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RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 301037

ADOPTED ON NOV 14 2005

WHEREAS, the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) celebrates its 30th anniversary this weekend; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, the First Lutheran Church downtown began a program called Bread Day, a social event intended to foster community ties and fellowship between neighbors; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the event has grown into a social ministry that serves thousands of people in need throughout the City of San Diego, with weekly gatherings attracting people from all over the City that were so successful that organizers began offering entertainment, including music, slide presentations, movies, and crafts; and

WHEREAS, by the late 70s and early 80s, greater numbers of the area's homeless were frequenting Bread Day, yet the mission of feeding the hungry and extending the hand of fellowship remained the purpose for an ever-growing group of dedicated volunteers; and

WHEREAS, as word of mouth spread among the homeless community, the church at Third and Ash became known as a haven of compassion and caring, offering a dignified place to share a meal and socialize, whether people lived on the streets, on a fixed income or in one of downtown's many low-rent hotels; and

WHEREAS, Noel Estergren, pastor of First Lutheran Church from 1988 to 2003, took a special interest in social justice as did many in the congregation, helping define social outreach and activism on behalf of the downtown's disenfranchised as part of the church's ministry; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the programs, which by now included a medical clinic, were incorporated as a separate, non-profit charity, which enabled them to receive corporate

donations, and marked the christening of the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO), which allowed members to broaden their focus beyond just food, namely to welcome, nurture, and build a sense of community and encourage healing and independence; and

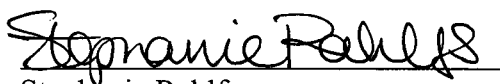
WHEREAS, the programs have received numerous grants from social and government organizations, but are still very dependent on donations from First Lutheran's congregation, and simply would not exist without volunteers, the lifeblood of the organization, providing more than 3,000 hours of labor and support each year; and

WHEREAS, presently, Bread Day and TACO feed 300 to 500 people every week, on Monday nights and Friday mornings, with medical and acupuncture clinics, counseling and dental services also offered on site; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby commend and thank the founders and volunteers of TACO and Bread Day for their continuous commitment and dedication to serve the residents of San Diego with compassion and care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that October 30, 2005, be and is hereby proclaimed to be "TACO/BREAD DAY" in the City of San Diego,

APPROVED: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By 
Stephanie Rahlfs
Deputy City Attorney

SR:jb
10/31/2005
Or.Dept:Council Frye & Peters
R-2006-439