to New Jersey, then to the City of Hialeah, where after many years of hard work started "Wichy Towing Service", and wearing a blue uniform as his signature trademark; and

WHEREAS, Luis Rodriguez was indeed a friend in need across the City of Hialeah; and

WHEREAS Luis Rodriguez whether in election campaigns or with elected officials or in Council meetings was passionate about the City of Hialeah, and he sought to convey his vision accordingly and make the City of Hialeah great; and

WHEREAS, Luis Rodriguez was a gracious and grateful man who beloved the City of Hialeah, his family, his friends, and those in need, who selflessly gave of himself, who happily distributed treats such as pastelitos, natilla and flan, among other treats, to the doctors, nurses, and people throughout the City; and

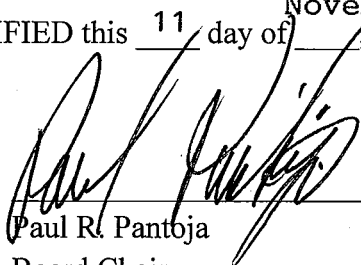
WHEREAS, Luis Rodriguez provided for his family and each Noche Buena celebrated with a lechon asado — second to none — with his family and friends, and lifted the spirits of all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HIALEAH HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD THAT:

Section 1. The street naming at West 15 Street from West 4 Court to West 6 Avenue Hialeah, Florida, as "Luis 'Wichy' Rodriguez Way", is in Honor of Luis Rodriguez's starting

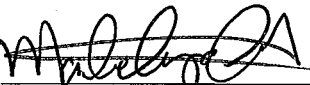
Wichy Towing Service, being a friend in need to all, and who in his lifetime passionately served his community in the City of Hialeah.

PASSED AND RATIFIED this 11 day of November, 2018.



Paul R. Pantoja
Board Chair

Attest:



Marbelys Fatjo, City Clerk

CITY OF HIALEAH



NOVEMBER 1, 2018

5:30 P.M.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD SUMMARY AGENDA

City Staff:

Lisette Perez, Office of the City Clerk

Call to Order – Board Chair Paul Pantoja called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Roll Call-

Annie Johnson - Present

Paul Pantoja- Present

John Ulloa- Present

Katrina Rey- Present

Enrique Vargas- Present

II. New Business -

A. Request permission to approve the minutes of the Historic Preservation Board held on December 19, 2017. APPROVED

REPORT: Motion to Approve Item A made by Board Member Ulloa, and seconded by Board Member Vargas. Motion passed 5-0.

B. Election of Chair and Vice- Chair pursuant to City of Hialeah Code § 2-584(a) to serve for a one year term. APPROVED

REPORT: Motion to Approve Board Chair made by Board Member Ulloa, and seconded by Board Member Vargas. Motion passed 5-0. Board Chairman is Paul Pantoja.

REPORT: Motion to Approve Board Vice-Chair made by Board Member Johnson, and seconded by Board Member Vargas. Motion passed 4-1 with Board Member Ulloa voting No. Board Vice-Chair is Katrina Rey.

C. Request permission to approve the street naming of “Juana Aurora Medina Way”, from West 48th Street from West 8th Avenue to West 8th Lane. APPROVED

Report: Motion to Approve Item C made by Board Member Ulloa, and seconded by Board Member Vargas. Motion passed 4-1 with Board Member Rey voting No.

Historic Board Resolution No. 2018-01.

D. Request permission to approve the street naming of “Luis “Wichy” Rodriguez Way”, from West 15th Street from West 4th Court to West 6th Avenue. APPROVED

Report: Motion to Approve Item D made by Board Member Rey, and seconded by Board Member Ulloa. Motion passed 5-0.

Historic Board Resolution No. 2018-02.

III. Unfinished Business- NONE

IV. Comments and Questions- NONE

V. Adjournment – Chair Paul Pantoja adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Next Historic Board Meeting- TBA.

If the proposed name is that of an individual, please state:

The individual's full name: Luis Rodriguez

Was the individual a resident of Hialeah? YES NO If yes, how long? 41 Years

Is the individual deceased? YES NO

Please attach a resume or other information (i.e. newspaper clippings, letters, photographs, etc.) that indicates the contributions to the City of Hialeah made by the above named individual.

Please list two individuals who can be contacted in support of the nomination.

Name	Address	Telephone
<u>Vicente Rodriguez</u>	<u>465 De Leon Drive, Miami Springs, FL 33166</u>	<u>786-261-4367</u>

If the proposed name is that of an organization, please state:

The organization's full name: _____

The organization's Hialeah address: _____

If the organization is a chapter of a larger organization, please give the name and address of the parent organization: _____

How long has the organization been in existence: _____

Please list the name, title, address and telephone number of the local organization's officers and members of the Board of Directors:

Name	Title	Address	Telephone
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please attach a resume or other information (i.e. newspaper clippings, letters, photographs, etc.) that indicates the contributions to the City of Hialeah made by the above named organization.

Please list two individuals who can be contacted in support of the nomination.

Name	Address	Telephone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Costs

Is the applicant willing to pay the expenses associated with the naming, renaming or co-designating of the right-of-way, facility or property? YES NO

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Historic Preservation Board will consider proposals for naming, renaming or co-designating City of Hialeah right-of-ways, facilities or properties using the following criteria:

1. Named right-of-ways, i.e. Palm Avenue, shall not be renamed where there is a historical tradition attached to the existing name.
2. Named right-of-ways, facilities or properties shall not be co-designated because of the resulting confusion.
3. Numbered streets shall only be co-designated if there is a significant historical, neighborhood or community benefit to the co-designation.
4. Numbered street co-designation shall not exceed five blocks in length.
5. A proposal to name, rename or co-designate a right-of-way, facility or property after a living individual should not be encouraged. However, this rule shall not inhibit the naming, renaming or designating of a facility or property after a living individual that donates a significant portion of the costs of such facility or property. Further, this rule shall not prevent the naming, renaming or designation of a road, facility or property after a living individual that has made a significant contribution to the residents of the City of Hialeah.
6. The Historic Preservation Board may, of its own will or motion, present to the City Council a recommendation proposing the naming, renaming or co-designating of an appropriate public right-of way, facility or property in honor of any City of Hialeah employee who gives his or her life in the line of duty.
7. The Historic Preservation Board does not have authority to review requests to name, rename or co-designate public right-of-ways (i.e. State or County Roads) or public facilities that are not owned, operated or maintained by the City of Hialeah.

Completed applications must be sent to:

Historic Preservation Board
City of Hialeah
c/o: Office of the City Clerk
501 Palm Avenue, 3rd Floor
Hialeah, FL 33010

If the Historic Preservation Board finds the application accurate and complete, it will make its recommendation known to the City Council, for the City Council to consider the name change or co-designation for approval by resolution. A resolution approving a name change shall become effective when passed by the City Council and signed by the Mayor or at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting, if the Mayor's signature is withheld or if the City Council overrides the Mayor's veto. If the Mayor's veto is sustained, the name change will not become applicable and the request shall be deemed null and void.

Luis Rodriguez, better known as, “Wichy” was born on August 19, 1932 in Havana Cuba to Spanish immigrant parents. He was a great father to his four children, Jose Luis, Juan Carlos, Odalys and Vicente and a dedicated husband to his wife Ana Gloria.

He was a hard-working man with strong opinions and firm moral values. His greatest joy was in helping others. Whether he was campaigning for political candidates in Hialeah, waking up at 3 AM to tow someone out of a ditch in the rain, or stopping on the side of a dark deserted road to help a family in a stranded car, he did so happily. He never made it beyond the 3rd grade but he was wise beyond measure and the street smarts he gained, served him well throughout his life. He could measure a person’s character just by looking at them.

Wichy fled Cuba’s communist government at the age of 40 so that his children could live in freedom and have an opportunity at a better life. He arrived in Spain in September 1973 and lived there for 7 months where he drove a truck for a food distributor. He and his family then moved to New Jersey in 1974 where he worked the night shift in a sewing thread factory, often walking there in the snow. A year later, he moved to Miami where he unloaded trucks and repaired cars until he could eventually afford to buy a tow truck and start “Wichy Towing Service”. His blue uniform became his trademark and he would often come home dirty and sweaty from a long day of towing cars in the Miami heat without any air conditioning.

He was an unconditional friend and a great mentor. He imparted his wisdom and advice whether you wanted to hear it or not. He was a force to be reckoned with and did not have any hesitation telling you what he thought. However, when it came to a friend in need, he would move heaven and earth to help them. His friends were his family and were treated as such. There was always room at the dinner table for them and he often show up in the middle of the day for lunch with unexpected guests, much to his wife’s surprise. Noche Buena was his favorite day of the year because friends and family would gather for his traditional “lechon asado”.

He was a grateful man. Many were the treats of pastelitos, natilla and flan he would take to doctors, nurses, receptionists or anyone that had offered him, his friends or his family any assistance. Some of those treats also ended up in his favorite place of all, Hialeah City Hall, where for many years he would spend each day as if he worked there visiting with the Mayor and all the employees, attending council meetings and strategizing on how best to manage the city. He would not miss an election campaign or a city event. He stuffed envelopes, walked with candidates’ door to door, put up campaign signs and ensured everyone he knew exercised their right to vote. Hialeah city government was a very important part of his life.

In 2014, at the age of 82, Wichy passed away from complications of a surgery. Over 200 people attended his funeral, a testament to a lifetime of selfless giving. The outpouring of love and support was overwhelming and a great tribute to a strong, determined and unselfish family man who will forever live in the hearts of all who loved him.

